Why study Paper Science and Engineering?

Students with an interest in knowing what makes things work and who are good at math and science—particularly chemistry—will find paper science and engineering interesting and challenging. Paper Science and Engineering prepares students for jobs in one of the largest and most stable industries in the United States.

Based on a renewable resource, the paper industry will always have raw materials available. And, as a paper industry employee, individuals will have the opportunity to contribute to solving environmental problems.

What makes the program at ESF special?

The faculty in ESF’s Paper Science and Engineering (PSE) curriculum are top-rated researchers and educators. As members of the Empire State Paper Research Institute, an internationally recognized research facility based at ESF, the faculty pursue cutting edge research which becomes an integral part of a student’s learning experience.

Hands-on learning is an important component of the curriculum. Full-scale pilot plant equipment is located in Walters Hall, the PSE building. All students are required to fulfill a 12-week summer internship either at a paper mill, a paper converter plant, or some supplier to the paper industry. Seven month cooperative learning opportunities are also available to PSE students.

The Syracuse Pulp and Paper Foundation, funded by paper and allied companies, offers up to full-tuition scholarships to eligible students. The Foundation also provides liaison between industry and the College so that the curriculum stays relevant to industry needs and current technology.

Finally, PSE students may choose from four ways to tailor specific interests. The science option is a four-year curriculum that prepares students for most entry-level positions. The engineering option includes additional design and engineering courses and requires an extra semester of study.

The management minor adds a business component to either the science or engineering major, and includes a capstone course that addresses issues of management in the paper industry.

What will I learn?

Paper Science and Engineering students at ESF gain valuable work experience in the paper industry through summer internships (and cooperative learning experiences), so they are prepared to go to work immediately after graduation. PSE graduates qualify for positions as process engineers, project engineers, technical service representatives, chemists, technical sales representatives, environmental engineers, and a variety of other job titles. The job placement record of PSE graduates is outstanding.

What jobs might I find after graduation?

Some PSE graduates go on to graduate school, but most begin their careers immediately after graduation, either in paper manufacturing or with a supplier company. PSE graduates enjoy a very high rate of employment with salaries among the top 5 percent of all U.S. college graduates. In 1997 the average starting salary was $42,000. Following is a list of some recent graduates and their current positions:

Adam Bennet ’97, Process Engineer, P.H. Glatfelter Co., Spring Grove, PA.
Mark Bruyns ’97, Process Engineer, Champion International Corporation, Courtland, AL.
John Foote ’97, Process Engineer, International Paper Company, Corinth, NY.
Timothy Keil, ’96, Technical Service Representative, Hercules, Inc., Agawam MA.
Brian Martin ’97, Process Engineer, Mead Corporation, Rumford, ME.
Karen Beck, ’93, Masters Graduate Student, SUNY-ESF, Syracuse, NY.
Joel Pawlak ’96, Doctoral Graduate Student, SUNY-ESF, Syracuse, NY.
Introducing ESF

While global, national and local interest in the environment may ebb and flow, the mission of the College of Environmental Science and Forestry has remained constant since our founding in 1911. Located in Syracuse, New York adjacent to Syracuse University (SU), ESF is known worldwide for excellence in its education, research and public service programs.

ESF offers a depth of programs that focus on the environment and renewable resources that no other institution in the United States can surpass. Students can major in environmental and forest biology, chemistry, environmental studies, environmental resources/forest engineering, forest resource management, landscape architecture, a dual program combining forestry and environmental and forest biology, paper science and engineering, and construction management/wood products engineering. The College also offers pre-professional advising for students interested in veterinary science, medicine, dentistry, and law, and, in conjunction with SU, ESF offers a certification program in secondary science teaching and a minor in management in some degrees.

Education at ESF prepares students for the "real world" by providing opportunities for hands-on experience. In field classes on the College's 25,000-acre, multi-campus forest system and in laboratories on the main campus, students experience the reality of the work they plan to do. Access to these facilities gives ESF students a running start on a solid professional career.

With a student body of approximately 1,800, ESF students enjoy the benefits of small classes demanded by highly technical fields and the personal atmosphere distinctive to the campus. At the same time, ESF students also have the advantages of the student life, the sports and the great diversity of elective coursework available at SU, a large, urban campus of some 16,000 students.

ESF is meeting today's needs with unique educational, research and public service programs that will ensure a better future for the people of New York State and its many neighbors, nationally and globally.

Applying to ESF

Students may enroll at ESF at many different points in their academic careers, depending upon their goals and educational needs.

High school students who have achieved academic excellence in a strong college preparatory program, including at least four years each of math and science, may qualify for freshman admission.

For high school students who may not qualify for freshman entry, or know they want to enroll at ESF but who wish to defer their entry, ESF offers Guaranteed Transfer Admission (GTA). This program allows students to apply to ESF while they are still in high school and, if accepted, offers them a guarantee of admission during either their sophomore or junior year. The Admissions Office maintains a list of Pre-ESF colleges that have transfer agreements with ESF to assist students in selecting their first college.

Transfer students comprise the largest portion of entering students at the College. And, prospective students who are not offered admission through Guaranteed Transfer Admission, or as freshmen, should always consider re-applying to the College for transfer admission.

All academic programs at ESF are open to transfer and Guaranteed Transfer Admission. Freshman admission is open to all programs except Forest Technology (sophomore entry only).

All applicants are encouraged to apply for financial aid. Eighty-two percent of ESF's undergraduate students receive financial assistance.

For further information on Admissions and Financial Aid, contact the appropriate office at the address or phone number below:

Office of Undergraduate Admissions
315-470-6600; or 1-800-7777-ESF (toll free)
106 Bray Hall

Office of Financial Aid
315-470-6706
115 Bray Hall

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
1 Forestry Drive
Syracuse, New York 13210

Faculty of Paper Science and Engineering

State University of New York
College of Environmental Science and Forestry
205 Walters Hall
1 Forestry Drive
Syracuse, NY 13210-2778
Tel: 315-470-6501
Fax: 315-470-6945
E-mail: paper@syr.edu
Website: www.esf.edu