

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

-- Margaret Mead



The idea of “creative tension” that inspires us to strive for a better tomorrow from our honest assessment of our world today was also the inspiration for this painting. It celebrates human ingenuity and asks that we confront environmental challenges in thoughtful, honest, empowering ways.
Carolyn Loeb and Isaac Holt, Class of 2008

Environmental Studies is an interdisciplinary department based on a holistic understanding of environmental issues occurring at the local, national, and global level. The department teaches students to use the tools and perspectives of the humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences to understand the causes and consequences of environmental problems and to develop solutions to these problems.



MACALESTER

HISTORY

The Environmental Studies (ES) concentration began in 1973. Students were required to take 6 courses in one department, 6 supporting courses, and 2 new ES courses - a senior seminar and an introductory course. Students could graduate with this concentration alone, or they could also obtain a major in the other department (students at Macalester were able to graduate with a concentration only until the late 1990s when the faculty voted to require a major for graduation).

In 1982, the Environmental Studies Coordinating Committee revised the major and made the requirements more stringent. The new set of requirements, which were continued with only minor modifications until 2000, required students to complete a major (or core) in an approved department, as well as some additional course requirements (Principles of Economics, Physical Geography, Physical Geology, and Ecology or Biodiversity), an internship and a senior capstone course.

A new ES Director was hired at the start of the 1998-9 academic year. This position was added as part of a general expansion of the size of the faculty during which a number of interdisciplinary programs, including ES, were granted their first “stand alone” positions. New courses were added as requirements: an



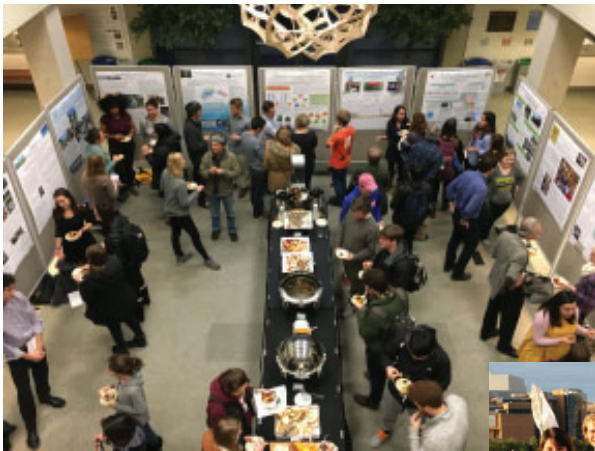
introductory Environmental Science course and a junior-level course in Environmental Policy Analysis. New requirements for the major were also developed.

In 2004, the current ES program was converted to an interdisciplinary department. In 2005 two new faculty members were hired, one with expertise in Environmental History and the other in Environmental Policy. In addition, the Biology Department agreed that one of its Ecology positions would be structured in such a way that the person holding that position would contribute 0.5 FTE of his/her position to ES.

In 2006 the Macalester Faculty approved the development of a minor in Environmental Studies.

In 2007 the ES Department received approval for a third full-time position. The department hired a Climate Scientist.

In 2025, the department grew to a staff of 5 faculty members with the addition of a professor of Natural Resources Science and Management. The department will continue to draw on courses from faculty in other departments and visiting professors.



MAJOR CONCENTRATION

The Environmental Studies major consists of seven courses (26 credits) in environmental studies plus a seven-course emphasis

1. Foundations Courses: These courses are meant to introduce students to the range of topics and approaches utilized in studying environmental issues.

- * ENVI 170 – Ecology and the Environment
- * ENVI 215 – Environmental Politics and Policy
- * ENVI 234 – U.S. Environmental History
- * ENVI 240 – The Earth's Climate System
- * ENVI 280 – Environmental Classics

2. Disciplinary or Interdisciplinary Emphasis: The emphasis allows students to gain depth, either by learning how one discipline approaches environmental issues or by taking an interdisciplinary perspective to understand a particular environmental theme or problem. The emphasis is a series of seven courses to provide depth that includes a methods course and a research-based course.

Disciplinary Emphases:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| * Anthropology | * Geology |
| * Biology | * History |
| * Chemistry | * Mathematics/Computer Science |
| * Economics | * Philosophy |
| * Education Studies | * Physics |
| * English | * Political Science |
| * Geography | * Psychology |



Interdisciplinary Emphases:

- ✧ Climate Science and Policy
- ✧ Communication Studies
- ✧ Community and Global Health
- ✧ Environmental Justice
- ✧ Food Systems
- ✧ International Environment and Development
- ✧ Sustainable Design
- ✧ Urban Sustainability

3. Capstone: As the capstone course for the ES major, this combined internship and seminar course provides students the opportunity to reflect on their career goals while gaining “real world” experience working for a local nonprofit, agency or company. Students reflect on the skills they have gained, network with professionals in the field, and chart out a plan for their first five years out of college. The courses are to be taken concurrently in the fall semester of the senior year.

- ✧ ENVI 489 – Environmental Leadership Practicum
(4 credits and pass/fail)
- ✧ ENVI 490 – Environmental Studies Leadership Seminar
(2 credits)



MINOR CONCENTRATION

The Environmental Studies minor consists of five courses (20 credits) in Environmental Studies. These courses should have the ENVI designation or cross-list. At least one course should fulfill either the college general distribution requirement in social science or humanities/fine arts, and one should be a natural science course with a lab section. The five courses may not include internships or independent studies. Courses from study away may be counted with permission of the department chair.

HONORS THESIS

Honors in the Environmental Studies Department is awarded to ES majors who produce a thesis that meets these three conditions: a) scholarly excellence through original research worthy of publication in a peer-reviewed journal; b) it has an environmental issue as main topic; and c) it is based on an interdisciplinary approach to that topic. Approaches that encompass two or more disciplines across different areas of knowledge, i.e., social sciences, natural sciences, humanities, are particularly encouraged.

Students pursuing the Honors Thesis are expected to make a major commitment in terms of time and effort. This endeavor should be undertaken only by those with strong research interests and the ability to focus intellectually in scholarly production.



STUDY ABROAD

Study abroad at Macalester College means both high academic performance and an acute awareness of diversity that is uniquely fostered by international experience. It enhances education in the liberal arts by engaging well prepared students in rigorous and stimulating learning experiences in a variety of countries outside the United States. Study abroad enables students to encounter foreign cultures through contact with faculty, students and the general public of the host country, and, in societies where the native language is not English, provides them with a useful and consciousness-expanding proficiency in a second language. ES majors have studied abroad at the following locations:

Program

Location

Assoc. Colleges of the Midwest (ACM)
Denmark's International Studies
Program (DIS)

Chicago, IL
Copenhagen, Denmark

Inst. for Study Abroad, Butler (IFSA)
Macalester-Pomona-Swarthmore
Consortium Globalization and the
Natural Env. @ Univ. of Capetown

Buenos Aires
Capetown, South Africa

Marine Biological Laboratory: Env.
Sciences Research Semester

Woods Hole, MA

Minnesota Studies in International
Development (MSID)

Senegal

Sea Education Association (SEA)

Oceanographic
Research, MA

School for International Training (SIT)

Australia, Granada,
Panama, and Brazil



INTERNSHIPS

An internship is required for Environmental Studies majors. It is an excellent way for students to apply knowledge learned in the classroom and laboratory, to learn more in an environmental area, and to explore career options. ES majors have interned at the following places.

Site

Intern Title

Aurora/St. Anthony Dev. Corp.	Central Corridor Intern
Central Corridor Partnership	Business Outreach Intern
Clean Water Action	Perfluorocarbon Coordinator
Do It Green! Minnesota	Green Gifts Fair Team Member
Eco Education	Urban Env. Education Intern
Environment Minnesota	Preservation Intern
Eureka Recycling	Outreach Intern, Waste Reduction Intern, Social Marketing Intern
Fresh Energy	Policy Researcher
Friends of the Mississippi River	Outreach Intern
Global Warming 101.Com	Emerging Leaders Intern
Great River Greening	Outreach Intern
Green Institute	Green Building Intern, Community Energy Intern
Izzak Walton League of America	Sustainable Community Challenge Education Intern
KidWind Project	Community Based Food Systems Intern, Policy Intern
Land Stewardship Project	Climate Change Policy Intern
Minnesota Environmental Initiative	Legislative Intern
Minnesota House of Representatives	Climate Change Intern
MN Pollution Control Agency	Energy Efficiency Pricing Study
Neighborhood Energy Connection	Environmental Intern
Office of the Mayor	Biofuels Intern, Local Food Intern
The Minnesota Project	Medial Relations & Comm. Intern
Transit for Livable Communities	Research Intern, Student Organizer, Community Outreach Intern
United Auto Workers-Ford Plant	Community Investing Intern
University National Bank	LEED Certified Buildings Intern
U-PLAN	Soul Conference Intern
Wisdom Ways	



WHERE ALUMNI GO AFTER GRADUATION

Title

Employer

Air Policy Specialist	MN Pollution Control Agency
Naturalist/Partner	EverGreen Escapes
Environmental Scientist	U.S. EPA
Environmental Specialist	Dept. of Env. Resources
Executive Director	E4, Inc.
Natural Resources Specialist	MN Dept. of Natural Resources
Environmental Planner	City of San Diego
Program Coordinator	The Watershed Project
Green Building Consultant	KEMA, Inc.
Env. Education Teacher	Farm in the City
Environmental Strategies Researcher	Env. Monitoring/Agenda 21
Environmental Organizer for Public Education	Sierra Club
Director of Business Development	Eureka Recycling
Environmental Compliance Coordinator	Ceridian Corporation



FACULTY AND STAFF

The Environmental Studies major is interdisciplinary, which means that in addition to the Environmental Studies courses in the catalog, majors have the opportunity to take courses in a broad range of departments and programs. There is a member of the Environmental Studies faculty in each of the departments in which students can choose to major or minor as part of their Environmental Studies major. In addition to these faculty, the Department Chair is available to assist students in designing their majors and choosing courses.



Louisa Bradtmiller
Professor of
Climate Science



Anika Bratt
Assistant Provessor of
Aquatic Ecology



Jerald Dosch
Assoc. Professor (NTI)
of Biology



Christie Manning
Assoc. Prof. (NTI) of
Psychology



Marianne Milligan
Assoc. Prof. (NTI) of.
Env. Studies and Linguistics



Roopali Phadke
Professor of Env.
Studies Politics and Policy



Mindy Jewell Price
Asst. Prof of Natural
Resource Science & Mgmt



Tom Robertson
Visiting Associate
Professor



Tony Siebenaler-Ransom
Visiting Assistant Professor



Chris Wells
Professor of
Environmental History



Affiliated Faculty:

- Karin Aguilar-San Juan, American Studies
- Holly Barcus, Geography
- Megan Butler, Sustainability Office
- Ernesto Capello, History
- Eric Carter, Geography
- Stotra Chakrabarti, Biology
- I-Chun Catherine Chang, Geography
- Alan Chapman, Geology
- Amy Damon, Economics
- Jim Dawes, English
- Jim Doyle, Physics
- Amy Elkins, English
- Maria Fedorva, History
- Michael Griffin, Media & Cultural Studies
- Xavier Haro-Carrion, Geography
- Mary Heskel, Biology
- Kiarina Kordela, German & Russian Studies
- Keith Kuwata, Chemistry
- Gabriel Lade, Economics
- Kelly MacGregor, Geology
- Bill Moseley, Geography
- Juliette Rogers, French and Francophone Studies
- Kirisitina Sailiata, Am. Studies
- Dan Trudeau, Geography
- Sarah E. West, Economics



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ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT
MACALESTER COLLEGE
OLIN RICE 249
1600 GRAND AVENUE
ST. PAUL, MN 55105
651-696-6274
MACALESTER.EDU/ENVIRONMENTAL-STUDIES