The University of Washington Program on the Environment crosses conventional boundaries, asking students to dig deeply for innovative approaches to Earth’s biggest challenges. Because students learn to think critically and participate in hands-on research, they become environmental leaders who are confident contributors to the creation of a more sustainable world. Environmental Studies’ interdisciplinary curriculum empowers students to take advantage of faculty expertise from across the College of the Environment and the UW, creating limitless opportunities for environmentally-focused learning, personal enrichment and leadership growth. The program combines natural and social sciences with humanities to foster a greater understanding of how humans interact with and influence the world.

**IMPACT**

Through our Capstone Course Series which combines career skills preparation, research, analysis, and an internship, our undergraduate students engage directly with and impact their communities. Examples include:

- Working with the Environmental Protection Agency to develop and implement risk communication tools concerning air quality near Seattle Public Schools. By highlighting disparities and the impacts on human health we can begin to address environmental justice concerns in underserved communities.

- Working with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration to develop computer models that utilize satellite data to make predictions about the movements of blue whales, and using this information to help prevent fatal collisions with cargo ships in the Pacific Ocean.

- Traveling into the heart of the Amazon to evaluate the causes and consequences of human-wildlife conflict using remote cameras and interviews with local community members, resulting in increased engagement to help build more robust conservation policies.

- Using a combination of water testing and Geographic Information Systems to evaluate sources of water system contamination near a community orphanage in Sodo, Ethiopia, and developing educational tools to address sanitation and hygiene with the goal of improved human and environmental health.
DEVELOPING CRITICAL THINKERS THROUGH A PERSONALIZED CURRICULUM

Students have the flexibility to focus on the aspects of environmental studies they’re most passionate about through six optional areas of concentration, including climate and society, conservation of living systems, environmental education and communication, environmental policy and planning, food studies, and sustainability.

SUPPORT

Environmental Studies benefits greatly from the generosity of alumni and friends. Contributions from individuals, public and private foundations, and endowments provide vital support to enhance students’ academic experiences and sustain our program. To learn more about giving to the Environmental Studies program, please contact the College of the Environment Advancement team: envadv@uw.edu, 206-221-9319.

CONTACT

For more information about Environmental Studies, please contact: enviradv@uw.edu, 206-616-2461.

For more information about the College of the Environment, please contact: coenv@uw.edu, 206-685-5410.

We acknowledge that we are on the land of the Coast Salish peoples, land which touches the shared waters of all tribes and bands within the Suquamish, Tulalip and Muckleshoot nations.

DEGREES OFFERED

Bachelor of Arts:
Environmental Studies

FACULTY

Environmental Studies takes a unique approach, harnessing expertise and perspectives from numerous faculty across the UW campus. The program benefits from a teaching team with varied expertise in the natural world, food systems, sustainability, communication, environmental management, and ethics. This group of experts provides students with the multifaceted education that is needed to tackle complex environmental issues. Core faculty work steadily with students across their entire careers, helping to build a strong sense of program community and guiding students toward individualized research projects and internships.

BY THE NUMBERS

Undergraduate students: 231
Affiliated faculty: 47