

## Environmental Studies at UNO

The field of Environmental Studies recognizes that finding solutions to the environmental challenges facing our society requires individuals with experience and training in a broad array of disciplines. Success in the field requires not only a scientific background to develop technical solutions but also an understanding of the social and economic implications of solutions and decisions. The Environmental Studies Program at UNO offers interdisciplinary undergraduate degrees that provide students with training in the breadth of disciplines required to understand the complex nature of solving environmental challenges. From the core requirements students acquire the scientific expertise as well as the necessary background in economics, public policy and law, sociology, and ethics to effectively pursue a career relating to the environment.

The Environmental Studies Program is committed to preparing students to help meet the environmental challenges facing us locally, nationally and globally. A degree in environmental studies provides the background, training and experience to pursue many career paths. Our graduates have successful careers with private environmental consulting firms, in environmental education, and with local, state, and federal environment and resource agencies. Many of our graduates continue their education by pursuing graduate degrees in science, public administration, and law.

Environmental Studies faculty are located across campus and are committed to helping our students reach their goals.

## Degree Requirements

Majors in Environmental Studies receive a Bachelor's of Science degree. A minor in Environmental Studies is also available.

Majors select one of five areas of concentration, representing the technical fields that make up the environmental sciences: life science, earth science, geography and planning, physics, and analytical science. Students in all concentrations complete courses designed to provide the interdisciplinary perspective that is vital for working effectively in environmental fields. These include courses in ethics, sociology, economics, and environmental law and public policy. All majors take at least one course from each of the areas of concentration (biology, geology, geography, chemistry, and physics).



Courses within the area of concentration provide graduates with the depth of training they need to become experts in their field. Courses are selected to ensure that students are prepared for entry level jobs in environmental science or for advanced graduate training.

Students should select an area of concentration as soon as possible. The choice of concentration will depend on specific interests within environmental science. Environmental Studies advisors are available to discuss which pathway is most appropriate.

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[http://www.unomaha.edu/environmental\\_studies/](http://www.unomaha.edu/environmental_studies/)

## General Education Requirements

A core concept of a liberal education is that students should become familiar with the range of methodologies by which knowledge is created and analyzed. Further, the liberally educated person is, by definition, expected to have acquired knowledge in a wide array of disciplines. Thus, students in the College of Arts and Sciences are required to take courses from each of the major discipline categories in the college. Study of the *humanities* deepens cultural understanding and provides one with familiarity with the means by which ideas are communicated and transformed through their expression in art and literature. The study of the *social sciences* develops one's understanding of human behavior and the function of individuals in social groups and institutions, as well as the relationships among individuals. A broad background in *science* is essential to the educated citizen in a world dominated by science based industry and technology, with their complex impact on human society and the natural environment.

## Areas of Concentration within Environmental Studies

All Environmental Studies majors select from one of five options for more in-depth study. The **Analytic Option** is designed to produce chemists who are particularly interested in the chemical pollutants that are being released into the air, earth and water environments of our planet. The **Earth Sciences Option** is designed to prepare students for a career in environmental geology. The **Geography and Planning Option** is designed to produce local and regional planning specialists who have a good understanding of environmental problems and who are equipped to help avoid common confrontations that arise between developers and those groups affected by the project. The **Life Sciences Option** is designed to prepare a student for jobs in environmental biology, natural resources management, and conservation. The **Physics Environmental Option** is designed to provide students with the skills of a trained physicist, namely understanding of a broad range of instruments and measurements, and to hone students' abilities to apply a variety of mathematical techniques in simulating and evaluating environmental systems.

## Special Opportunities

Environmental Studies students are encouraged to gain hands-on experience in environmental science through volunteer opportunities, internships, and employment. UNO maintains two prairie preserves in the Omaha area where environmental studies students have the opportunity to study and where students play an important role in the day-to-day management of these important natural areas. Environmental Studies students organize a variety of activities on campus, including the campus environmental club and student organizations within their areas of specialty such as biology and geology.

**For More Information:** Dr. John P. McCarty, Director of Environmental Studies at [jmccarty@unomaha.edu](mailto:jmccarty@unomaha.edu) or 402-554-2641

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**Interested in attending UNO?** Here's your checklist on how to become a Maverick:



- ✓ Sign up for a MavSpace account to request information about UNO, register for a campus visit, and much more @ [ses.unomaha.edu](http://ses.unomaha.edu). Click on "MavSpace."
- ✓ Visit BEaMAV.com for information on financial aid, student life, housing, and to check out videos made by UNO students.
- ✓ Apply online for admission @ [ses.unomaha.edu](http://ses.unomaha.edu). Click on "Apply Now."

Need assistance? Call UNO Recruitment Services at 402-554-MAV1 or toll-free at 877-884-MAVS.