Environmental Studies Program
Learning Objectives
May, 2010

Overview

Students majoring in Environmental Studies work with the science driving environmental processes, the interactions between technology and the environment, and the social and cultural dimensions of environmental preservation and improvement. This is taken as a second major, addressing the contribution of natural sciences, social sciences, technology, and the humanities in resolving environmental problems by acting between the boundaries of traditional disciplines.

Goals of the Environmental Studies Program

We use a multidisciplinary curriculum exposing students to theoretical and practical approaches to environmental work. Broadly, our goal is to empower student navigation across scientific, social, and humanistic fields, preparing them for collaborative decision making, continued learning, career development, or proximate work in advocacy, consulting, government, law, and education.

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of Environmental Studies as a second major, students are able to:

1) Evaluate conflicting claims about anthropogenic causes for environmental change.

2) Participate in knowledgeable decision-making for personal use or to affect the lives of others.

3) Explain economic behavior, incentives, and externalities that drive social change and environmental policy.

4) Develop their own interest in technological, political, and humanistic themes, well-informed by natural sciences.

5) Work collaboratively by organizing teams to analyze and solve environmental problems.
6) Deliver well-researched presentations on environmental topics supported by the primary literature and by analysis of how evidence favors one of several possible conclusions.

7) Highlight their own practical environmental work done outside the classroom.

8) Demonstrate salient features of ecosystem services: climate, soil, water, biodiversity.

9) Explain the rationale and methods of technological solutions to environmental problems.

10) Suggest ways to measure sustainability.

11) Incorporate views of diverse stakeholders in developing proposals for behavioral change.