

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, B.S.

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: Erie

Program Description

The B.S. in Environmental Science (ENVSC) employs the principles, processes, and methodologies of the life and physical sciences to develop an integrated understanding of the environment and the effects associated with human use of the Earth's natural resources. Students will work in interdisciplinary teams in a capstone course and in environmental research/internship projects attuned to Great Lakes, water resources, and energy resources issues. Students choosing the Environmental Field Science option will obtain additional strengths in field biology, geographic information systems, and environmental geoscience and field methods. Those choosing the Environmental Lab Science option will obtain additional strengths in analytical chemistry and environmental geochemistry. The curriculum permits additional specialization in allied areas through completion of minors in chemistry, biology, or statistics.

What is Environmental Science?

Environmental science is an interdisciplinary field, meaning that it combines multiple academic studies. Environmental science draws from geology, geography, biology, chemistry, oceanography, limnology, atmospheric science, energy, and many other physical sciences. It also involves non-science areas such as engineering, law, political science, resource management, and environmental education. Study of environmental science prepares students to understand and solve problems at the human-earth interface. Environmental scientists understand environmental processes, analyze and solve environmental problems, and communicate the beneficial and adverse outcomes associated with human use of the Earth's physical and living resources.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You think bugs are beautiful, mud is marvelous, and rocks rock.
- You are interested in examining global environmental issues from multiple perspectives.
- You might like working with environmental data sets to understand how the physical world works.
- You are curious about how the environment affects humans—and about how humans affect their environment, for better and for worse.
- You enjoy theoretical study, hands-on laboratory learning using high-tech equipment, and in-the-dirt outdoor field work.