

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF STONY BROOK

Greenhouse effect...

Global climate change...

Ozone depletion...

Sea level rise...

Energy and the environment...

Regional development...

Population...

Waste management...

Water management...

Marine and groundwater pollution...

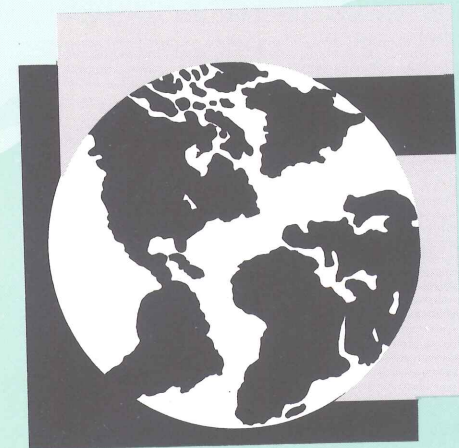
...all important global and
regional problems,

...all established research
programs at the
University at Stony Brook,

...all topics in the Environmental
Studies program at the
University at Stony Brook.

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Stony Brook



ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

The University at Stony Brook

Why Environmental Studies?

Today's society places more competing demands on the environment than ever before. At the same time, our population wants to increase the use of natural resources and conserve them. These competing needs invade all sectors and activities of society: running or working in a business, home ownership, recreation, and transportation. Being a responsible citizen today and in the future will require greater breadth of knowledge about these issues.

Today's technological advances require citizens to understand threats to human health and the environment and to be able to evaluate scientific debate and public opinion. Tomorrow's informed natural scientist and social scientist must know more about environmental decision making, public perceptions and priorities, and regional planning, as well as mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, geology, and environmental sciences.

At the University at Stony Brook, a specially tailored program is created for each student interested in Environmental Studies. This program combines a major in a traditional discipline with environmental courses and experiences.

Environmental Studies at Stony Brook

Environmental Studies at Stony Brook is based on the viewpoint that understanding the environment encompasses a whole lot more than what can be learned from a major in one discipline. An effective environmental manager often needs to know as much about society and community needs as she or he knows about biology and chemistry. Equally important, a sociologist needs to adequately understand the scientific basis for environmental decisions that may affect public health and welfare.

Environmental Studies requires a broad exposure to a number of interconnected issues. The Stony Brook Environmental Studies student who is concentrating in economics or management will learn how and why an environmental scientist goes about solving problems. On the other hand, the student majoring in a science will learn to communicate and work effectively with those who influence environmental policy.

The University at Stony Brook has excellent departments in all basic disciplines. But several departments and schools offer key areas of study for students

interested in environmental studies: the Departments of Chemistry, Ecology and Evolution, Earth and Space Sciences, Economics, History, and Political Science; the W. Averell Harriman School for Management and Policy; the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; the Health Sciences Center; and the Marine Sciences Research Center.

Stony Brook is also home to some of the most active institutes for concentrated studies of specialized areas relevant to environmental studies: the Institute of Urban Ports and Harbors, Waste Management Institute, Institute for Terrestrial and Planetary Atmospheres, Living Marine Resources Institute, Center for Tropical Studies, Institute for Social Research, and COAST Institute.

The Long Island Setting for Study

The population of Long Island and the New York Metropolitan area, the island's configuration and geology, and the location at the coast present a more acute set of environmental problems than those of the nation and much of the industrial world. This presents the Stony Brook Environmental Studies student with more challenging real-life study choices from a wider range of issues than perhaps anywhere in the world.

Here, population and development pressures are the leading concerns in environmental conservation. Sixty percent of New York State's total population and nearly 10% of the U.S. population live within a 50-mile radius of Manhattan. The burgeoning population's auto emissions, waste water, and garbage continue to challenge innovative thinkers for solutions.

In contrast, Suffolk County in the eastern part of Long Island is the state's most important agricultural county, with many acres of farmlands and vineyards. This relatively pristine part of Long Island, with its low population density, national seashore, and large tracts of undeveloped land, is the action ground for some of the nation's most progressive conservation movements and land acquisition programs.

In between the western and eastern extremes is a transition zone, where suburbanization and development are proceeding eastward at a rapid pace. In this part of Long Island, efforts to conserve the environment and groundwater, the island's sole source of drinking water, are struggling to keep pace with the pressures to develop the land. And some of the region's best minds are evaluating the changes.



Hands-on Experience

Stony Brook's Environmental Studies program is a place to get your feet wet, either figuratively or literally—in a laboratory; in the field investigating regional urban, suburban, or rural problems; or in the Caribbean during a coral reef ecology course.

The University at Stony Brook's reputation is built on a tradition of active student involvement in research at the undergraduate level. Our faculty, who rank among the highest nationally in research, published writings, and national and international awards and recognitions, readily encourage student research projects under their guidance. They have played an important role in fostering student participation in their own programs, many of which have resulted in coauthorship of publications in leading journals.

The Environmental Studies student at Stony Brook can readily interact with national and community leaders—legislators, regional planners, engineers, environmental conservation managers, waste managers, environmental writers and artists, and economists. Many of these community leaders are active in the University community and bring their outside expertise to round out Stony Brook's offerings in Environmental Studies.

The diversity and quality of Stony Brook's departments, centers, institutes, and interactions with community leaders reflect only a part of the rich opportunities available for students interested in environmental studies. To find out what is available and how you fit into the picture, write:

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or call: **(516) 632-8701**