

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AT AMHERST

The Environmental Studies Faculty members at Amherst College welcome your interest in our courses and research. Here are answers to questions frequently asked by first-year students and resources for following up to find additional information.

Why consider a major and courses in Environmental Studies?

Quite simply, there is nothing going on in the world that isn't -in some way- connected to environmental studies. Issues such as climate change, consumption and unlimited growth, inequality, and management of natural resources are critical to address. The Environmental Studies major encompasses multiple fields of study and provides students with the opportunity to investigate the Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences. Our graduates go on to careers in the sciences, law, policy, architecture, the arts, and fiction and non-fiction writing.

What does the Environmental Studies major involve?

The ENST major consists of a minimum of eleven courses including: a gateway course to introduce you to the department and areas of study, five core courses (History, Economics, Statistics, Ecology, & Policy), four elective courses selected among the arts, humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences and a senior capstone seminar. Find out more about these courses (& others), and recommended sequences through the major by visiting our website https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/environmental_studies/major

What Environmental Studies courses can I take my first year at Amherst?

Students interested in Environmental Studies should consider taking, in their **first year**, the introductory course (offered in the spring) and an additional course to begin exploring the major.

Courses that serve either as core requirements or electives for the ENST major and are open to first-year students in the **fall semester** include: ARCH-205: Sustainable Design, BIOL-181: Adaptation & the Organism, BLST-162: Black on Earth, Introduction to African American Environmental Literature, ECON-111: Introduction to Economics, ENST-226: Footprints on the Earth, GEOL-109: Climate Science & Rhetoric, GEOL-300: Water Science, POSC-112: The International Politics of Climate Change, and STAT-111: Introduction to Statistics or STAT-135: Introduction to Statistics via modeling.

In the **spring semester of Year 1**, participation in the required course [ENST-120: The Resilient \(?\) Earth](#) is strongly recommended, as it provides a broad overview of the major and serves as a pre-requisite for Ecology (ENST-210), Environmental Policy (ENST-250 or ENST-260), and other upper-level electives in the major. In addition, the core requirements in Economics, Statistics, and History will also be available to first-year students in Spring 2021.

Links to these courses are available on the ENST website.

https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/environmental_studies/information-for-new-students

Can I get advanced placement in Environmental Studies?

Amherst College does not offer advanced placement credit, and the Department does not allow students to place out of its introductory course.

Can I double-major as an Environmental Studies major?

You certainly can combine a major in Environmental Studies with a second major, and anywhere from about a third to a half of our majors are double majors. Popular combinations are ENST-BIOL, ENST-GEOL, and ENST-ECON, but our majors also have majored in the arts, political science, and the languages.

Can I study abroad as an Environmental Studies major?

The Environmental Studies Faculty encourage our majors to spend a semester abroad, and most do so in their junior year. There are numerous study abroad programs that offer hands-on experience in policy and conservation, and our majors have spent semesters in Africa, Asia, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Europe. Many of the courses you take in these programs will apply towards the major and the experiences of several of our students abroad have subsequently lead to a senior thesis. Check out the Amherst's Global Education Study Abroad website.

https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/global-learning/study_abroad/new-resources-for-students

Are there research opportunities available to me as an ENST major?

Amherst College Faculty are committed to research and consider it part of our job. The best way to find out about research opportunities is to talk with professors teaching courses that especially interest you. They may have a project that you can be part of or can direct you to others needing a research assistant. In addition, check out the Office of Sustainability (see below) for research and internship possibilities.

How can I stay engaged in environmental issues on campus?

Amherst is committed to a Climate Action Plan that will bring the college to carbon neutrality by 2030 and the Office of Sustainability is a great resource for students interested in learning about various programs and opportunities at the college. In addition, opportunities for engagement with the College's on-site Book and Plow Farm are available.

Also, look for college announcements about seminars and lectures hosted by the department.

See links available on the ENST website at...

https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/environmental_studies

Please reach out with more questions:

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