BACHELOR OF ARTS IN
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
in the College of Arts & Sciences

www.kent.edu/geography/environmental-studies
The degree will allow you to study different aspects of the environment, it will provide curricular flexibility, and should lead to solid job prospects.
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES VS. ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Although the two terms are often used together, environmental studies differs from environmental science.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (OUR PROGRAM)

Environmental studies is a social science degree that looks to how humans influence and are influenced by the environment. An environmental studies degree incorporates ways in which traditions of cultures around the world affect the environment. It examines the social and political aspects of how people and the natural environment have interacted and continue to interact with one another.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

By contrast, the study of environmental science focuses mostly on the more technical aspects rather than the social aspects of various environmental issues.
**INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSEWORK & SKILL SETS**

The Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Studies provides students with a comprehensive understanding of environmental issues across multiple disciplines and gives them the means to communicate about these in several different ways.

As a major, you will:

- Cultivate strong writing skills as you compose policy papers, research reports, case studies and essays
- Develop presentation skills while you share research findings and environmental perspectives with classmates and faculty
- Learn how to take a position on an issue and defend your stance
- Understand concepts in biology, geology, and physical geography
- Need both quantitative and qualitative skills to solve problems and interpret research data
- Become proficient in the human aspect of the environment, how people impact the natural world, and in interpreting this world for others

**SOCIAL GOALS**

Basic scientific knowledge about environmental processes is used to inform different social goals.

Graduates of the program will be able to:

- Understand the environment and how it relates to human activity, human resource needs and human perception
- Grasp the multiple interconnections between environmental and human systems when it comes to examining environmental problems
- Articulate how environmental problems are framed and how public attitudes and policies can be harnessed to provide solutions to environmental degradation

In addition to three core courses in Environmental Studies, students will take courses in biological sciences, economics, geography, geology, history, philosophy, political science and sociology.
MAJOR REQUIREMENTS (B.A)

CORE REQUIREMENTS
BSCI 10110  Biodiversity (4)
ENVS 22070  Nature and Society (3)
GEOL 21062  Environmental Earth Science (3)
ENVS 32091  Environ. Studies & Sustainability (2)
ENVS 42099  Integrative Senior Project (2)

NATURAL SCIENCE ELECTIVES
Choose one course from each discipline

Biological Sciences
BSCI 30277  Economic Botany (2)
BSCI 30360  General Ecology (4)
BSCI 30274  Forestry (3)
BSCI 40525  Wildlife Resources (3)

Geology
GEOL 42065  Watershed Hydrology (3)
GEOL 42067  Hydrogeology (3)

Geography
GEOG 21062  Physical Geography (3)
GEOG 41051  Natural Disasters and Society (3)
GEOG 41066  Climate Change and its Impact (3)
GEOG 41073  Conservation of Natural Resources (3)
GEOG 41074  Resource Geography (3)

METHODS ELECTIVES
Choose one course from the following
GEOG 49070  Geographic Information Science (4)
GEOG 49230  Remote Sensing (3)
SOC 32210  Researching Society (3)
GEOL 42035  Scientific Methods in Geology (3)
POL 30310  Public Policy Analysis (3)

SOCIAL SCIENCE ELECTIVES
Choose five courses from the following
ECON 32084  Economics of Environment (3)
GEOG 31070  Population and Environment (3)
GEOG 45085  Urban Transportation (3)
GEOG 46065  Advanced Urban Geography (3)
GEOG 46070  Urban and Regional Planning (3)
GEOG 46080  Urban Sustainability (3)
PHIL 30025  Environmental Ethics (3)
POL 30350  Environmental Conflict Resolution (3)
POL 40440  US Environmental Politics (3)
POL 40450  Politics of Development (3)
SOC 42560  Sociology of Food (3)

UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS: 80-82

MINIMUM TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 120
CAREER OPTIONS

INCREASING DEMAND
An increasing sense of global urgency has created a demand for environmental experts. Students earning environmental studies degrees may prepare for careers in fields like environmental planning and management, environmental law, education and more. Your ultimate career path will depend on your unique configuration of skills, interests and values.

Government
Environmental Studies careers are found at all levels of government, from municipal to state to federal.

Agencies
They will be found in many different agencies, such as Natural Resource Departments, EPAs, Transportation, and Parks.

Business and Industry
Environmental Studies jobs are found throughout business and industry, who need in-house experts to deal with government regulations and the public.

Non-Profits and Advocacy Groups
Environmental studies jobs are common to non-profit organizations and advocacy groups, such as the Nature Conservancy.

Environmental Studies is a broad field with many prospects!
CAREER DESCRIPTIONS

Just a few of the many professional careers that often begin with a B.A. in Environmental Studies include:

ENVIRONMENTAL ATTORNEY

If you are interested in pursuing a degree in Law, the knowledge gained as an Environmental Studies major is helpful for attorneys who work on environmentally related cases. Environmental attorneys interview expert witnesses like environmental engineers, biologists, chemists and environmental scientists as they prepare and litigate their cases. They interpret scientific material and evaluate the validity/reliability of those findings. They use advanced writing skills to compose legal briefs and other documents. They draft the language for environmental regulations if they work for governmental entities. In court, they tap presentation skills mastered by Environmental Studies majors.

ENVIRONMENTAL/CONSERVATION PLANNER

An environmental or conservation planner minimizes the environmental impacts of construction, navigates the environmental permitting process, reviews plans and overviews potential environmental effects or various projects. Environmental planners prepare environmental impact statements, assessments, and respond to proposal requests. Private sector environmental planners assist in the preparation of environmental projects and confirm that instructions adhere to environmental rules and regulations. Planners working for government agencies may recommend whether permits should be approved or denied. They are highly organized and possess proper leadership skills.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT

Environmental consultants assess how development projects might impact the water, soil, air or wildlife in the area. All organizations must prepare environmental impact studies when they are planning to develop virgin land or repurpose currently developed land. Consultants suggest how to mitigate any potential impacts. Other jobs for consultants may be to recommend solutions to pollution issues. Environmental consultants require the communications skills to compose technical reports, to engage with the public and to deliver recommendations to clients.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR

Environmental Educators must synthesize available information about the surrounding environment and teach others about it. This can include education in a variety of settings, print or broadcast journalism, online media, and advocacy. Environmental Studies majors are trained to collect and interpret information and to conduct field work, all vital functions to their position as environmental educators. They convey their passion for the environment through engagement with visitors or students. The need for public speaking skills, acquired in the major, allows them to develop polished and dynamic presentations.
FUNDRAISER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CAUSES

Fundraisers rely on solid communication skills to compose letters and make pitches to prospective contributors. They orchestrate fundraising events and plan campaigns through all types of media. In targeting prospective donors for contributions to environmental causes, fundraisers embrace their organizations’ goals and operations. Environmental Studies majors gain this knowledge and convey the benefits of supporting environmental initiatives to others.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGER

A natural resources manager serves as wildlife and plant life conservationist and can work in the public or private spheres. Natural resources managers who work for government agencies typically oversee and enforce environmental laws. Those who work in parks take charge of educational programs and tours for park visitors. This may also involve the preservation and sustainable management of park and forest lands. It includes the ecological maintenance of the parks, the management of park visitors, and the observation of their impact. Natural resource managers typically possess a degree in environmental studies or a related field and may have a masters for more advanced jobs. They also have a few years of experience and possess excellent communication and organizational skills.

PARK RANGER

Most park ranger positions involve education and interpretation. Rangers plan and conduct educational programs for the public on the science, culture, or history of a park, provide information about the park to guests at a visitors’ center, conduct field trips to point out park highlights, maintain park structures and facilities, create educational displays, and write brochures. Many park rangers have degrees in environmental studies. A solid background in earth science, environmental science, and biology is important for work at many locations, as is an understanding of public policy and communication. This major can prepare students to become park interpreters, so that they can educate visitors about natural and scientific features.
POLICY ANALYST
Generating realistic proposals for environmental policy requires an in-depth knowledge of scientific concepts. Environmental Studies majors acquire solid foundations in biology and the geosciences. They have the research skills necessary to decipher information related to public policy recommendations. They have the analytical and statistical skills needed to interpret and process that information. Advanced technical writing skills are used to compose scientifically oriented policy documents.

PUBLIC RELATIONS SPECIALIST
Environmental organizations shape public perceptions to gain political influence and financial resources for their initiatives. Public relations specialists apply environmental knowledge to write press releases about programs and activities at their employer or client organizations. They utilize advanced writing skills to develop content for the websites of environmental organizations and to compose text for fundraising brochures and letters.

ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST
An environmental specialist helps with conducting environmental assessments, takes samples of various elements within an environment (water, soil, etc.) for testing, and takes part in the testing of the elements among other responsibilities. An environmental specialist is highly schooled in environmental law and policy with a bachelors degree in environmental studies or related field. For entry level positions as an assistant, little experience is required, as many people tend to learn on the job. Environmental specialists tend to be highly organized and excellent at written and verbal communication.

SUSTAINABILITY SPECIALIST
Organizations of all kinds are looking for greener ways of carrying out their functions. Sustainability specialists assess environmental practices and impacts, they recommend and implement strategies to conserve resources and seek to limit environmental damage. Sustainability specialists must assess the impact of current operations on the environment and to determine the potential value of alternatives. Sustainability specialists use writing, presentation and interpersonal skills to write proposals, organize projects, and urge colleagues to adopt alternative practices.
**CONTACT**

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