



# LEAP INTO AN INTERNSHIP WITH US THIS SUMMER!

## LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

### WHO WE ARE

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) invites students to apply for the Louisiana Environmental Ambassadors Program (LEAP), which will provide students with experience and insights into environmental and related careers. Now more than ever, Louisiana needs dedicated environmental professionals. As an intern in LEAP, you will gain knowledge beyond the classroom, skill development, the opportunity to explore career paths, and the chance to contribute to a sustainable future. Students will be placed into an LDEQ program to serve as a team member and participate in projects in one of the following programs: Permitting and Air and Water Assessment; Surveillance, Enforcement and Emergency Response; Accounting and Finance; Legal; Communications; and Audit Services.

### BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

- Real-world work experience in a state environmental agency
- Mentoring by agency professionals
- Educational seminars featuring environmental professionals and networking
- Educational excursions related to agency activities
- Collaboration and networking with students from other universities

### ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS

LEAP is open to students at graduate and undergraduate levels in fields of study appropriate for their placement. These fields could include science, engineering, communication, legal, business and others. A GPA of 3.0 or higher is required and enrollment verification is required.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The LEAP will begin June 3, 2024 and last for 8-10 weeks with students working 40 hours/week. This is an internship offered by LDEQ. Course credit or compensation is provided by and subject to approval by your institution. To learn more about the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and our organizational structure, please visit our website at [www.deq.louisiana.gov](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov). For questions, contact LEAP at [leap@la.gov](mailto:leap@la.gov).

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June 3,  
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**Course Credit  
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Internships**

**For more information and to apply, visit [www.deq.louisiana.gov/LEAP](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/LEAP)**

# LEAP PROJECT AREAS

LEAP students will have the opportunity to work in the following LDEQ offices:

## SURVEILLANCE

Surveillance inspects facilities for compliance with their permits or other authorizations and responds to complaints. Surveillance activities include mandated compliance inspections, incident and complaint investigations, and water sampling.

- Assist inspectors with preparations for inspections; perform inspections and complaints including facility tours, documentation and report writing; and conduct regulatory research for compliance
- Perform water quality sampling, calibrate and maintain equipment
- Complete incident reports for businesses and facilities

## WASTE PERMITTING

Waste Permits Division (WSTPD) ensures the protection of the soil and groundwater resources by issuing permits and standards that are protective of human health and the environment. WSTPD performs comprehensive technical reviews of permit requests and regulatory determinations for generators, processors, and disposers of solid and hazardous waste.

- Complete biennial report on hazardous waste management capacity
- Establish Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for engineering report evaluation
- Study the impact of waste compaction at Type III Landfills
- Assist with statistical analysis and groundwater protection standards

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The Emergency and Radiological Services Division responds to chemical and environmental emergencies, provides a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for reporting spills and complaints to the Department, and provides administrative services for radiation sources. Emergency Response (ER) conducts monitoring at incidents where chemicals have been released or have the potential to be released into the environment or to affect public health.



- Assist responders with responses and complaints
- Calibrate and maintain equipment
- Perform follow-up site visits/clean-up confirmations
- Transport equipment across the state to other regional offices

## ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement ensures compliance with the environmental permitting laws and regulations and issued LDEQ permits. Appropriate enforcement actions are issued for non-compliance. Enforcement activity strives for adherence with federal and state laws designed to protect human health and the environment and sustain the environmental resources of the state.

- Perform tracking and monitoring required by EPA to administer the Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) program
- Code permits and enforcement actions in EPA's database
- Conduct compliance reviews of referrals from the public and divisions within the agency

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# LEAP PROJECT AREAS

## REMEDIATION

The Remediation Division (RD) protects the soil, groundwater, and surface water resources of the state from unauthorized future and historical releases to the environment. The RD activity investigates, evaluates, monitors and cleans up contamination at both active facilities and abandoned sites. The RD activity universe includes hazardous waste, solid waste, groundwater, Superfund, and Brownfields sites, as well as large chemical plants and refineries.

- Obtain property ownership records from the Clerk of Court or other appropriate offices
- Acquire Sanborn maps from the State Library
- Conduct inspections as appropriate, documentation and chain of custody, support services for geologists, assisting with reporting and assessments



## AIR QUALITY PLANNING & ASSESSMENT

The Air Planning and Assessment Division (APAD) function is to evaluate the overall quality of the air resources of the state. APAD is responsible for developing and maintaining Louisiana's State Implementation Plan (SIP), which describes control strategies to address all areas within the state with regard to all federally mandated ambient air quality standards.

- Research for the State Implementation Plans for SO<sub>2</sub>, Regional Haze, and PM<sub>2.5</sub>
- Generate flow charts for managing responses and actions associated with stack testing

## INTERNAL AUDIT

Audit Services conducts performance, operational, investigative, and financial audits of the operations of the Department. Audit Services audits those private entities that do not appear to be paying fees to the Department on a self-reporting basis.

- Assist with LDEQ's Annual Risk Assessment survey and report
- Request, research, and analyze internal data such as accounts payable and receivables and staffing records
- Edit and proofread internal audit reports, briefing memos, presentations, and correspondence

## COMMUNICATIONS

Communications handles all media functions including media inquiries, press releases, the LDEQ website, Facebook, X (Twitter) and YouTube. These activities provide valuable information to the public on LDEQ environmental activities that are of interest to or that impact them.

- Write and edit press releases
- Monitor and create content for social media
- Attend press-related events

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