

James Fisher

Master of Science in Geology, 2009

James Fisher works as a project manager at Vadose Environmental Consultants, where he supervises and implements environmental site assessments, risk-based closure plans, ground water monitoring, and soil testing. James starting this position last year, after working as a hydrogeologist for four years at Flynn Environmental, Inc. He was offered his position as a hydrogeologist soon after his graduation with a masters in Geology from the Department of Environmental Sciences. At Flynn



Environmental, Inc., James worked to ensure proper water sanitation practices and aided in the development of risk assessment models for groundwater extraction and treatment.

“Learn to be self-sufficient at school. One of the main characteristics I look for in new employees as a Project Manager is the ability to be self-sufficient in the office and in the field. In environmental work there isn’t always going to be someone to answer your questions. Sometimes you are going to have to make important decisions without consultation. “

James earned both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at UT. During his undergraduate career, he worked as a land surveyor at R.D. Zande & Associates during a summer Co-Op and he worked on inspecting sanitary and storm water sewers, as well as performing smoke and dye tests on the water. This opportunity sparked James’ interest in hydrogeology, particularly in the monitoring of safe water practices.

After completion of his undergraduate degree, James was offered a teaching assistant position in the Department of Environmental Sciences as he continued his education in the masters program. He worked with Dr. Martin-Hayden and Dr. Becker on his master’s thesis research “Evaluating the Effectiveness of an Evapotranspirative Cover Using an Integrated Hydrologic Model.” Working with both the faculty and undergraduate students built a strong knowledge base, but also prepared James for the kind of self-directed learning and skill in the application of knowledge that is necessary for working in the field.