ENviRONmenTAl SCIenCe (BS)

Director: Katie Costanzo, PhD

Introduction

The Environmental Science major provides both theoretical and applied knowledge for students interested in professional careers in the environmental sciences, e.g., environmental consulting, environmental regulation and monitoring, environmental conservation, environmental health sciences (toxicology, occupational health, water quality industry) and the ecological sciences. In addition, the curriculum facilitates entry into graduate programs in the ecological, environmental health and environmental sciences.

The Environmental Science program has an interdisciplinary focus with required and recommended courses in the areas of biology, chemistry, geology, philosophy and social sciences. In addition, it is designed to provide job experiences through the completion of two required internships. For students interested in graduate study in the environmental sciences, one internship may be replaced with independent research in the environmental sciences.

For a more detailed description of the faculty, facilities, academic and co-curricular opportunities please visit the Environmental Science website (https://www.canisius.edu/academics/programs/environmental-science/).

Qualifications

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

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.

The advisor may be changed at the student’s request.

Double Majors

Students who wish to expand their educational opportunities may decide to declare a double major. This decision may be based on career goals, planned graduate studies, or other student interests. Before a student declares a double major, it is important to meet with the appropriate academic departments for advisement. 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.

Per college policy, each additional major requires a minimum of 15 credits that do not apply to the student’s first or subsequent major. Some double major combinations can be completed within the minimum 120 credit hour degree requirement, but in other cases additional course work may be required. Please note that students will receive only one degree, regardless of the number of majors they complete. Both (all) majors appear on a student’s transcript.

Your advisor will be able to assist with course planning to facilitate a second major, so please let your advisor know if you are considering a dual major.

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. To receive a minor, the student must complete at least 9 credit hours of coursework distinct from their other credentials (i.e., majors, other minors). 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.

Major Experiences

All environmental science majors must complete two internship experiences. Recent internships have included Ecology and Environment, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, TestAmerica Laboratories, Student Conservation Association of AmeriCorps, Erie County Department of Environmental Planning, Tifft Nature Preserve, and the Buffalo Museum of Science. We encourage students to work with any faculty member in the program to find internships that will best meet their goals and needs.

Curriculum

An Ignatian Foundation

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 a bachelor’s degree with more but not less than 120 credit hours. Free electives are courses in addition to the Canisius Core Curriculum or All-College Honors Curriculum and major requirements sufficient to reach the minimum number of credits required for graduation. The number of credits required to complete a bachelor’s degree may vary depending on the student’s major(s) and minor(s).

Major Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIO 111</td>
<td>Introductory Biology I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; 111L</td>
<td>and Introductory Biology Laboratory I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 112</td>
<td>Introductory Biology II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; 112L</td>
<td>and Introductory Biology Laboratory II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 320</td>
<td>Field Ecology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; 320L</td>
<td>and Field Ecology Lab</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 360</td>
<td>Environmental Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Students must complete four of the following (at least three with labs):

**Environmental Science Electives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABEC 341 &amp; 341L</td>
<td>Urban Ecology and Urban Ecology Lab (lab optional)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABEC 345 &amp; 345L</td>
<td>Herpetology and Herpetology Lab (lab optional)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABEC 347</td>
<td>Avian Conservation and Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 211 &amp; 211L</td>
<td>Biochemistry and Cell Biology I and Biochemistry and Cell Biology Lab I (lab required)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 212 &amp; 212L</td>
<td>Biochemistry and Cell Biology II and Biochemistry and Cell Biology Lab II (lab required)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 305 &amp; 305L</td>
<td>Medical Microbiology and its Ecological Basis and Medical Microbiology and its Ecological Basis Lab (lab optional)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 307 &amp; 307L</td>
<td>Microbiology and Microbiology Laboratory (lab optional)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conservation Biology**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIO 322</td>
<td>Conservation Biology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 335 &amp; 335L</td>
<td>Plant Biology and Plant Biology Lab (lab optional)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 343 &amp; 343L</td>
<td>Entomology and Entomology Lab (lab required)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 364</td>
<td>Zoology: Diversity of Animal Life</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 366 &amp; 366L</td>
<td>Ornithology and Ornithology Laboratory (lab required)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 375 &amp; 375L</td>
<td>Community Ecology and Community Ecology Laboratory (lab optional)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 377 &amp; 377L</td>
<td>Freshwater Biology and Freshwater Biology Laboratory (lab required)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 378 &amp; 378L</td>
<td>Wetlands and Wetlands Laboratory</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 406 &amp; 406L</td>
<td>Population and Conservation Genetics and Population and Conservation Genetics Laboratory (lab optional)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHM 301 &amp; 301L</td>
<td>Fundamental Physical Chemistry and Fundamental Physical Chemistry Laboratory (lab optional)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVST 235</td>
<td>Environmental Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHY 201 &amp; 201L</td>
<td>College Physics I and College Physics I Laboratory (lab required)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 315</td>
<td>Geographical Information Systems (GIS) for the Social Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RST 347</td>
<td>Ecotheology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Credits** 70-72

1. Students may use MAT 109 and MAT 110 to replace MAT 111.
2. Students may choose 3 semesters of BIO 301, or BIO 401 or ENV 401 in lieu of their second internship. This option is recommended for students considering graduate school or a career in research.

**Environmental Science Electives**

Students must complete four of the following (at least three with labs):

- ABEC 345 & 345L: Herpetology and Herpetology Lab (lab optional)
- ABEC 347: Avian Conservation and Management
- BIO 211 & 211L: Biochemistry and Cell Biology I and Biochemistry and Cell Biology Lab I (lab required)
- BIO 212 & 212L: Biochemistry and Cell Biology II and Biochemistry and Cell Biology Lab II (lab required)
- BIO 305 & 305L: Medical Microbiology and its Ecological Basis and Medical Microbiology and its Ecological Basis Lab (lab optional)
- BIO 307 & 307L: Microbiology and Microbiology Laboratory (lab optional)
- BIO 322: Conservation Biology
- BIO 335 & 335L: Plant Biology and Plant Biology Lab (lab optional)
- BIO 343 & 343L: Entomology and Entomology Lab (lab required)
- BIO 364: Zoology: Diversity of Animal Life
- BIO 366 & 366L: Ornithology and Ornithology Laboratory (lab required)
- BIO 375 & 375L: Community Ecology and Community Ecology Laboratory (lab optional)
- BIO 377 & 377L: Freshwater Biology and Freshwater Biology Laboratory (lab required)
- BIO 378 & 378L: Wetlands and Wetlands Laboratory (lab optional)
- CHM 301 & 301L: Fundamental Physical Chemistry and Fundamental Physical Chemistry Laboratory (lab optional)
- EVST 235: Environmental Policy
- PHY 201 & 201L: College Physics I and College Physics I Laboratory (lab required)
- SOC 315: Geographical Information Systems (GIS) for the Social Sciences
- RST 347: Ecotheology

We encourage Environmental Science majors to take humanities classes that combine social and environmental issues like Environmental Ethics (PHI 244), Environment and Society (SOC 234), and Ecotheology (RST 347).

**Learning Goals & Objectives**

**Learning Goal 1**

Students will develop competency with respect to knowledge having a firm grasp of the basic concepts in environmental science.

Students will:
- Objective A: Demonstrate an understanding of general environmental concepts from ecology, geology, hydrology, and analytical chemistry;
- Objective B: Demonstrate detailed knowledge within at least two areas of environmental science;
- Objective C: Connect previously learned material with real-life environmental situations.

**Learning Goal 2**

Students will develop problem-solving skills being able to perform the following.

Students will:
- Objective A: Read and interpret data;
- Objective B: Design an experiment to address a specific hypothesis;
• Objective C: Critically analyze an article from the original scientific literature or a professional report.

Learning Goal 3
Students will demonstrate mastery with respect to technical skills.
Students will:
• Objective A: Effectively communicate scientific material in written form;
• Objective B: Draw a graph;
• Objective C: Design a table.

Courses
Environmental Science Courses

ENV 200 Introductory Hydrology 3 Credits
Introduction to hydrologic processes, methods for quantifying hydrologic parameters and processes, and practical exposure to conducting and reporting hydrological studies.
Offered: Spring 2021.

ENV 200L Introductory Hydrology Laboratory 1 Credit
Introductory methods and applications of Hydrology.
Offered: occasionally.

ENV 352 Environmental Science Seminar I 1 Credit
Designed to provide environmental science students the opportunity to learn various methods of preparing scientific/experimental information for written format and oral presentation. Career preparations are also included.
Offered: every spring.

ENV 354 Environmental Science Seminar II 1 Credit
This course will provide Information about a variety of careers in the field of environmental science. Students will also give presentations on their internship experiences. Required in junior or senior year.
Prerequisite: ENV 352.
Offered: Spring of odd-numbered years.

ENV 401 Independent Research 1-3 Credits
Independent laboratory research in environmental science conducted under the supervision of a faculty member. Arrangements must be made prior to registration.
Prerequisite: written permission of faculty member & program director.
Offered: Fall & Spring.

ENV 498 Environmental Science Internship I 1-3 Credits
Practical experiences in the environmental sciences. Students must complete two internships in different areas of environmental sciences. Internships require an application and approval by the associate dean.
Prerequisite: junior or senior standing, minimum GPA of 2.0 in the major, a positive recommendation from a faculty member, & a completed & approved internship application.
Offered: Fall & Spring.

ENV 499 Environmental Science Internship II 1-3 Credits
Practical experiences in the environmental sciences. Students must complete two internships in different areas of environmental sciences. Internships require an application and approval by the associate dean.
Prerequisite: junior or senior standing, minimum GPA of 2.0 in the major, a positive recommendation from a faculty member, & a completed & approved internship application.
Offered: Fall & Spring.

Geology Course

GEOL 120 Introductory Geology 3 Credits
Basic concepts, including uniformitarianism, the rock cycle, the hydrologic cycle, tectonics and surface processes. Also covers how humans affect and are affected by their environment. Lab required. Students may not receive credit for both GEOL 120 and PHY 130.
Corequisite: GEOL 120L.
Fulfills College Core: Field 6 (Natural Sciences)
Offered: Fall 2021.

GEOL 120L Introductory Geology Laboratory 1 Credit
Required lab for GEOL 120.
Corequisite: GEOL 120.
Offered: Fall 2021.