

## **Blue Ridge Community & Technical College Environmental Sciences Technician**

**December 29, 2025**

### **Program Summary**

The Environmental Science Technician certificate program prepares students for roles such as environmental sampling and testing technicians through hands-on, applied training aligned with employer needs in safety and environmental fields. Students build a strong foundation in environmental science, occupational health and safety, and best practices in environmental, safety, and health, with exposure to tools such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The program supports preparation for a range of environmental technician roles and allows students to earn credits toward future degree pathways.



Overall, the program is well positioned for a field with strong long-term demand, as environmental monitoring, water and wastewater operations, regulatory compliance, and occupational safety continue to grow in complexity and public importance, requiring graduates who combine technical competence with problem-solving, communication, adaptability, and professionalism.

### **Strengths & Noteworthy Practices**

The program demonstrates strong, consistent integration of employability skills across the curriculum, with problem-solving standing out as a particular strength.

Students regularly engage in scenario-based, field-applied, and compliance-oriented work that mirrors real environmental and safety roles, building sound judgment within regulated contexts. The program shows clear alignment with workplace expectations through applied coursework, faculty with industry experience, and active employer engagement, including advisory board input, guest speakers, and internship opportunities.

Together, these practices support the development of critical thinking, professionalism, technical communication, digital literacy, and adaptability, while helping students connect academic learning to real-world environmental and safety careers.