Environmental Studies

Based on the view that the natural world is crucial to human life and intrinsically valuable, the Environmental Studies major seeks to foster an awareness of human interactions with the environment. The Environmental Studies major offers a diverse, integrated curriculum with offerings in the natural sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities. An interdisciplinary introductory course and a capstone seminar provide bookends to the Environmental Studies curriculum. The Environmental Studies major at Gonzaga also offers courses, speakers, and special events aimed at advancing an intellectual understanding of environmental problems and practical solutions for addressing them.

THE PROGRAM

The Environmental Studies (ENVS) major allows students to link together courses from different departments in order to understand the scientific, ethical, social, and political aspects of the environment.

All students take five required lower-division courses:
- Introduction to Environmental Studies
- Environmental Politics and Policy
- Environmental Biology
- Environmental Chemistry
- Case Studies in Environmental Science

All students complete the program with three required upper-division courses and a one-credit internship or research experience:
- Economics of Environmental Protection
- Environmental Ethics
- Internship
- Symposium in Environmental Studies (capstone)

CURRICULUM

The Environmental Studies major allows students to link together courses from different departments in order to understand the scientific, ethical, social, and political aspects of the environment.

Within this program, students have the opportunity to enroll in a wide array of courses that include:
- Conservation Biology
- Environmental History
- Environmental Law & Policy
- Environmental Sociology
- Ethics of Eating
- Ethics of Global Climate Change
- Indians of the Columbia Plateau
- GIS & Ecological Techniques
- North American Environmental Policy
- Parks, Forests, and Wildlife
- Principles of Wildlife Management
- Climate Change Science and Politics
OUTDOOR OPPORTUNITIES

Gonzaga, situated in the beautiful Inland Northwest, is in a dream location for studying nature and our relationship to it. We have more than a dozen National Parks, National Forests, and National Recreations Areas within less than a day’s drive from Spokane, including some of the literal wonders of the world. Our 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.

The ENVS program sponsors public lectures on environmental topics and offers students many opportunities for student-led research, internships, and volunteer positions. Students 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.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Examples of graduate schools and career opportunities recent Environmental Studies graduates have chosen to pursue are listed below.

Graduate Programs
- Alaska Pacific University
- Oregon State University
- Texas A&M University
- University of California, Irvine
- University of California, Santa Barbara
- University of Kentucky
- University of Washington
- University of Wisconsin

Volunteer Organizations
- Americorps
- Jesuit Volunteer Corps
- Student Conservation Association
- Teach for America
- United States Peace Corps

Employers
- Bay Area Climate Corps
- Catalina Island Marine Institute
- City of Salem, OR
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Davis Law Office, LLC
- Fair Trade, USA
- Inland NW Community Supported Agriculture Association
- King Conservation District
- The Lands Council
- Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
- Northwestern Energy, Montana
- Save Our Wild Salmon
- Spokane County Department of Natural Resources
- University of Idaho
- Upper Columbia Federated Tribes
- US Department of Agriculture

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Graduates of the ENVS program will possess and demonstrate:

- Problem Solving: The ability to find, evaluate, and apply relevant information in analyses of complex, real-world problems.
- Interdisciplinary Integration: The ability to understand and integrate multiple perspectives (e.g., scientific, political, economic, ethical, spiritual) in analyzing an environmental problem and proposing a solution.
- Reflective Judgement: A reflective judgment that incorporates one’s own experiences, beliefs, and intellectual analyses.
- Personal Action: A desire to take personal action in pursuit of a sustainable future for the planet.

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For more information:
gonzaga.edu/envs