

Environmental Studies

Program Highlights

- All students conduct hands-on work in the field, in the 2,700-acre Saint John's Arboretum and around the region, including opportunities for canoeing the Mississippi River and camping at Lake Itasca.
- Undergraduate research opportunities include a senior thesis, summer projects with faculty and independent research during the academic year.
- Two program graduates were selected as Morris K. Udall scholars in national competition among students demonstrating outstanding potential and a commitment to pursuing careers related to the environment.
- Faculty breadth means we can offer a range of disciplinary courses that support the environmental studies major, including environmentally oriented courses in art, communication, ecology, economics, ethics, literature, geology, history, nutrition, politics, psychology, sociology and other fields in addition to our core environmental studies curriculum.
- Named a Signature Program of The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University.

Program Overview

The environmental studies program features:

- Curriculum based on a core of interdisciplinary environmental studies courses that include an introductory course, an environmental science sequence, a learning community and a senior research capstone.
- Disciplinary courses from all four academic divisions: natural science, humanities, social science and fine arts.
- Experiential learning opportunities, including service learning and a required internship.
- Flexibility to accommodate double majors, minors, study abroad and other complementary areas of study.

Curriculum

The environmental studies program offers a major and a minor that share a common set of four courses. This set starts with an interdisciplinary course that exposes students to a variety of approaches to environmental issues using the case study method. These cases include topics such as alternative energy, endangered species protection, campus ecology and environmental justice. A two-course environmental science sequence then explores the application of chemistry, geology and biology to environmental topics. Majors will continue through a series of required courses in ecology, statistics, environmental economics, environmental ethics and environmental history as well as an internship in an environmental field. Both majors and minors complete a series of environmental elective courses to round out their studies before enrolling in the senior research seminar. This project involves teams of students who act as environmental consultants on an issue of campus, local or regional concern.

A Sample of Course Offerings

Media and the Environment (Communication)
Environmental Theology (Theology)
Aquatic Ecology (Biology)
Natural Resource and Environmental Economics (Economics)
Environmental Psychology (Psychology)
Environmental Sociology (Sociology)
Global Environmental Politics (Peace Studies)
Environmental Ethics (Philosophy)
U.S. Environmental History (History)
Environmental Geology (Geology)

CSB/SJU Distinctiveness

While many colleges offer environmental science programs that focus almost exclusively on the natural sciences, the CSB/SJU environmental studies program integrates study in the natural sciences with a wide variety of courses in the social sciences, arts and humanities to provide a more balanced way of exploring and understanding environmental issues. CSB/SJU environmental studies students gain a uniquely holistic understanding of problems facing the ecosystems that support life on our planet by integrating science with policy and principles.

Outcomes:

Students who have graduated with an environmental studies major or minor from CSB/SJU can be found in such areas as:

- U.S. Forest Service
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- Mississippi Topsoils
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Xcel Energy
- Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center
- Marin County Conservation Corps
- Americorps

Others have moved on to graduate school, including programs in environmental law, public policy, landscape architecture, biology and other environmental fields.

Study Abroad

We highly recommend that students take advantage of our phenomenal study abroad programs at CSB/SJU. Once you decide to study abroad, your adviser will help you adjust your four-year graduation plan to ensure that you complete the necessary course work to graduate within four years. In the 21st Century, where globalism has quickly become a reality, having the competency to truly understand another culture is a key asset.

For more information on our study abroad programs, please visit our Web site at www.csbsju.edu/international-education/

Faculty Members

Faculty members come from across the curriculum—art, biology, chemistry, communication, economics, history, management, peace studies, philosophy, physics, psychology, political science, sociology and theology.

- Jeff Anderson**, Ph.D. The American University
Richard Bresnahan, B.A. Saint John's University
Gordon Brown, Ph.D. University of Minnesota
Matt Callahan, M.F.A. University of Alaska Anchorage
Terry Check, Ph.D. University of Pittsburgh
Larry Davis, Ph.D. Washington State University
Ernie Diedrich, Ph.D. Colorado State University
Bernard Evans, Ph.D. The Catholic University of America
William Lamberts, Ph.D. University of Minnesota
Derek Larson, Ph.D. Indiana University
Matthew Lindstrom, Ph.D. Northern Arizona University
Jim Makepeace, Ph.D. Washington State University
Michael Ross, Ph.D. University of Minnesota
Marcus Webster, Ph.D. Washington State University
Richard Wielkiewicz, Ph.D., University of Hawaii
Charles Wright, Ph.D., State University of New York—Stony Brook
Diane Veale-Jones, M.S. Cornell University

From the introductory course, through the environmental science labs, to the senior research seminar you will have frequent opportunities to study outside on our campuses and in the surrounding area. Special programs like our learning communities often take students off campus, and extended field study courses are frequently offered in the summers or through affiliated programs.
