Environmental Studies at the Program on the Environment crosses conventional boundaries, asking students to dig deep for innovative approaches to Earth’s biggest challenges. Because students learn to think critically and participate in hands-on research, they become environmental leaders who are confident contributors to the creation of a more sustainable world.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH

Environmental Studies’ interdisciplinary curriculum empowers students to take advantage of faculty expertise from across the College of the Environment and the UW, creating limitless opportunities for environmentally-focused learning, personal enrichment and leadership growth. The program combines natural and social sciences with humanities to foster a greater understanding of how humans interact with and influence the world.

STUDENT IMPACT AND ENGAGEMENT

Through hands-on and applied learning opportunities, students engage directly with and impact their communities. The Environmental Studies Capstone Course Series combines career skills preparation, research, analysis and an internship, while the Sustainability Studio develops students as change agents for environmental sustainability at UW. Examples include:

- Working with the Environmental Protection Agency to interview tribal natural resource managers about their work on climate change mitigation, and recommending the indigenous method of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) as a way to achieve the Environmental Protection Agency sustainability goals.

- Traveling into the heart of the Amazon to conduct fieldwork using eco-drones as a way to increase forest monitoring capabilities, resulting in more successful communication between stakeholders to help build robust conservation policies.

- Examining UW Medicine’s hospital and treatment facilities to determine what elements create an effective healing environment and providing guidelines for concrete actions to enhance the health of patients in an environmentally and economically sustainable manner.

DEGREES OFFERED

Bachelor of Arts: Environmental Studies

FACULTY

Environmental Studies takes a unique approach, harnessing expertise and perspectives from numerous faculty and lecturers across the UW campus. The program benefits from a teaching team with varied expertise in the natural world, food systems, sustainability, communication, environmental management and ethics. This group of experts provides students with the multifaceted education that is needed to tackle complex environmental issues.

BY THE NUMBERS

Undergraduate students: 184
DEVELOPING CRITICAL THINKERS THROUGH A PERSONALIZED CURRICULUM

Students have the flexibility to focus on the aspects of environmental studies they're most passionate about through six optional areas of concentration, including climate and society, conservation of living systems, environmental education and communication, environmental policy and planning, food studies and sustainability.

SUPPORT

Environmental Studies benefits greatly from the generosity of alumni and friends. Contributions from individuals, public and private foundations, and endowments provide vital support to enhance students’ academic experiences and sustain our program. To learn more about giving to the Environmental Studies program, please contact the College of the Environment Advancement team: envadv@uw.edu, 206-221-9319.

CONTACT

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For more information about the College of the Environment, please contact: coenv@uw.edu, 206-685-5410.