

Bachelor of Arts

BA with an Environmental Studies Major

Why major in Environmental Studies at CMU?

A major in Environmental Studies develops a broad, interdisciplinary understanding of the earth and sustainability, while developing your ability to identify, research, and act on environmental and social justice issues. This program will build your academic and research skills, while considering the questions of worldview and faith.

With a foundation in natural sciences, students will gain knowledge of the underlying scientific principles and processes of environmental issues such as climate, soil and water systems, and ecology. By incorporating courses in the social sciences, students will learn how economic, political, and social structures interact with the environment and inform how natural resources are used. The humanities component addresses the question of how literature, philosophy, and theology can contribute to understanding problems and imagining possible solutions.

Program Strengths

The interdisciplinary nature of the Environmental Studies degree allows students to personalize their studies according to their interests, drawing on courses that are directly or indirectly relevant to environmental studies. This range of study prepares students for success, both academically and professionally, in a wide range of fields.

Lab and field research gives students the chance to explore and investigate classroom learning, while working alongside a researching professor. A practicum provides students with the opportunity to integrate knowledge and practices related to the field, and build skills for professional success.

Career Paths

- Conservation
- Resource management
- Disaster management
- Environmental chemistry
- Environmental policy
- Political advising
- Urban and environmental planning
- GNO Administration
- International development

Skills Developed

- Reading and interpreting texts
- Communicating complex ideas
- Ability to think critically and creatively
- Researching effectively
- Persuasive ability – Presentation skills
- Oral and written communication
- Organization
- Cross cultural awareness
- Time management
- Independent work

CMU Courses in the Environmental Studies Program

Students graduating with a degree in Environmental Studies from CMU should have fulfilled primary learning objectives in five areas: natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, knowledge acquisition and scientific literacies, and application/integration.

Core Courses

- Introduction to Environmental Studies
- Ecological Peacebuilding
- Environment, Society and Resilience

Natural Science Foundations

- The Evolutionary and Ecological Revolution
- The Genetic Revolution
- Cells and Energy
- Diversity of Life
- Introduction to Global Health
- Genetics of Eukaryotes and Bacteria
- Microbiology
- Ecology I & II
- Structure and Modelling in Chemistry
- Physical Chemistry
- Organic Chemistry: Structure and Function
- Biochemistry: Biomolecules and Metabolic Energy

Social Science Foundations

- Introduction to Physical Geography
- Introduction to Human Geography
- Introduction to International Development
- Economics of Development
- Participatory Local Development
- Rural Development
- The Study of Voluntary Simplicity
- Just and Sustainable Food Systems
- Introduction to Peace and Conflict Transformation Studies
- Conflict and Development Issues in Indigenous Communities
- Democracy and Dissent
- Global Politics
- Peace and Conflict in World Politics
- Politics, Society and Mass Media
- Social Relationships and Behaviour
- Introduction to Sociology

Humanities Foundations

- Creation, Environment and the Bible
- Apocalypse – Then and Now
- Social Issues in a Christian Perspective
- World Literature in English
- History of Indigenous People in Canada
- An Introduction to Metaphysics – What is Nature?
- Business Ethics
- The Ethics of Love
- Social and Political Philosophy

Research Literacy

- Molecular and Cellular Laboratory Methods
- Quantitative Research Methods in Ecology
- Basic Statistical Analysis
- The Task of Philosophy – The Question of Knowledge
- Qualitative Inquiry in the Social Sciences
- Research Design in Psychology

Course descriptions can be found on the CMU website. Contact the admissions office with any questions.

A work-integrated learning course is required in every degree at CMU. This practicum can be done as an intensive 12-week placement or a once-a-week placement over 20 weeks during the school year. The work placement can help students explore the field they are majoring in for career possibilities or it can provide a way to expand their experiences in a field they haven't thought about before.