ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (BA)

Director: Erin Robinson, PhD

Introduction

Environmental problems are more visible in our society than ever before. In order to address these issues, there is an ever present need to develop an understanding of the social and natural systems that foster the creation and resolution of environmental issues. Cultural, economic, and social systems provide the structure within which environmental problems are created and solved.

The Environmental Studies BA focuses on interdisciplinary connections between environmental and social systems. The program engages students to think critically about environmental issues and offers active learning experiences for students to apply their knowledge. Combining environmental science with social sciences, business and economics, and the humanities ensures an integrated perspective on environmental issues which lays a foundation for a wide range of careers. The interdisciplinary nature of the program allows students to combine ways of knowing which fully address the multiple facets and complex systems of environmental issues. Students take a series of required courses for the major and then select a specialization option to further focus their knowledge.

Environmental Studies majors can select a specialization track made up of five courses

Specialization Tracks include Environmental Justice, Environmental Conservation and Administration, Sustainable Economics, Environmental Literacy and Public Health. Students can specialize in one area, or select a combination of electives from different tracks that best meet their interests. Each student will select four electives and an internship.

All Environmental Studies majors will complete an internship (EVST 498). Internship opportunities will range from local and regional opportunities to international opportunities through partnerships with well-established environmental organizations.

For a more detailed description of the program, faculty, facilities, academic and co-curricular opportunities please go to the Environmental Studies website (https://www.canisius.edu/academics/programs/environmental-studies).

Qualifications

Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA in their major and a 2.0 overall average to graduate with a degree in Environmental Studies.

Advisement

All students should have an advisor in the major and should contact the department directly to have an advisor assigned if they do not already have one. Meetings with academic advisors are required prior to students receiving their PIN for course registration each semester. All majors should work closely with their advisor in discussing career expectations, choosing their major electives, developing their entire academic program and planning their co-curricular or supplemental academic experiences.

Students should consult with Dr. Erin Robinson, Director of Environmental Studies, for current advisement information. Students are advised to be familiar with their Griff Audit.

Double Majors

Students who wish to expand their educational opportunities may decide to declare a double major. The decision may be based on career goals or planned graduate studies. Before a student declares a double major, it is important to meet with the appropriate academic departments for advisement. Some double major combinations can be completed within the minimum 120 credit hour degree requirement, but in some cases additional course work may be required. In order to declare a double major, the student must complete the appropriate double major request form and get the signature of each department chairperson and the appropriate associate dean. Please note that students will receive only one degree, regardless of the number of majors they complete.

Minors in other DISCIPLINES

Minors provide students the opportunity to pursue additional interests but generally do not require as many courses as a major. Minors generally range from five to eight required courses. The minors page (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/minors) provides a complete list of minors and provides links to each minor. Some majors and minors can be completed within the minimum 120 credit hour degree requirement, but in some cases additional coursework may be required. Students must complete the appropriate minor request form.

Curriculum

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All undergraduate students must complete either the Canisius Core Curriculum (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/academics/core-curriculum) or the All-College Honors Curriculum (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/academics/core-curriculum/all-college-honors-program). Many schools refer to their college-wide undergraduate requirements as “general education” requirements. We believe that the core curriculum and the honors curriculum are more than a series of required classes, they provide the basis for a Jesuit education both with content and with required knowledge and skills attributes that are central to our mission.

Free Electives

Students may graduate with more but not less than 120 credit hours. Free electives are courses in addition to the Core Curriculum or Honors Curriculum and major requirements sufficient to reach the minimum of 120 credit hours required for graduation.

Major Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EVST 110</td>
<td>Science of Environmental Problems I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVST 111</td>
<td>Science of Environmental Problems II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 234</td>
<td>Environment and Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select one of the following:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 342</td>
<td>Social Research Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 217</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANT 351</td>
<td>Qualitative Research Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RST 342</td>
<td>Theological Ethics and Environmental Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PHI 244</td>
<td>Environmental Ethics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECO 101</td>
<td>Principles of Macroeconomics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students must submit the appropriate minor request form as directed by the curricular information linked to each minor. Some minors and majors can be completed within the minimum 120 credit hour degree requirement, but in some cases additional coursework may be required. Students must complete the appropriate minor request form.
Environmental Studies (BA)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECO 310</td>
<td>Introduction to Geographic Information Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or ECO 311</td>
<td>Metropolitan Economic Development and GIS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 324</td>
<td>Visual Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Credits</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Major Electives**

Students need to complete 5 additional courses: 4 courses from any of the designated major tracks; and EVST 498.

**Environmental Justice Track**

Focuses student attention on social and environmental justice through the use of critical thinking of structural problems and how these issues are applied to environmental problems and human society.

**Environmental Conservation and Administration**

Focuses student attention on the movements for conservation practices and the legal, historical, and organization implications for the welfare of the environment.

**Sustainable Economics**

Focuses student attention on the development of sustainable business practices from a systems approach. Enables students to develop an understanding of the nature of green economic practices.

**Environmental Literacy and Public Health**

Focuses student attention on the role of information literacy in environmental issues. Allows for critical perspective and analysis of the role of science, risk, and communication in society today.

**Major Experiences**

Students are required to complete an internship with an environmental organization, EVST 498. Additionally, students are encouraged to pursue community based learning opportunities as they pertain to their interests and course selection.

**Roadmap**

**Additional Course Considerations**

**Freshman**

Fall
- EVST 110
- ECO 101

Spring
- EVST 111

**Sophomore**

Fall
- Select one of the following:
  - SOC 342
  - Track Option Elective
  - PSC 217
  - ANT 351
  - RST 342 or PHI 244

**Junior**

Fall
- ECO 310
- Track Option Elective

Spring
- EVST 498
- Track Option Elective
- SOC 324

**Learning Goals & Objectives**

**Student Learning Goal 1**

Environmental Studies majors will demonstrate knowledge of complex environmental systems and environmental issues problems in scientific, cultural, and social realms. Students will:

- Objective A: Critically evaluate information on human/environmental systems;
- Objective B: Integrate human ecology and science of environmental problems;
- Objective C: Articulate issues of social construction of science.

**Student Learning Goal 2**

Environmental Studies majors will demonstrate an understanding of the foundations of environmental problems in society from an interdisciplinary approach. (Focusing on, but not limited to the social sciences and humanities perspectives.)

Students will:

- Objective A: Evaluate information on political economy of environmental issues;
- Objective B: Demonstrate knowledge of complex theories of environmental problems;
- Objective C: Communicate relationships between social institutions and environmental problems.
Student Learning Goal 3

Environmental Studies majors will demonstrate scientific literacy of environmental issues. Students will:

- Objective A: Critically evaluate literature on environmental problems;
- Objective B: Develop relevant research questions for environmental investigation;
- Objective C: Use methods and tools of environmental research, including statistical analysis, GIS, and other techniques;
- Objective D: Analyze findings from original research.

Student Learning Goal 4

Environmental Studies majors will articulate issues of environmental justice and social systems. Students will:

- Objective A: Articulate ethical aspects of environmental problems;
- Objective B: Synthesize issues of race and class in connection with environmental issues;
- Objective C: Integrate environmental justice as an aspect of social justice.

Student Learning Goal 5

Environmental Studies majors will demonstrate readiness to enter post graduate career and educational opportunities. Students will:

- Objective A: Demonstrate skills needed to compete in green careers, including grant writing and oral communication;
- Objective B: Complete an internship with an established environmental organization;
- Objective C: Collaborate with local, regional, national, and international professionals in environmental career and post graduate educational settings.

Courses

**EVST 110 Science of Environmental Problems I** 3 Credits
Environmental problems are defined as problems that result from interactions between humans and the natural environment. This course is designed to provide a conceptual framework for understanding and analyzing environmental problems, an introduction to the scientific basis of key environmental problems, and an introduction to scientific solutions to environmental problems.

Fulfills College Core: Field 6 (Natural Sciences)

**EVST 111 Science of Environmental Problems II** 3 Credits
This course is designed to provide a conceptual framework for understanding and analyzing environmental problems, to the scientific basis of key environmental problems and their solutions. An extension from EVST 110.

Fulfills College Core: Field 6 (Natural Sciences)

**EVST 235 Environmental Policy** 3 Credits
This course key issues within environmental policy. As well as exploring the history and origins of policy, we will explore some of the key debates such as eco-centrism versus anthropocentrism, animal rights, global justice and our obligations to future generations. Key concepts will include local, state, national, and international policy perspectives; views of democracy and social justice. Reference will be made to other strands of environmental policy and contemporary political theory such as liberalism, socialism, feminism, nationalism and anarchism.

Offered: Fall

**EVST 250 Nature, Culture and Interpretation** 3 Credits
Narratives--stories--are one of the primary tools humans use to shape their understanding of themselves and their environment. Course examines non-fiction, creative non-fiction and fictional narratives to identify origins and elaborations of stories we tell about nature and culture as they impact our relationships to our environments.

Prerequisites: FYS 101 and ENG 101

Fulfills College Core: Field 5 (Social Sciences)

**EVST 259 Environmental History of the United States** 3 Credits
This course examines the evolving relationship between humans and the nonhuman natural world in the United States. Topics include the ecological implications of the arrival of African and European peoples in North America, westward expansion, impacts of industrialization, the industrialization of agriculture, and the development of ecological consciousness.

Fulfills College Core: Field 4 (History)

**EVST 275 Global Environmental Problems** 3 Credits
This course examines global environmental policy in relation to structural and historical realities of environmental change. Topics to be discussed include pre and post industrialization and environmental policy, globalization, environmental activism, climate change, and perspectives of international historical roots of policy and change.

Fulfills College Core: Field 5 (Social Sciences)

**EVST 498 Internship** 1-3 Credits
Students will have the opportunity to participate in the daily work of an environmental agency or organization. Students assume responsibility for daily work and, upon agreement with the instructor and site supervisor, a reflection journal, a research paper and 120 hours of work on-site.

Prerequisite: permission of chair & associate dean.

**EVST 499 Independent Study** 1-4 Credits
Study and work with a faculty supervisor. Project to be determined by faculty agreement. Independent studies require an application and approval by the associate dean.

Prerequisite: permission of the instructor, department chair, & associate dean.