



# Environmental Studies and Planning

## Department of Environmental Studies and Planning

Sonoma State University

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### A Diversified Foundation and a Specific Focus

The Department of Environmental Studies and Planning (ENSP) was founded as an interdisciplinary program in 1972 during a period of growing environmental concern. The department has evolved and matured, and today stresses 1) the development of a global perspective by synthesizing knowledge from a variety of scientific and academic disciplines, 2) the acquisition of specific professional skills through a focused course of study, and 3) the application of knowledge and skills through effective strategies for environmental management.

A fundamental belief in ENSP is that growing ecological problems have far-reaching implications for human society as well as for the fate of natural systems and diverse species of plants and animals. Therefore an important goal of the department is to prepare students for meaningful careers in the environmental professions and for positive action in their own lives in order to help maintain and enhance the quality of the human and natural environments.

ENSP students acquire a common base of understanding by taking coursework focusing on the biological, physical and human aspects of the environment. This provides a basic framework for understanding the complex interactions of nature, society, culture and technology. Students also pursue a concentrated course of study in one of four professionally-oriented study plans offered for the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science Degree. This basic curriculum design provides both a solid foundation of environmental knowledge and significant depth in a specific environmental field.

### Study Plans and Degree Options

Four Study Plans are offered. Environmental Conservation and Restoration, Education & the Environment, Environmental Technology (with tracks in Energy Management and Design, Hazardous Materials Management and Water Quality), and Planning. These Study Plans are described in more detail on the reverse side and detailed descriptions of the course requirements in each plan are available from the department or over the World Wide Web.

Students pursuing the Environmental Technology study plan can choose a course of study leading to either a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science degree.

### Wide Range of Career Opportunities

Environmental careers now exist in a wide variety of fields in the public and private sectors, both in the U.S. and abroad. For example, graduates of the ENSP program have found employment in public schools and private educational facilities; in city and regional planning agencies; in agencies and firms dealing with environmental impact analysis, law and natural resource management; in energy management and design consulting firms, utilities and renewable energy businesses; in Federal, State, county and city parks; and in environmental activist organizations. Many of our graduates go on to pursue advanced degrees in environmentally-related fields.

### Sonoma: A Setting for Environmental Learning

The ideal campus location provides easy access to many unique natural areas including redwood forests, the marine environment of the Pacific Coast, the great estuary of San Francisco Bay, several national, state and regional parks, a large inland wilderness area, extensive vineyards and farmlands, and a variety of ecological preserves. Nearby communities and cultural environments include everything from small, historic rural towns to metropolitan San Francisco. This rich variety of natural and built environments is used as a laboratory (field trips) to study the application of knowledge to the "real world".

Check our website: [www.sonoma.edu/ensp/](http://www.sonoma.edu/ensp/)

## 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 department office and our web site.

### ***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, inter-national development, environmental law, media or activism.

### ***Plan II. Education & the Environment***

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 variety of governmental agencies or private firms, or may pursue graduate studies in Planning or related fields.

## The Internship Program: A Practical Learning Opportunity in a Professional Setting

ENSP has an excellent internship program that gives students the types of experiences and perspectives not available in the classroom, workshop, or laboratory. Internships also provide students with opportunities to apply knowledge and skills in actual practice situations, learn from personal observation and synthesis, and participate directly in problem-solving activities. Both paid and unpaid internship positions provide the all-important experience needed to be competitive in the job market. Many intern-ships have evolved into full-time jobs for students after graduation. Our Internship Program is one of the main reasons for the very high rate of placement of ENSP graduates.

### **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).

### **Special Resources in ENSP**

The department maintains several valuable learning environments and facilities on campus. They include:

- ***The Fairfield Osborn Preserve***: A 220-acre field station that provides environmental education programs and opportunities for scientific research. The preserve is a 15-minute drive from campus, atop Sonoma Mountain.
- ***The EarthLab***: An integrated environmental learning laboratory which acts as a model of sustainable technologies and techniques to meet basic human needs; a laboratory for scientific research and field study; and a center for environmental science education and demonstration.
- ***The SSU Botanical and Kenneth M. Stocking Native Plant Garden***: A showcase of diverse California plant communities and a quiet place for education and relaxation. Located near the campus lakes, the garden includes a guided trail through woodland, marsh and riparian ecosystems.
- ***The Environmental Technology Center***: A model for sustainable building techniques and technologies, this center includes energy and water-efficient landscaping, "smart building" control technologies, environmentally-sensitive materials, passive solar heating and cooling and more. It serves as a training facility for building professionals, teachers and as an educational and research site.
- ***The Institute for Community Planning Assistance***: A research arm of the department that carries out contract studies for local communities and public agencies, utilizing paid student assistants.

**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 both the quality of education and the environment.

