



Office of Admissions and Orientation
4901 Evergreen Road
Dearborn, Michigan 48128-1491
313-593-5100
Fax 313-436-9167
E-mail admissions@umd.umich.edu
www.umd.umich.edu

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Environmental Studies

Department of Natural Sciences

College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters

The Program

Environmental Studies combines studies from many disciplines to focus on understanding and solving environmental problems. Thus, students will study about the environment in the areas of ecology, geology, psychology, biology, ethics, communications, chemistry, education, and politics. As a result, students will become environmental professionals who see the big picture and coordinate activities of the many persons required to deal with environmental issues.

The internship is an important component of this interdisciplinary program. Students have the opportunity to “try out” an employment field in an environmental area of their choice before they graduate. This experience provides valuable professional connections when entering the world of work. Students also have the opportunity to conduct research on environmental issues with a variety of faculty. The 300 acres of natural areas and the Rouge River Watershed Environmental Interpretive Center on the campus are available for research, learning, and employment.

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the Environmental Studies program are working in large industries, educational institutions, businesses, governmental agencies, consulting firms, community environmental organizations, and analytical laboratories. Positions held by Environmental Studies graduates include:

- Middle school science teacher (Colorado's Teacher of the Year)
- Director of environmental programs, SEMCOG
- Director of lead abatement program, Michigan Department of Public Health
- Program administrator, Rouge River Remedial Action Plan, MDEQ
- Professor of biology, Schoolcraft College
- Urban planner, City of Detroit
- Landscape architect
- Environmental quality analyst, MDEQ
- Geographic information systems specialist
- Interpretive naturalist, UM–Dearborn

- Supervisor of avian research, UM–Dearborn
- Director of environmental compliance, Detroit Metropolitan Airport
- Groundwater Clean-up Specialist
- Vice president of an international oil-spill clean-up company

Many of the graduates have expressed a great deal of satisfaction with the environmental studies degree as it applies to their volunteer work with community organizations, to their position as parents, and as home school teachers.

Course Requirements

Because the range of opportunities for graduates of the Environmental Studies program is so broad, the program provides a choice of four focus areas:

Land Resource Analysis studies in the area of geography and land use issues.

The **Naturalist** focus area provides background for those who will teach school children and the general public about environmental issues.

Resource Policy and Management deals with the policy and legal aspects of environmental issues.

Urban Services addresses city and regional environmental issues such as planning and brownfield restoration.

Students will receive a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Environmental Studies upon completion of the following prerequisite and concentration requirements in addition to the distribution and graduation requirements of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

Program Prerequisites (15 credit hours)

CIS 123 or MIS 120 • Biol 130 • Chem 124 • Geol 118

Environmental Core Courses 27-29 credits

Env Sci 301 Environmental Science
Env Sci/Biol 320 Field Biology
Env St 301 Concepts of Environmentalism

Env St 305	Instrumentation and Analysis
Env St 385	Internship in Environmental Studies
Env St/Env Sci 395	Seminar on Environmental Issues
Env St 485	Seminar in Environmental Topics

Choose one course from the following humanities courses:
 Env St/Phil 312 Environmental Ethics
 Env St/Engl 488 Literature of Nature

Choose two of the following social/behavioral sciences courses:
 Env St/Geog 201 Culture Ecology
 Env St/Pol Sci 325 Environmental Politics
 Env St/Econ 351 Environmental Economics
 Env St/Psych 365 Environmental Psychology
 Env St 491 Ecological Economics

Focus Area Requirements: In addition to the core courses, each student is required to choose one of the four focus areas identified below for a minimum of 18 credits:

A: LAND RESOURCES

Required courses

Env St/Env Sci 330	Land Use Planning/Management
Env St/Geol 340	Remote Sensing
Env St 350	Environmental Law

Elective courses

Anthro 350	Prehistoric Archeology
Env Sci/Biol 304	Ecology
Env Sci 326	Environmental Management
Env Sci 332	Hazardous Waste Management
Env St/Env Sci/Geog 203	Climatology
Env St/Env Sci/Geog 204	Geomorphology
Env St/Geog 310	Economic Geography
Env St/Pol Sci 325	Environmental Politics
Env Sci/Geol 370	Environmental Geology
Geol 377	Field Geology

B: NATURALIST

Required courses

Env Sci/Biol 304	Ecology
Env St/Educ 474	Principles of Environmental Ed.
Env St/Educ 486	Environmental Interpretation

Elective courses

Anthro 350	Prehistoric Archeology
Anthro 370	Indians of North America
Anthro 430	Medical Anthropology
Env Sci/Biol 315	Aquatic Ecosystems
Env Sci 420	Advanced Field Ecology
Env St/Geol 340	Remote Sensing
Env St/Engl 488	Literature of Nature
Env St/Env Sci/Geog 203	Climatology
Env St/Env Sci/Geog 204	Landforms
OB 354	Organizational Behavior
HRM 405	Human Resource Policy/Admin.

C: RESOURCE POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Required Courses

Env St/Pol Sci 325	Environmental Politics
Env St 350	Environmental Law
Env St 351	Environmental Economics
or Env St 491	Ecological Economics
Env Sci/Biol 304	Ecology

Elective courses

Econ 372	Economic Demography
Env Sci 332	Hazardous Waste Management
Env Sci 372	Energy Resources
Env St/Geog 310	Economic Geography
Math 363	Introduction to Statistics
Pol Sci 300	Political Analysis
Pol Sci 312	Legislative Process
Public Admin 527	Citizen and the Bureaucrat
Public Admin 532	Public Fiscal Administration

D: URBAN SERVICE

Required Courses

Geog 300	Urban Geography
Pol Sci 323	Urban Politics
Economics 381	Urban Economics
Exploratory Studies 410	Multiculturalism
Sociology 435	Urban Sociology

Elective courses

Anthro 340	Race and Evolution
Anthro 455	The Immigrant Community in North American Society
Env Sci/Biol 304	Ecology
Env Sci 332	Hazardous Waste Management
Env St 350	Environmental Law
Env St/Econ 351	Environmental Economics
Env St/Psych 384	Environment, Architecture, and Design
Political Science 300	Political Analysis
Public Admin 527	Citizens and the Bureaucrat
Sociology 350	Sociology of Poverty
Sociology 410	Research Methods

Minor in Environmental Studies

A minor consists of 15 hours of upper-division credits in environmental studies. Many students use an environmental studies minor as partial fulfillment for the bachelor's degree in general studies.

Scholarships

In addition to the many scholarships offered by the University of Michigan–Dearborn, several scholarships are especially suitable for students in the Environmental Studies program. Contact the department for information.

For More Information

For more information about the environmental studies program, contact:

Dr. Orin G. Gelderloos, Concentration Advisor
 Department of Natural Sciences
 The University of Michigan–Dearborn
 4901 Evergreen Road
 Dearborn, MI 48128-1491
 313-593-5339
 ogg@umd.umich.edu

To request an application or obtain more information about admission:

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