Program Description

Environmental Science is a discipline that explores how human’s interact with the natural environment and develops innovative solutions to solve pressing human-created environmental challenges. The Master of Natural Science - Environmental Science is a flexible, interdisciplinary master’s degree that prepares students for successful scientific careers. With such a diversity of course offerings and flexible curriculum, each student works with their advisor to design a unique program suited to his or her goals. Students obtain hands-on research experience in the classroom and the field. Internships provide students the real-world problem solving skills that will make them competitive for rewarding careers in the environmental field.

Unique Features

This degree prepares students for careers in environmental consulting, renewable energy, sustainability, natural resource management, species conservation, and regulation and compliance. Careers as environmental scientists and specialists are expected to grow by 15%, outpacing the rate for the average of all occupations by 4% according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Students are encouraged to design their course of study to satisfy their interests and achieve their career goals.
Program of Study

1. Program Core Required Hours: 3
   ENGL 5149 Grant Writing

2. Program Concentration
   Required Hours: 30 hours (Non-Thesis Option)
   Students must take the following courses unless taken for undergraduate credit (Non-Thesis option)
   ENVS 5207 Experimental Design and Statistical Analysis
   ENVS 5715 Environmental Science Seminar (repeated twice for credit)
   ENVS 6235 Introduction to Geographic Information and Global Positioning Systems
   POLS 6106 Environmental Issues and Public Policy

   Students must take two courses from Group A and two from Group B; at least one of these courses must include a lab (13-16 hours, non-thesis option)

   Group A: Geosciences
   ENVS 5165 Introduction to Hydrology
   ENVS 5255 Environmental Geology
   ENVS 7115 Environmental Chemistry
   GEOL 5117 Climate and Global Change
   GEOL 5135 Introduction to Oceanography
   GEOL 5215 Germorphology

   Group B: Natural/Cultural Resources
   ANTH 5125 Human Ecology
   ENVS 5226 Culture and Environmental
   ENVS 5315 Stream Ecology
   ENVS 5405 Topics in Conservation
   ENVS 6206 Water Resources Management
   ENVS 6235 Introduction to Geographic Information and Global Positioning Systems (for thesis option only)
   Program Electives (1-4 hours Non-Thesis option):
   Students may take any 5000+ graduate BIOL, CHEM, ENVS, GEOL, GEOG with advisor approval. May take Environmental Science Seminar for up to 2 additional credits beyond the 2 required semesters. May take Internship (ENVS 6698) for up to 3 additional credits beyond the 3 required.

3. Program Requirements
   Non-Thesis Option Internship Required Hours: 3
   ENVS 6698 U/G Internship
   Total Hours Required: 36

Additional Program Requirements
   The maximum course load for a graduate student in a given semester is 12 semester hours. The maximum course load for a student holding a graduate assistantship is 10 semester hours.
   Present a scientific seminar evaluating the accomplishments and results of their internship.
   Comprehensive written exams covering learning objectives must be satisfactorily completed before graduation.

GradSchool.ColumbusState.edu/cols/natural-sciences/naturalsciences-ms.php