

Environmental Studies

Office of Interdisciplinary Degree Programs

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Overview

Environmental Studies is one of six concentration areas of the Social Sciences Interdisciplinary major. Designed for students who find the environmental perspective compelling, it is a field in which studies in human society overlap with basic science courses. Students study natural science and social science in order to understand environmental problems and processes. For more information please see the [Social Sciences Interdisciplinary Degree Programs](#).

About our Degrees

Acceptance Criteria

Minimum GPA of 2.0 overall.
Minimum grade of C in [SSC 118](#).
A student originally entering the B.A. program may transfer applicable credits to the B.S. program.

Acceptance Information

Deadlines: Rolling
Number of accepted majors (2010-2011): 34
Total number of majors currently enrolled: 99

Degree Requirements

Please see [Degrees and Policies](#).

About our Courses

Each of the Interdisciplinary Degree Programs' concentrations offers a curriculum that allows students to combine coursework from three or more departments in the College of Arts and Sciences. In addition, a number of interdisciplinary and special-interest courses are offered through the IDP. There are also options to incorporate courses from other areas of the university, allowing students to obtain a broad range of skills and education.

The typical class size for:

Freshman/introductory courses is: 40-200
Sophomore/intermediate courses is: 30-200
Upper level/advanced courses is: 15-45

In the IDP, what do teaching assistants (TAs) do?

Many courses in the social sciences interdisciplinary programs' curricula originate in other departments, where teaching assistants may be assigned instructional or grading duties.

Suggested Introductory Courses

- [SSC 118](#) Introduction to Environmental Studies
- [BIO 200](#) Evolutionary Biology
- [GEO 101](#) & [GEO 106](#) Earth Science Systems I-II or [GLY 101](#) & [GLY 102](#) Global Environmental Science

Environmental Studies

- A statistics course

For course descriptions, please see [Courses](#).

About our Faculty

The IDP faculty, though limited in number, not only teach courses applicable to the program's degree tracks, but are also involved in the advisement of IDP majors, a function that is vitally important for students selecting courses from a number of different departments. Many of the IDP faculty are professionals in their field.

Extracurricular Activities

The [UB Environmental Network](#) is an environment-focused student organization composed primarily of students in the environmental studies concentration. Their activities include environmental awareness and advocacy, sponsoring campus speakers, and organizing Earth Day programs.

See the [UB Student Association](#).

Practical Experience and Special Academic Opportunities

The Interdisciplinary Degree Programs' concentrations offer an opportunity to focus studies on a particular topic whose breadth and diversity overlap several departments in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Undergraduate Research and Practical Experience

Internships

The program in Environmental Studies includes practical fieldwork in an internship experience. Often BA and BS degree students work in local environmental agencies or companies. The primary academic emphasis of the internship notwithstanding, many graduates have found the experience beneficial when seeking employment.

Career Information and Further Study

While the IDP concentrations were not developed primarily to train students for specific careers, they are intended to provide an academic background relevant to a wide range of occupations and fields of graduate study.

Alumni reported being employed with the following:

- Cornell Experiment Station
- Western New York Land Conservancy
- MJ Mechanical Services
- Stonewall Landscaping
- Buffalo Olmstead Parks Conservancy
- Earth Spirit Educational Services Inc.

Post-undergraduate Opportunities

- Geography at UB
- Environmental Science at the University of Minnesota
- Environmental Science at Pace University
- Multidisciplinary Environmental Research at Buffalo State College
- Environmental Psychology at SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry

What percentage of graduates goes on to find related employment?

45-50%

What percentage of graduates goes on to graduate school?

Environmental Studies

15-20%

Degrees Offered

Undergraduate: BA, BS, and Minor in Social Sciences Interdisciplinary
Concentration: Environmental Studies

See [Social Sciences Interdisciplinary](#) for degree requirements

Links to Further Information About this Program

- [Undergraduate Catalog](#)
- [Undergraduate Admissions](#)
- [Graduate Admissions](#)
- [Office of Interdisciplinary Degree Programs](#)
- [College of Arts and Sciences](#)