

Michael W. Deal

Master of Science in Biology (Ecology track), 2011

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science (Biology concentration), 2009

Mike is currently employed with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency in Columbus, Ohio, as an Environmental Specialist in the Division of Drinking and Ground Waters (2012 to present). He works with municipal water systems across the State of Ohio to ensure they remain compliant with Federal and State drinking water regulation. Prior to current position, he worked for 16 months as an Environmental Sensor Technician at the Lake Erie Center, University of Toledo (UT) and his main responsibility was to install and implement the Lake Erie Center Sensor Network (LECSN) at the Lake Erie Center.



Mike credits his studying/working experience at UT for learning to be professional and adaptive. “Formative”, he says, while asked about the time he studied and worked in Department of Environmental Sciences (DES). He learned to be well-organized and developed a strong work ethic and the ability to collaborate while working in the Landscape Ecology and Ecosystem Science (LEES) lab in DES. Mike thinks he has used very few specific topics learned in the classroom during his career. Instead, the logic and deductive reasoning he learned during the studying years often help him clarify the largest impact of issues when assigned with a task. “This ability was developed during my time at UT and has helped make me successful in my career”, Mike says.



Mike advises current DES students to be adaptive and to learn as much as possible. That doesn’t just mean studying as many Ecology textbooks as possible and doing well on exams.

“The knowledge acquired from the literature is important, but in order to be successful, one must take advantage of every opportunity while being at UT”.

Take an internship in one of the labs and learn about how research is conducted, or, volunteer to ride along with others doing field work. Mike says that “the faculty in DES has a wealth of knowledge and experience to share. Take advantage of it”.