Environmental Science and Studies

The need to preserve the Earth’s natural resources makes environmental science a field of critical demand. Environmental science is a diverse, interdisciplinary field encompassing art, science and policy related to topics including agriculture, ecosystems, economics and toxicology.

The Stetson University environmental science program offers both bachelor of arts and bachelor of science tracks. The B.S. program involves the study of environmental issues from a natural science perspective with an emphasis on nature conservation. The B.A. program involves the study of environmental issues from a social science perspective with a focus on policy and culture.

A Distinctive Program

Internships, community-based projects and field study are hallmarks of the program, which is a multidisciplinary effort organized through the Department of Geography and Environmental Science.

Fast Facts

Facility: 19
Available for: Major, Minor
Emphasis Within the Major: wildlife conservation, international development, climate change policy
Popular Second Majors: Biology, Political Science, International Studies, Geography

This major allows students to earn a degree that focuses either on the natural science perspective or the social science perspective of the environment.

Academics and Research

Independent Research

Students conduct research on diverse topics including the environmental impacts of surfing, national climate change policy, climate change adaptation, wildlife demographics and environmental education.

Facilities and Opportunities

Students have access to the G.I.S. computer lab, field studies laboratory and equipment, GPS and the
associated labs and equipment from member departments like biology and chemistry.

**Preparation for Graduate Study**

Students can prepare for many different fields of graduate study, including but not limited to environmental law, international development, environmental engineering, urban planning and management, wildlife conservation and environmental education.

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**Awards and Recognition**

**Distinguished Faculty**

The environmental science faculty comes from departments in natural sciences, social sciences and humanities. Faculty are involved in diverse projects including greenhouse gas and sustainability auditing, cultural conservation among the Maya, limnology research, native plant ecology, American cultural studies and herpetology. Several faculty members have been recognized with Hand Research Awards. Faculty include:

- **J. Anthony Abbott**, Ph.D., University of Minnesota; political ecology, Latin America, sustainability, renewable energy systems and policy, carbon accounting, sustainable agriculture
- **Wendy B. Anderson**, Ph.D., Vanderbilt University; ecosystem ecology, island biodiversity, various studies of nutrient and organismal movements across land-water interfaces
- **Cynthia Bennington**, Ph.D., West Virginia University; plant population genetics and evolutionary biology
- **Paul Croce**, Ph.D., Brown University; American politics and culture, political and ideological trends, popular culture, environmental issues, science and religion
- **Jason M. Evans**, Ph.D., University of Florida; landscape and systems ecology, geographic information systems, coupled human and natural systems, climate change adaptation and mitigation, life cycle assessments (particularly of biofuels and bioenergy), land use change, ecosystems of Florida
- **Terry Farrell**, Ph.D., Oregon State University; ecology and environmental science
- **Song Gao**, Ph.D., University of Washington; analytical and environmental chemistry
- **Melissa Gibbs**, Ph.D, University of Delaware; developmental biology and spring fish ecology

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**More Information**

Office of Admissions
421 North Woodland Boulevard, Unit 8378
Deland, Florida 32723
386-822-7100 or 800-688-0101
admissions@stetson.edu
statson.edu/admissions
• **W. Tandy Grubbs**, Ph.D., Duke University; physical chemistry, study of polymers and their properties by laser interferometry and various forms of spectroscopy
• **Melinda Hall**, Ph.D., Vanderbilt University; bioethics, continental philosophy, the intersection of contemporary bioethics and disability studies, the ethics of human enhancement, social constructions of disability
• **Clay Henderson**, J.D., Samford University Cumberland School of Law; environmental law and policy, environmental planning, water policy
• **Peter May**, Ph.D., University of Florida; vertebrate and insect ecology, ecology, natural history of birds ([website](#))
• **Mary Pollock**, Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin; Victorian literature, nature writing, science writing
• **Kimberly Reiter**, Ph.D., University of Virginia; environmental history
• **Alicia Slater**, Ph.D., Virginia Tech University; molecular ecology, freshwater macroinvertebrates
• **Dixon Sutherland**, Ph.D., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Medical ethics, environmental ethics, religious perspectives on environmental stewardship
• **Benjamin Tanner**, Ph.D., University of Tennessee; geology, wetlands, climate and environmental change
• **Kirsten Work**, Ph.D., University of Oklahoma; aquatic ecology and conservation
• **John York**, Ph.D., University of Minnesota; inorganic chemistry, computational modeling and synthetic studies of small molecule activation by biologically inspired transition metal complexes

**Grant-Funded Research**

One of the ways Stetson University fosters excellence in undergraduate programs is through the Stetson Undergraduate Research Experience program. Each year undergraduate scholars are selected in a university-wide competition for grants to work with a faculty mentor on a summer research project.

**Undergraduate Awards and Honors**

Graduating seniors with exceptional performance are recognized annually. In addition, one student is recognized each year with the Rachel Carson Award for exceptional work in environmental conservation
Beyond the Classroom

Internships
Students participate in internships with public or private institutions to hone skills and apply experience. In the past, students have interned for the Florida State Parks System, the USDA and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, along with many other public and private institutions.

After Stetson

Diverse Careers
Our alumni have studied at Princeton University, Stetson University College of Law, Rhode Island School of Design and the University of Florida, among others. They work as geographic information scientists, environmental consultants, teachers, lawyers, environmental engineers and more.