Environmental Science at BELMONT UNIVERSITY

Environmental Science at Belmont provides students with a broad interdisciplinary lens through which to study environmental topics. Grounded in the sciences, students also take courses in the social sciences, humanities, religion and business to create a curriculum that fits their interests and goals. Students gain a greater understanding of the complexity of current environmental challenges through the integration of coursework and research with real-world experiences.
In Environmental Science, we measure rates of compost maturation, analyze water quality, sample stream macroinvertebrates, determine plant diversity in a wetland, observe wildlife at a state natural area, remove exotic invasive plants, feed baby squirrels at a wildlife rehabilitation center, intern at the zoo, teach middle school students about energy conservation and assess recycling rates on campus. We get our feet wet and our hands dirty as we learn about our human connection to the environment.

Environmental Science at Belmont is characterized by small class sizes. This includes faculty who love teaching, a strong undergraduate research program, faculty-taught labs, individual advising and students who value participating in the scientific community. Learning about environmental issues and their solutions requires active hands-on learning. Students connect theory and scientific principles to societal concerns, values and personal action through engagement in service-learning courses, internships, study abroad and research.

The Environmental Science Program prepares students for graduate school in the environmental sciences and environmental management, public health programs, toxicology, engineering, law school and a variety of careers in industry, non-profit, education and government.

WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE?

Environmental Science offers a major and minor. The major consists of a core set of courses, including an internship and an undergraduate research course. Students have flexibility to develop a curriculum that best meets their career needs, choosing from a broad set of interdisciplinary courses.

Undergraduate research facilities include a zebrafish lab, tissue culture room, microscopy suite, genomics lab, biodiversity lab, cold room and green roof. Students also conduct research in local parks and work with environmental consulting firms, non-profits and government agencies.

Students can take courses at a marine lab on the Gulf Coast or scientific field stations to broaden their academic experiences. Study abroad opportunities with a focus in environmental science are available, including Belize, Costa Rica and Oregon.

The Social Entrepreneurship major also provides an environmental science track for students especially interested in integrating science and policy. This allows students to explore realistic and sustainable solutions to environmental problems.

For students interested in teaching environmental science, Belmont offers a Masters of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) with one additional year of graduate work.

“Taking courses and doing research at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory was an incredible opportunity for me. This allowed me to focus my research and education on what I’m passionate about.”

CADY SLIGER
Environmental Science minor, 2018

“This major has allowed me to explore environmental issues and to apply the knowledge I’ve gained towards improving the community around me.”

NICOLE POPE
Environmental Science major, 2020

CONCENTRATIONS & CURRICULUM

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