Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences

Environmental Science Major

Are You a Potential Major?
Visit the Department at: www.tulane.edu/sse/eens
Tulane University

- Explore planet Earth.
- Get to know your fellow students and professors – small class size.
- Work with research-oriented faculty.
- Excellent major for pre-law, business, teaching, environmental policy.
- Undergraduate research opportunities.
- Many career opportunities.
- Learn practical employment skills.
- Field trips.
Academic Advisor
George C. Flowers, Earth & Environmental Sciences

MAJOR – B.S. in Environmental Science

The Departments of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology (EEB) and Earth & Environmental Sciences (EES) collaborate to offer this interdisciplinary environmental science major, which provides students with broad exposure to environmental problems, as well as training in essential problem-solving skills, such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Environmental Informatics (EI). The major is not unlike the majors in EES and EEB in that it requires a broad background in the natural sciences, as well as a core curriculum that familiarizes students with tools and methods. The undergraduate program is preparatory to our 4+1 M.S. degree program in environmental science. Students completing the terminal masters program should be able to enter environmental scientist positions in private industry, environmental consulting, and regulatory agencies. In addition, the major provides a strong science background for individuals seeking to practice environmental law. Students majoring in environmental science may elect to broaden their background in environmental issues by completing a coordinate major in environmental studies in the School of Liberal Arts. Course requirements for the environmental science major are given below:

I. Courses Required Outside EEB and EES (five courses)

MATH 121 Calculus I
MATH 122 Calculus II
CHEM 107/117 General Chemistry I and General Chemistry Laboratory I
CHEM 108/118 General Chemistry II and General Chemistry Laboratory II
CHEM 241/243 Organic Chemistry I and Organic Chemistry Laboratory I OR
CHEM 250 Environmental Chemistry

II. Foundational Courses (two courses)

EBIO 101/111 Diversity of Life and laboratory
EENS 130/131 Environmental Science and laboratory

III. Core Courses (six courses)

EBIO 205 Global Change Biology
EENS 207 Weather and Climate
EENS 310 Geomorphology OR EBIO 204 Conservation Biology
EBSO 404/414 General Ecology
EBIO 408 Biostatistics and Experimental Design OR EENS 602 Geostatistics
EENS 603 Geospatial Analysis (Note that must complete EBIO 408 OR EENS 602 prior to enrolling in EENS 603)

IV. Elective Tracks (six courses)

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Track
Any five EBIO courses, two of which must be designated laboratory or field courses
-Capstone experience: approved independent study (EBIO 491) OR honors thesis (EBIO 499-500)

Earth and Environmental Science Track
-Any five EENS courses
-Capstone experience: environmental field study (EENS 398) OR honors thesis (EENS 499-500)
Major: Environmental Science – Salary Information

The median annual salary for an environmental scientist is $51,080. For those working in the federal government the median salary was $73,530 per year. Environmental scientists working in management or consulting earn a median salary of $51,190 per year. According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, the starting salary for graduates with a bachelor’s degree in environmental science averaged $31,366 per year. Those employed by industry, government, or consulting firms receive paid vacations and holidays and health and life insurance.