



Environmental Studies at San Francisco State University and Beyond...

The Environmental Studies Program gives students a deep understanding of the world in which they live and prepares them to use their knowledge and skills to work towards a more sustainable society. Through a foundation in the physical, life, and social sciences, and in-depth studies in one of the five concentrations, the program develops the knowledge and skills students need to make a difference in the world, to find employment in the environmental field, and to pursue graduate study in a related discipline.

Applied projects, fieldwork and/or lab work with faculty mentors, and internship opportunities with local organizations and agencies provide opportunities for professional growth and networking. The San Francisco Bay Area is an international leader in the environmental field, and the area is home to a diverse array of environmental organizations. Class projects in the community offer students opportunities for direct participation in local environmental issues, community action for sustainability, and social change.

All Environmental Studies majors are required to complete an internship which gives them the chance to “preview”

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a career or academic path before they graduate. The “hands-on” experience, job-specific skills, and contacts resulting from internships help graduates land jobs in their field. Often student interns receive job offers directly from their work as interns. Our majors intern at the many environmental organizations and federal, state and local agencies in the Bay Area.

Our graduates work in government agencies including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, California Department of Parks and Recreation, Cal E.P.A., and San Francisco’s Department of the Environment and Public Utilities Commission. Many pursue their passion for the environment by working for environmental organizations including the Coastal Conservancy, California Native Plant Society, Greenaction, Communities for a Better Environment, Pacific Forest Trust, and Literacy for Environmental Justice. Others work in the many local environmental consulting firms and in private business.

<http://bss.sfsu.edu/envstudies>



For more information about the Environmental Studies Program please see our website:
<http://bss.sfsu.edu/envstudies>

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Environmental Studies



Environmental Studies



Environmental Studies at San Francisco State University

- The program offers both Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees in Environmental Studies.
- The Environmental Studies Program at SF State draws upon the environmental leadership of the San Francisco Bay region, the strong campus commitment to social justice, and active campus sustainability efforts.
- Environmental Studies is a field that crosses the boundaries of traditional disciplines, challenging faculty and students to look at environmental issues from a variety of perspectives.
- Our students have the opportunity to integrate coursework in the physical and life sciences, social sciences, humanities, business, and ethnic studies.
- Our faculty are drawn from many disciplines, including Geography, Environmental Chemistry, Geosciences, Conservation Biology, Urban Studies and Planning, Broadcast and Communication Arts, Business, Political Science, and Sociology. The faculty are teaching and actively investigating environmental issues of local and international concern.
- The program attracts students from a wide range of academic interests and cultural backgrounds, and produces high quality undergraduates ready for careers in the environmental field.
- We strive to inspire students to become active citizens and to make social change to address environmental issues.

The Environmental Studies Program offers five degree concentrations. Two of the concentrations lead to a B.S. in Environmental Studies, and three lead to a B.A.

B.S. in Environmental Studies, Concentration: Natural Resource Management and Conservation

This concentration provides students with the theoretical and applied knowledge and skills in ecology, conservation biology and natural resources they need to address natural resource management and conservation issues. Required courses provide knowledge in ecology, conservation biology, statistics and natural resource management and provide students with a solid background in both quantitative and qualitative problem-solving techniques. Students choose additional coursework in ecology, biodiversity studies, applied methods, and management of specific resources.

B.S. in Environmental Studies, Concentration: Earth System Science

This concentration is for students interested in studying the environment through the physical sciences of geology, meteorology, oceanography, hydrology and chemistry. The concentration provides students with a rigorous background in both quantitative and qualitative problem-solving techniques and aims to produce graduates who can understand our planet as an integrated system. Required courses provide basic knowledge in chemistry, physics, mathematics, statistics and environmental regulation. Students choose an emphasis in chemical analysis, climate systems, coastal systems, hydrologic systems, or surficial processes (e.g., soils and watersheds), in consultation with an advisor.

B.A. in Environmental Studies, Concentration: Environmental Sustainability and Social Justice

This concentration provides students with a theoretical and applied understanding of the issues of sustainability and the connections between social justice and environmental problems and solutions. Students study the roles that values and social, political and economic structures play in contributing to the environmental crisis. With the help of an advisor, students obtain depth by selecting elective courses from Political Science, American Indian Studies, Sociology, Philosophy and Religion, Economics, Urban Studies and Planning, Geography, Women's Studies and related fields.

B.A. in Environmental Studies, Concentration: The Urban Environment

This concentration provides students with a strong interdisciplinary theoretical and empirical foundation for understanding and dealing with environmental issues in urban settings. With the help of an advisor, students obtain depth by selecting elective courses focusing on sustainable urban development, environmental justice, land-use planning, environmental policy, and the urban environment in a global perspective.

B.A. in Environmental Studies, Concentration: Humanities and the Environment

This concentration explores the varied and complex ways that different cultures—past and present—view and communicate about the environment. With an advisor, students choose coursework in disciplines dealing with verbal or visual communication, such as Communication Studies, Technical and Creative Writing, Ethnic Studies, Journalism, Photography, Design, Electronic Media and Cinema.

The Environmental Studies

Program at SFSU invites

you to change the world!

We offer an interdisciplinary

and active approach to

understanding environmental

issues and solutions.

