SONOMA
STATE UNIVERSITY

Environmental Studies and Planning

Dedicated to producing environmental problem solvers, the Department of Environmental Studies and Planning (ENSP) offers a distinctive program of interdisciplinary study. This program addresses the many dimensions of current environmental concerns that have far-reaching implications for human society, natural systems, and the fate of diverse species of plants and animals. The program integrates knowledge from a variety of disciplines to understand the functioning of ecological systems and the nature of human impact upon these systems on local, regional, and global scales. The program's goal is to prepare students for careers in the environmental professions, for graduate studies, and for positive action in their own lives, in order to help maintain and enhance the quality of the human and natural environments.

All students receive fundamental instruction related to ecology and the environment based on knowledge from the biological, physical and social sciences, and the humanities. This broad understanding is applied in a particular area of environmental concern through a student's concentration in one of the ENSP study plans. Career-oriented study plans are offered in the planning concentration (city and regional planning), environmental conservation and restoration, environmental education, and in environmental technology (water technology, hazardous waste management and energy management). These study plans are outlined on the reverse side of this fact sheet. Many students have pursued double majors, or a major and a minor, in conjunction with traditional disciplines to prepare for specific environment-oriented careers.

All students complete a senior project or internship. This provides students with the types of experiences and perspectives not available in the classroom, workshop or laboratory. Internships in particular provide students with opportunities to apply knowledge and skills in actual situations and participate directly in problem-solving activities. Many internships have evolved into full-time jobs for students after graduation.

Sonoma: A Setting for Environmental Learning

Our ideal campus location provides easy access to important Bay Area communities and learning resources, as well as many unique natural areas including redwood forests, the marine environment of the Pacific Coast, the great estuary of the San Francisco Bay, several national, state and regional parks, a large inland wilderness area, and a variety of ecological preserves. Campus resources include the Fairfield Osborn Preserve, a 220-acre field station that provides environmental education programs and opportunities for scientific research; the EarthLab, an integrated environmental learning laboratory that acts as a model of sustainable technologies as well as a research and field study center; the SSU Botanical and Kenneth M. Stocking Native Plant Garden; and the department's innovative new research and demonstration center for sustainable building techniques and technologies, the Environmental Technology Center. The ETC features environmentally-sensitive building materials, passive solar heating and cooling, and other cutting-edge technologies, and has drawn the attention of builders and designers internationally. Also within the department is the Institute for Community Planning Assistance, a research center that contracts with local communities and public agencies for studies, utilizing paid student assistants.

Study Plans in the Major

Students must complete one of the following study plans in the major to fulfill requirements for the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) or Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Environmental Studies. Limited substitution of coursework is permitted with prior approval of the advisor responsible for a particular study plan. Details of each plan, including specific course numbers and titles, are available from the Environmental Studies and Planning department office.

Plan I. Environmental Conservation and Restoration

General background combined with specific, career-related coursework for students planning to work in fields related to parks, natural resource management, international development, outdoor education, environmental law, media or activism.

Plan II. Environmental Education

This study plan meets the subject matter preparation requirements for the Multiple Subject Teaching Credential required to teach in California public elementary schools. It also provides an excellent background for students interested in environmental education and outdoor education careers.

Plan III. Environmental Technology (B.A. or B.S. option)

There are three tracks in this study plan: Energy Management and Design, Hazardous Materials Management, and Water Quality.

Energy Management and Design

Designed to prepare students for careers or for graduate studies in the fields of residential and commercial energy management, energy-efficient architecture and design, energy planning in industry and government, renewable energy applications, and other energy-related businesses.

Hazardous Materials Management

Designed to prepare students to enter the new and rapidly expanding professions of hazardous waste management, toxic substance control, and environmental protection. Course work provides a comprehensive foundation and opportunities to pursue specialized study in the areas of Aquatic Ecology, Computer and Mathematical Applications, Laboratory Technology, or Public Administration.

Water Quality

The Water Quality study plan prepares students for employment in public agencies dealing with water supply, water purification, water policy and water law, or with municipal and utility-operated watersheds. In conjunction with other disciplines, it provides upper-division courses for students who have had previous training in community college water technology programs and gives additional training to workers already employed in water-related occupations.

Plan IV. Planning Concentration (City and Regional Planning)

Students in this concentration follow a general pre-professional curriculum in Planning, and may choose to develop a specialization through a program of recommended electives or a minor. Focus is on community land use, growth management, impact assessment, transportation, and regional resource planning. Graduates may work for a wide variety of governmental agencies or private firms, or may pursue graduate studies in Planning or related fields.

Minor in Environmental Studies and Planning

The purpose of the minor in Environmental Studies and Planning is to help students from traditional disciplines apply their expertise to environmental and planning problems. A minimum of 20 units is required. Recommended coursework is normally the same as the core of the study plan in Environmental Conservation and Restoration (Plan I).

Personal Attention and a Dedicated Faculty

Each student has an advisor who specializes in his or her area of interest. Students and advisors work closely together, designing a course of study that will provide the best possible preparation for personal and professional fulfillment. Students also enjoy the small class sizes and personalized teaching by distinguished and dedicated professors. ENSP faculty are committed to enhancing the quality of education and the environment.

For more detailed information on any of our study plans:
Department of Environmental Studies & Planning
707/664-2306 • ensp@sonoma.edu • www.sonoma.edu/ensp/

We hope this information will be helpful. Official requirements of all majors and programs are published in the Sonoma State University catalog.
Sonoma State University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution and has a strong commitment to the principal of diversity.
A member of the California State University

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