ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

In the Environmental Science Program at Wheaton College students learn the science and service of environmental stewardship, and the understanding and care of God's physical creation. Through acts of scholarship and service, students and faculty protect environmental systems, inform the global church, and influence society and culture to make appropriate responses of stewardship that reflect creation care.

The Environmental Science curriculum consists of a core curriculum of 42 credit hours and 10 credit hours of approved environmental science electives. The core curriculum covers four broad areas of environmental science:

• the interdisciplinary foundation and issues of environmental science in the core natural sciences,
• the technical skills needed to assess environmental problems and develop and implement solutions
• the environmental and social science connections inherent to environmental problems,
• professional development through practical experiences in environmental study, management and research as expressions of service to God, other human beings, and creation.

These thematic areas are infused with a Biblical theology of creation care and stewardship.

Students select, in consultation with their academic advisor, elective environmental science courses that complement their individual interests. These electives provide more advanced expressions of theory and practice in lectures, discussions, laboratory, field experience, and environmental research. This curriculum prepares students not only to be an effective servant as an environmental professional, but to become an agent of transformation of the professional culture of environmental science in ways that increase Christian influence and expression in this field.

Field science experience is a key component of preparation for an environmental vocation. Environmental Science majors will participate in at least one field intensive course. Most Environmental Science majors complete this requirement by studying at the Wheaton College Science Station in the Black Hills of South Dakota the summer after their freshman or sophomore year. Wheaton in the Black Hills completes two of the Core Requirements for the major as well as satisfying the field-intensive course requirement. Upon completion of a summer of study in the Black Hills Environmental Science students are eligible to apply for internship and research positions at the Science Station in following years. Participation in a HNGR internship or a semester abroad at the International Sustainable Development Studies Institute are other ways to meet the field requirement of the major and complete the major elective requirements. There are additional opportunities for off campus field studies including the Au Sable Institute (Michigan) and the Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory (Massachusetts). A field intensive course will be at least 2 weeks of full time study, or the equivalent, in a rural or remote natural environment.

An internship or research experience is a distinctive requirement for Environmental Science students at Wheaton College. Internships can be completed with private, governmental or non-profit organizations. With appropriate planning and coordination students may complete their internship through the Human Needs and Global Resources (HNGR) program, Urban Studies Program, or other approved experiential learning experiences. Research experiences can be completed in collaboration with Wheaton faculty on campus or at field locations. While the Environmental Science program will provide assistance and direction, it is the student’s responsibility to arrange and obtain approval for their internship or research experience.

Students who complete an Environmental Science major are granted a Bachelor of Science degree unless they request a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Director, Chris Keil

• Environmental Science Major (https://catalog.wheaton.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/environmental-science/environmental-science-major)
• Environmental Science Minor (https://catalog.wheaton.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/environmental-science/environmental-science-minor)
• Environmental Sustainability Certificate (https://catalog.wheaton.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/environmental-science/environmental-sustainability-certificate)