

Environmental Science

at Benedictine University

Why study environmental science at Benedictine?

- As Americans become more aware of the urgent need to recognize and solve environmental problems, environmental scientists have become increasingly in demand, and this trend is expected to continue.
- We have received more requests from local industries for students to fill internships in environmental science than we have had students to fill the demand. Former students doing such internships have been able to find permanent employment after graduation.
- Students with the Environmental Science major will be able to enter graduate school or look for employment after earning the bachelor's degree.

An Environmental Science graduate will:

- Have a solid, multi-disciplinary understanding of environmental problems and solutions
- Be able to integrate the many different aspects of environmental science and relate the underlying scientific theory to how environmental considerations affect our everyday lives
- Have an understanding of the principles (natural science) and practice (for example – economics, politics, ethics, history) of environmental problems
- Be skilled in the areas of critical reasoning, problem-solving and communication (written and oral)
- Earn OSHA HAZWOPER certification

What careers are available in environmental science?

Among the career choices of our recent graduates in Environmental Science are the following:

- Local, state and federal government agencies (EPA, ILDNR, DOE, NPS, USDA)
- Research
- Professional school
- Graduate school
- Law school
- Environmental education
- Environmental consulting
- Pollution mitigation
- Public health

Current research

- Interaction of bacteria and heavy metals
- Food web dynamics of contaminant transfer
- Ongoing environmental assessment of freshwater stream conditions
- Chemical ecology of insect-plant interactions
- Molecular ecology of invasive plants and old-growth forests

What does a degree in Environmental Science at Benedictine offer?

Students majoring in Environmental Science choose a major that has a solid foundation in the sciences (biology, chemistry, physics) and incorporates a strong liberal arts education stressing critical thinking, problem-solving and communication.

Our world is facing an increasing array of environmental problems and concerns. These problems tend to be multi-disciplinary in nature, often involving a combination of science, economics and politics. There is a growing need for trained professionals to deal with these problems. Benedictine tradition emphasizes a dedication to responsible stewardship of the earth, and the Environmental Science major at Benedictine University strives to fulfill the University's mission of preparing students for a lifetime as active, informed and responsible citizens and leaders in the world community.

Recommended Program

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science

FRESHMAN

Writing Colloquium	3
Trigonometry (MATH 111)	3
General Chemistry I and Lab	4
Principles of Organismal Biology	3
Core elective	3
	16

Research Writing	3
Speech Communication	3
Core elective	3
General Chemistry II and Lab	4
Principles of Biology	3
Principles of Biology Lab	1
	17

JUNIOR

Physiology	4
College Physics I and Lab	4
Core elective	3
Cultural Heritage (HUMN 240)	3
	14

Environmental Science elective	3-4
OSHA Training	1
College Physics II and Lab	4
Cultural Heritage (HUMN 250)	3
General elective	3
	14-15

SOPHOMORE

Core Elective	3
Introduction to Environmental Science	3
Organic Chemistry I and Lab	4
Core elective	3
Cultural Heritage (HUMN 220)	3
	16

Botany	4
Biostatistics	3
Organic Chemistry II and Lab	4
Core elective (General Ethics)	3
Cultural Heritage (HUMN 230)	3
	17

SENIOR

Ecology and Lab	4
Environmental Science elective	3
Core elective	3
General elective	3
Capstone Internship	1
	14

Environmental Science elective	3
OSHA Refresher	1
General electives	9
Capstone Internship	1
	14

Demonstrate your social conscience with a certificate in Environmental Studies

Students with an interest in the environment can earn a certificate in Environmental Studies by choosing specific environmental-focused courses from the anthropology, biochemistry, biology, environmental science, geography, global studies, humanities, literature, management, natural science, philosophy, political science, religious studies, sociology and theology disciplines. Students will learn about the scientific, humanistic, educational and business aspects of sustainability.