

# Environmental Careers



The **ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES TRAINING CENTER (ERTC)** is located on the 2600-acre campus of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. In 1977, **ERTC** was designated by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) as the Illinois center for education of personnel involved in the operation, maintenance and management of drinking water supply and wastewater treatment systems.

## ***Water Quality Control Operations Certificate Program***

The **ERTC-SIUE** water quality control operations program is a one-year, full time program of study leading to a Certificate of Completion. Classes meet Tuesday through Friday for nine months starting in mid-August each year. During the summer, students complete a 10-week internship program, where they work five weeks at a drinking water treatment plant and five weeks at a wastewater treatment plant. Upon completion of the full year program, students are eligible to take Illinois and Missouri certification exams to become certified as entry-level public water supply operators and wastewater treatment operators.

## ***Facilities***

The **ERTC** facilities provide students with two fully equipped wet chemistry teaching labs, an instrumental analysis teaching lab, classrooms, an auditorium, a library/computer center, a **30,000 gallon/day training-scale water and wastewater treatment plant** and the 0.8 million-gallon-per-day university wastewater treatment plant.

## ***Career Outlook***

Persons who operate, maintain and manage drinking water and wastewater treatment systems must ensure that the treatment system is operated properly to produce safe drinking water and discharge quality effluents into our Nation's rivers, lakes, and streams.

The demand for safe drinking water and quality recreational waters is continually rising. As a result, the IEPA has indicated that Illinois may need as many as 400 additional operators each year.

This program began in 1981 and has an excellent employment rate for program graduates. **ERTC** graduates are employed in Illinois, Missouri and fifteen other states. As of the year 2012, the starting salary ranged from \$35,000 per year to more than \$45,000 per year. **ERTC** students have access to student government loans, military veteran's grants and programs, and student housing. We offer a great career in Environmental Management through applied training at an affordable cost of \$10,200 (2013 tuition) for the complete one-year program.

For additional information about the **ERTC** please feel free to visit us at our web site:  
<http://www.siu.edu/ertc/>    **PHONE: 618-650-2030**    **FAX: 618-650-2210**

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
**EDWARDSVILLE**