



Environmental Studies

environmental.richmond.edu

Program Overview

The Environmental Studies (ES) Program offers a highly interdisciplinary major and minor that explores the interactions between human societies and the environments in which we exist. ES students examine a broad range of environmental issues throughout their coursework, using methods and perspectives from the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities. Experiential learning opportunities such as internships, community action, and mentored research enable students to integrate knowledge with experience, to address multifaceted aspects of environmental issues. Graduates develop a broadly based foundation for recognizing, assessing, and solving environmental challenges at the local, regional, and global scale.

Curriculum

The curriculum includes courses in natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, law, and business that relate directly to environmental issues, in addition to environmental studies courses that help students integrate across disciplines what they learn.

Required Courses

Bachelor of Arts:

- Introduction to Environmental Studies
- Environmental Ethics
- Environmental Economics
- Environmental Law and Policy
- One course in environmental life science
- One course in physical environmental science
- One course in introductory statistics
- One course in environmental research methods
- Environmental Senior seminar

Bachelor of Science:

Requirements are the same as for a Bachelor of Arts, with the addition of Math 212 or Math 289 and two units in natural science at or above the 300 level.

Students must take three additional units of electives approved for environmental studies.

Experiential Learning Requirement

All majors are required to participate in an experiential learning experience. This is typically satisfied either by conducting supervised, independent research on an environmental topic with UR faculty, or participating in an approved environmental internship off campus. These transformative, hands-on experiences immerse students in complex environmental issues and prepare students for lives of meaningful engagement with the environment as responsible global citizens.

Recent internship partners include:

- Blue Planet Systems
- Campbell Soup Company
- City of Richmond Office of Sustainability
- Clean Water Action
- Collaborative to Combat Illegal Trade in Turtles
- Concerned Citizens of Charles City County
- Earth Day Network
- Evolution Energy Partners LLC
- Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas
- James River Association
- LIGHT CoCreative
- National Forest Service
- Piedmont Environmental Council
- Quogue Wildlife Refuge
- Shalom Farms
- Sierra Club
- The Mammal Society
- TRUE Market Research & Development
- VA Department of Conservation and Recreation

Dual Degree Program

For students who are dedicated to earning at least a Master's degree in Environmental Studies or Forestry, the University of Richmond offers dual degree programs with Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment: www.nicholas.duke.edu/academics/masters-programs/cooperative-college-3-2

Faculty Areas of Specialty

- Adaptation and speciation
- Analytical chemistry
- Biogeography
- Climate change
- Climate policy
- Economic geography

- Ecophysiology
- Environmental chemistry
- Environmental economics
- Environmental humanities
- Environmental justice
- Evolutionary ecology
- Forest ecology & management
- GIS & geospatial analysis
- Invasive species
- Land and environmental art
- Landscape ecology
- Marine ecology
- Natural hazards
- Plant population biology and genetics
- Regional climate modelling
- Renewable energy
- Sustainability
- Terrestrial remote sensing

A full list of faculty with areas of expertise is available on the Environmental Studies Program website

Post-Graduation Paths

Students who graduate with an Environmental Studies major are well-prepared for the demanding critical, integrative thinking that is essential for success in graduate and professional programs in environmental science, resource management, public policy, and law. Below is a sampling of the diverse paths pursued by recent ES graduates.

Recent graduate programs:

- Duke University School of Law
- Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment
- George Washington University
- Emory University Rollins School of Public Health
- Northwestern University
- NYU Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service
- Pratt Institute, School of Design
- Rutgers University
- Tufts University
- University of Cambridge
- UC Davis
- UC Berkley
- University of Delaware
- University of Pennsylvania
- UVA School of Architecture
- UVA School of Law

Recent positions:

- Analyst in Governance and Sustainability at Rivel, Inc.
- Business Development Manager at TerraCycle
- Chief of Staff to the NOAA NESDIS CFO/CAO
- Civil Engineer at DiPrete Engineering
- Clinical Research Coordinator at UVA Health System
- Deputy Director, Power for Nature at The Nature Conservancy
- EDF Climate Corps Fellow at Northrop Grumman
- Environmental Attorney and Policy Advocate at Hirschler Fleischer
- Environmental Specialist at Dominion Energy
- Field technician at The Nature Conservancy
- Foreign Affairs Officer at US State Department
- GIS Software Engineer at American Water
- Legislative Aide at United States Senate Committee
- Natural Resources Specialist at Maryland Department of the Environment
- Preservation Planning Landscape Designer at Quinn Evans
- Program Officer, Wildlife Conservation at World Wildlife Fund
- Public Information Specialist at NJ Office of Legislative Services
- Research & Communications Assistant with Conservation Legacy & National Parks Service
- Sustainability Analyst at Brookfield Properties



Office of Admission
(804) 289-8640

admission.richmond.edu

Dr. Carrie Wu, Coordinator
(804) 289-8712 • cwu@richmond.edu

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