

Shay Anderson

Environmental Scientist

Raised on a cattle ranch southwest of Maple Creek, Shay Anderson is a farm boy at heart. So when he finished high school, enrolling at the University of Saskatchewan College of Agriculture seemed a natural career choice. He obtained a diploma in Agriculture, with a minor in Animal Science. But by then, his interests had shifted. He decided to use his diploma to ladder into a degree program . . . in Environmental Science.

What do you do?

I work as an environmental scientist for an engineering and environmental consulting firm called Klohn Crippen Berger Ltd. My job involves soil and groundwater remediation, reclamation and site assessments, mainly for clients in the oil and gas sector. I use my training and my knowledge of soil chemistry, physics and microbiology to better understand how to minimize environmental impacts and optimize opportunities to mitigate the environmental footprint of upstream oil and gas projects.

It sounds like you shifted gears at university, why?

Like many university students, my career plans changed once I became educated on exactly what

our society had to offer. When I moved into the degree program, I shifted my major from Animal Science to Environmental Science because, one, the environmental industry was developing, two, jobs were abundant and three, the income was appealing.

What education do you need in your field?

I have a Bachelor of Science from the College of Agriculture and Bioresources, with a major in Environmental Sciences. But a wide range of education is acceptable to work in the oil and gas environmental sector.

What surprised you the most about university?

The volume of information covered in each class was a big transition. You realize that university is a personal test; if you want to succeed, you have to put in the effort. It takes work and perseverance.

How did you start your career?

I was blessed with the opportunity to start my career with a well known, experienced environmental company: W3M Land Management. It was there that I received the personal training and skills to further my career.

I really believe **opportunities** come to those who work for them.

Any job search tips?

I recommend personally dropping off resumes at all places of potential employment. Also, use your summers wisely during university to build your resume. For example, take a job away from your home town during the summer if the experience is good.

What was your first week on the job like?

Very exciting. On my first day, I assisted in coordinating and supervising the initial response to an oil spill.

What was the transition to work like?

The biggest challenge in making the transition to full time work was breaking my routine and not attending classes when the fall semester resumed.

What do you like most about your job?

The thing I like most about my job would be the diverse projects and atmospheres. One day, I could be completing a phase II environmental drilling program on the mixed grasslands and the next day I could be completing detail site assessments in the boreal forest. Most days are never the same.

Do you think it's important for young people to explore their options?

Yes, and for me, exploring your options means doing your research. Before you enrol in a post secondary program, see what careers suit you and your interests. Make sure jobs are available. Think outside the box by taking chances. I really believe opportunities come to those who work for them.



A Growing Sector – The environment industry is a growing sector that offers a wide variety of jobs, each of which demands unique skills and education/training. Most jobs fall into one of three areas: environmental protection, conservation & preservation of natural resources and environmental sustainability.