Environmental studies is the interdisciplinary academic field which systematically studies human interaction with the environment in the interests of solving complex problems. It is a broad field of study that includes also the natural environment, built environment, and the sets of relationships between them. The field encompasses study in basic principles of ecology and environmental science, as well as associated subjects such as ethics, policy, politics, law, economics, philosophy, environmental sociology and environmental justice, planning, pollution control and natural resource management.

General Information

- Environmental studies provides a broad base of hard sciences as well as liberal arts or social science coursework.
- Choice depends upon career focus, for example, administration or policy-making versus technical areas or research.
- Combine liberal arts skills with analytical skills to increase employability. Formally, obtain a double major or minor in one of these areas. Informally, obtain these skills through internships, co-ops, volunteer work, summer jobs, or independent research projects.
- Become familiar with current environmental laws and regulations. Stay up-to-date with changing environmental legislation.
- Join related professional associations; read related literature and journals to keep up with new developments.
- Attend seminars, conferences and workshops sponsored by professional associations or public interest groups.
- Network and get to know people who are working in area of interest.
- Research agencies/organizations of interest before applying for a position.
- Learn local, state and federal government job application procedures.
- Obtain graduate degree for job security/advancement.
Areas of Environmental Studies

- Environmental Remediation/Compliance
- Waste Management
- Air/Water Quality Management
- Planning and Conservation
- Land and Water Conservation
- Fishery and Wildlife Management
- Parks and Outdoor Recreation
- Forestry
- Environmental Education and Communication
- Planning
- Environmental Law

Education

Minimum Bachelor’s Degree required

Transfer Options

- DePaul University
- Eastern Illinois University
- Roosevelt University
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign