



College of the Environment

The increasing human footprint on Earth poses great environmental challenges that will continue to grow over time. An unprecedented effort is required to mitigate the adverse effects that human activities have on the ecosystem, effects that in turn alter how we interact with the Earth and with each other. Inclusion of all voices, from the greatest diversity of disciplines, cultures, and approaches to problem-solving, will be necessary to effect meaningful change.

The College of the Environment addresses this global need as an unparalleled hub of environmental scholarship, innovation, and education. Its unique strength is the combination of outstanding faculty studying the Earth's atmosphere, land, and water systems with those studying human dimensions of the environment, the application of engineering and technological solutions to environmental problems, and the impact of policy on environmental change. No other university has brought together this breadth and depth of expertise.



What We're Doing

From Local to Global: Science Spanning the Earth

Natural and human systems are inextricably linked. In this enormously complex world, scientific knowledge is vital for sound decision-making. We facilitate the pursuit of essential knowledge and the creation of comprehensive strategies for dealing with environmental challenges. Through the study of our landscapes and seascapes, atmosphere and space, we better understand interactions among our ecosystems and our societies, and address the connection human communities and economies have to a healthy planet.

Climate Change and Global Health—an emerging interdisciplinary program among the Colleges of the Environment, Public Health, and Medicine, teams of faculty fellows apply a systems perspective to problem-driven research focused on how changing climate impacts human health.

Environment, Culture and Society—a trans-disciplinary partnership across the UW campus to engage thought leaders from humanities and social sciences for critical reflection on past and present understandings of the environment, sustained investigation of different modes of social-environmental organization, and reasoned and creative thinking about possibilities for future action.

Clean Energy through Biofuels—a collaboration of researchers, government, and industry, the College of the Environment's School of Environmental and Forest Sciences secured a \$40 million grant to advance the science of biofuels, helping lead the way toward innovative energy solutions.

Who We Are

We are scholars, explorers, citizens, scientists and students dedicated to discovery while bringing the best science to bear in managing the future of the Earth's well-being.

World-class Academic Units

Aquatic and Fishery Sciences
Atmospheric Sciences
Earth and Space Sciences
Environmental and Forest Sciences
Marine and Environmental Affairs
Oceanography
Program on the Environment

Stellar Research Centers

Climate Impacts Group
Friday Harbor Labs
Joint Institute for the Study of the Atmosphere and Ocean
UW Botanic Gardens
Washington NASA Space Grant
Washington Sea Grant

Numbering more than 1,500 students and over 600 faculty and staff, we offer more than a dozen majors, graduate degrees and certificate programs.

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Engaged Education

We think critically and act effectively—as learners, teachers and doers. We apply cross-disciplinary knowledge to real-world complexities. We facilitate experience-based education on land, at sea, and in the air, with communities across Puget Sound and around the globe. We address the pressing challenges of our time by training the next generation of informed citizens, scientists, and leaders.

Program on the Environment—a model of forward-thinking, engaged undergraduate and graduate education, PoE delivers interdisciplinary, hands-on education at the nexus of human and natural environments, inspiring creative and nimble leaders to address evolving environmental challenges.

Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT)—IGERT is the flagship interdisciplinary program of the National Science Foundation, training the next generation of scientists and engineers to apply their disciplines in an interdisciplinary capacity. The College hosts two such programs—the Integrative Graduate Training in Ocean Change and Bioresource-based Energy for Sustainable Societies.

Partnerships that Cross Boundaries

Dynamic and inventive partnerships across sectors are essential for our success, informing our science, learning, and education. We recognize the porous boundaries between the College and connected communities, from across campus to around the world. We work actively to collaborate with partners across diverse sectors of society to ensure that the best science is used in addressing key environmental and human challenges.

Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence—a partnership among the College of the Environment, the College of Education, the National Science Foundation and the Seattle Aquarium, COSEE actively builds communities of scientists, volunteer organizations, educators and citizens to learn about oceans, to communicate ocean-related issues and research and to explore the learning of science across diverse communities.

Joint Institute for the Study of the Atmosphere and Ocean—fostering collaborative research between the University of Washington and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, this partnership provides leading-edge research, effective training, and innovative outreach across the state and throughout the Pacific Northwest.

We are Here for What Matters Now

This is a crucial moment in the history of our world. The challenges ahead require a deep and comprehensive understanding of the planet, and the College of the Environment is well positioned as a leader in environmental scholarship and strategic engagement. We connect locally, regionally, and globally through original research, our state-of-the-art facilities, outstanding educational resources, and strategic collaborations. We pursue grand challenges within and across disciplines by engaging with the Earth to discover, to understand, and to act. Join us.

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