



# ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES/SCIENCE

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Colby College Waterville, Maine

*www.colby.edu*

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The Environmental Studies Program at Colby is one of the oldest in the country. From understanding the impacts of climate change to preventing biodiversity loss and unsustainable use of natural resources, environmental challenges are a national and international priority. ES is one of the fastest growing programs at Colby. Our students and faculty are active locally, nationally, and internationally in studying and helping to solve these challenges. We offer a diverse interdisciplinary curriculum. Our gateway and senior capstone courses have served as national models. Books authored by Colby faculty are used around the world. We have received generous funding from many sources to support our initiatives, including the Mellon Foundation and the National Science Foundation. Colby was one of the first colleges in the nation to purchase 100% of its electricity demand in renewable-source electricity. The EPA and the State of Maine have also recognized Colby and the ES Program with awards for our commitment to environmental sustainability as reflected in our curriculum and our actions. Recent examples of student-led environmental initiatives include establishing an organic garden, developing a climate change action plan for the campus and for the local community, and raising awareness about the dangers of using hazardous chemicals in personal care products and children's toys at the state and federal levels.

The Environmental Studies Program offers interdisciplinary majors in environmental policy, in environmental science, and in environmental studies-interdisciplinary computation as well as a minor in environmental studies that can be elected by majors in any discipline. Colby also offers major programs in environmental science focused in the departments of biology and chemistry. (For details on these programs, see: [www.colby.edu/envsci/](http://www.colby.edu/envsci/)). Each major provides a broad-based course of study and prepares graduates to understand and to address the many complex environmental challenges facing our country and the world. Our graduates are prepared to take leadership positions in businesses, nonprofits, consulting firms, educational institutions, and government agencies. Many of our alumni/ae complete graduate work in the environmental sciences/studies, ecology, urban/rural planning, natural resource conservation and management, law, environmental and public policy, and other related areas.

## The Academic Program

**Environmental Studies/Policy.** This interdisciplinary major provides an extensive introduction to the study of domestic and international environmental policy. Students combine a foundation course in environmental studies with courses in environmental economics, domestic environmental policy and law, international environmental policy and politics, and courses in environmental science. Diverse electives allow students to explore topics from introductory Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to endangered species policy to environmental and human health. Students complete the Environmental Policy Practicum capstone seminar in the senior year.

**Environmental Studies/Science.** This interdisciplinary major also begins with a foundation course in environmental studies and is followed by core courses in environmental economics, ecology, chemistry or physics, geology or GIS, and mathematics. Students select a focus area to explore in depth. Current focus areas include conservation biology, marine science, environmental chemistry, and environmental geology. Students can also propose well-structured alternative focus areas. The senior capstone seminar provides a "hands on" approach to environmental science research.

**Environmental Studies/Interdisciplinary Computation.** This major provides an introduction to Environmental Studies as a discipline as well as training in computational techniques used in environmental policy and science. Students begin with the foundation course in environmental studies followed by core courses in ecology and environmental economics. Additional courses in environmental studies and computer science, and a senior project enable students to become familiar with quantitative tools used to investigate environmental problems, especially GIS and remote sensing.

**Environmental Studies Minor.** The ES minor may be elected by majors from other departments and consists of seven courses. After an introductory foundation course, students choose a two-course couplet from a selection in both the social and natural sciences and two courses from a selection complementing their area of interest.

**January Program.** Each year environmental studies students take advantage of Colby's January Term to explore field study courses, conduct independent or group research projects, or undertake an internship with a scientist, company, non-profit organization, or government agency. The ES Program provides a limited number of stipends to assist students in undertaking approved environmental studies internships.

**Study Abroad.** Environmental studies students may participate in a variety of study abroad programs all over the world. A list of approved programs is available through the Off-Campus Study Office. For more information on ES study abroad opportunities see: [www.colby.edu/environ/beyond/notable.html](http://www.colby.edu/environ/beyond/notable.html)

**Research Opportunities.** Colby places considerable emphasis on integrating student research into the curriculum. Research opportunities exist in required and elective ES courses, including the foundation and capstone courses. Many ES students undertake independent study and honors projects, and participate in the annual Colby Undergraduate Research Symposium. Summer and academic year research assistantships are available that enable students to work with faculty on specific environmental research projects.

**Internships.** Colby's ES Coordinator and program faculty help students to match the internship opportunity to their individual academic programs. A limited number of stipends are available to help support internships. For more information on internship opportunities see: [www.colby.edu/environ/intern/](http://www.colby.edu/environ/intern/)

**Campus Greening.** Colby has active student environmental groups and an Environmental Advisory Group that advises President Adams on issues related to campus sustainability. Members of the Environmental Studies Program, both students and faculty, are members of this committee and participate in many other *Green Colby* initiatives. For details see: [www.colby.edu/green/](http://www.colby.edu/green/).

**Facilities.** The entire Mayflower Hill campus has been designated by the Maine legislature as a State Wildlife Management Area. A 128-acre part of the woodland (Perkins Arboretum) has been established as a wildlife sanctuary. The College also owns the Colby-Marston Preserve in the Belgrade Lakes area, a 34-acre tract containing a kettle-hole bog, which has been classified as a Registered Natural Landmark by the United States Department of the Interior. Students have access to excellent, well-equipped laboratory and GIS facilities in the science complex and in the Diamond Building. Please see: [www.colby.edu/academics\\_cs/gis/](http://www.colby.edu/academics_cs/gis/).

**Careers.** Major corporations, federal and state agencies, private and public organizations, educators, and consulting and legal firms employ ES majors. Many ES graduates are hired immediately by businesses, schools, consulting firms, non-profit activist organizations, government agencies, or research institutions. Some of our graduates enroll in top graduate programs immediately after Colby. Others choose to work in their field of interest for a few years, but most pursue graduate degrees at some point.

**For further information** see the Colby Environmental Studies website at: [www.colby.edu/environ/](http://www.colby.edu/environ/) or the Colby Environmental Science Web site at: [www.colby.edu/envsci/](http://www.colby.edu/envsci/)

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