Environmental Studies

The Environmental Studies major offers students an interdisciplinary approach toward understanding the human interaction with the environment. Drawing upon courses in the natural sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities, the Environmental Studies major offers a diverse, integrated curriculum that explores the scientific, ethical, social, and political aspects of our current environmental crisis. With our proximity to state and national parks, national forests, and open space, Gonzaga is an extraordinary place to pursue environmental studies, where students can engage both their intellectual and experiential pursuits.

THE PROGRAM
The 39-credit Environmental Studies Major has two main components: seven non-substitutable foundational courses and a minimum of five additional courses drawn from various disciplines around the University.

Environmental Studies foundational requirements: 24 credits
- ENVS 101 - Introduction to Environmental Studies
- ENVS 102 - Environmental Politics and Policy
- ENVS 103/ENVS 103L - Environmental Biology & Lab
- ENVS 104/ENVS 104L - Environmental Chemistry & Lab
- ENVS 200 - Case Studies in Environmental Science
- ENVS 358 - Environmental Ethics
- ENVS 499 - Symposium in Environmental Studies (Capstone)

Environmental Studies Distribution and Electives: 15 credits
- 2 courses in the social sciences
- 2 courses in the humanities
- 1 course elective

To meet distribution and elective requirements, students choose from a wide array of courses, including:
- Climate Change Science & Politics
- Conservation Biology
- Ecological Thoughts and Politics
- Economics of Environmental Protection
- Environmental History
- Environmental Law & Policy
- Environmental Sociology
- Ethics of Eating
- Ethics of Global Climate Change
- Native American Government and Politics
- North American Environmental Policy
- Parks, Forests, and Wildlife
- Politics of the Pacific Northwest
- Principles of Wildlife Management

Majors may also take an additional lab science course to count as an upper-division elective

OUTDOOR OPPORTUNITIES
Gonzaga, nestled in the verdant Inland Northwest, is in a wonderful location for environmental studies. More than a dozen National Parks, National Forests, and National Recreation Areas are within a day’s drive from Spokane, including some of the literal wonders of the world. The region has the deepest canyon in North America (Hells Canyon), as well as not just one, but two UN World Heritage Sites (Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks). Did you know that the largest floods ever to occur in the history of the planet passed right through Spokane—less than 10,000 years ago? At Gonzaga, you’ll have opportunities to study these places and events.

Students in the Environmental Studies major have abundant opportunities for field studies and research, outdoor learning projects, environmental internships, student-led environmental science research, and are encouraged to pursue field courses and study abroad opportunities in places like Zambia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Australia, among others. Students also have opportunities to work with environmental community partners and collaborate with Gonzaga’s on-campus environmental organizations, such as the Gonzaga Environmental Organization (GEO), the Outdoor Pursuits living-and-learning community in Marian Hall, and the Gonzaga Outdoors program.

OUTCOMES
Environmental Studies students have gone on to graduate school, law school, and careers in non-profit advocacy, government, and policy. Students completing the major have a wide range of career interests—both directly and indirectly related to the environment. Whatever career a student wishes to pursue, the Environmental Studies major is well suited for those interested in the relationship between humans and the natural world.
Examples of graduate programs and career opportunities recent Environmental Studies graduates have chosen to pursue are listed below.

**Graduate Programs**
- Alaska Pacific University - Environmental Science
- Oregon State University - Environmental Science
- Oregon State University - Public Policy/Environmental Policy
- Texas A&M University - Behavioral Ecology
- University of California, Irvine - Evolutionary Biology, Ph.D. program
- University of Kentucky - Entomology, Ph.D. program
- University of Washington - Evans School of Public Affairs
- University of Washington - School of Law

**Government/Public Service Positions**
- Craters of the Moon National Monument - Idaho
- Olympic National Park (seasonal) - Washington
- Petersburg National Battlefield (seasonal) - Virginia
- Sawtooth National Recreation Area (seasonal) - Idaho
- United States Army
- United States Department of Energy (seasonal)
- University of Idaho, Lab Researcher
- Washington State Department of Ecology

**Environmental Organizations**
- Bay Area Climate Corps - San Francisco, CA
- Catholic Charities of Spokane Vinegar Flats Community Farm
- Friends of Cedar River Watershed - Seattle, WA
- Northwest Earth Institute - Portland, OR
- Northwestern Energy - Bozeman, MT
- Upper Columbia United Tribes, Biological Field Technician - Washington

**FACULTY CONTACTS & SPECIALTIES**

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