

Environmental Sciences

Experience.
Explore.
Discover.
Achieve.

Departments
and Programs
in the College
of Science

Biochemistry &
Biophysics

Biology

Botany & Plant
Pathology

Chemistry

Environmental
Sciences

Geosciences

Mathematics

Microbiology

Molecular &
Cellular Biology

Physics

Pre-professional
Programs in the
Health Sciences

Professional
Science Masters

Science &
Mathematics
Education

Statistics

Zoology

Graduate Program

In a recent review by the National Research Council, OSU's doctoral programs in ecology and evolutionary biology were ranked in the top 17% nationally among 129 institutions.

Integrating life. The graduate program in environmental sciences integrates the life, physical and social sciences in a strong interdisciplinary approach to solve problems faced by humans. Graduate students are prepared for careers in forefront areas of environmental science including ecology, biogeochemistry, environmental education, natural resources, and policy.

Career Opportunities

Upon completing their ES graduate degrees, students will be prepared to conduct research in national research laboratories, field stations, universities, as well as institutes and corporations in the private sector.

Graduates may find careers in federal, state, and local government agencies that are charged with managing natural resources.

Students completing the ES graduate program will also find employment in the private sector with productive careers in ecology, environmental remediation, waste management, and sustainability.

Strong academic units closely related to environmental science span the university and provide resources to students. OSU offers comprehensive instructional programs in agriculture, engineering, public health, forestry, biology and the oceanic, atmospheric and earth sciences, and social sciences.

Research centers provide focal points for those faculty and students interested in interdisciplinary topics.

The presence of state and federal agencies in Corvallis, such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency laboratory, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Forest Service provide unique opportunities for developing graduate research partnerships benefiting ES graduate students.

Research

Faculty members are leaders in research that cross disciplinary boundaries. Research projects vary depending upon faculty and student interests.

These recent thesis titles highlight some research projects of graduate students in environmental science:

- Contaminated Communities: Actively Involved Citizens, Technical Assistance, and the Cleanup Process.
- Sugar Application and Nitrogen Pools in Wyoming Big Sagebrush Communities and Exotic Annual Grasslands
- Individual and Population Responses to Abiotic Stresses in Italian Ryegrass
- Gene Flow and the Relationship of *Plethodon stormi* and *P. elongatus* Assessed with 11 Microsatellite Loci
- Economic Analysis and Restoration Practices to Improve Water Quality and Fish Habitat of a Large River Floodplain: A Case Study of the Willamette River, Oregon
- The Effect of Diversity and Spatial Arrangements on the Biomass of Agricultural Cultivars and Native Plant Species
- Scientists' Perspectives on the Importance of Scientific Communication in Natural Decision Making
- Biology and Chemistry of a Meadow-to-Forest Transition in the Central Oregon Cascades
- Habitat Association and Life Histories of Odonata in Riverine Wetlands of the Willamette Valley, Oregon

The purpose of the Environmental Sciences Graduate Program is to develop scientists who will be able to analyze and understand environmental systems, predict environmental change, and participate in the management of the environment.

Environmental Sciences

The Environmental Sciences (ES) Graduate Program is an interdisciplinary program with over 100

affiliated faculty members from 30 departments at OSU and various federal and state agencies.

Education

A second purpose of the ES graduate program is to provide a degree-granting curriculum that will develop scientists who are able to analyze and understand environmental systems, predict environmental change, and participate in the management of the environment.

Each student in the ES graduate program conducts research and completes a thesis, dissertation, or project; develops depth in a specific academic area through the completion of focused course work; and develops breadth through a set of core courses that include concepts in physical sciences, life sciences, and social sciences.

OSU offers M.A., M.S., Ph.D., and Professional Science Master's (PSM) degrees in environmental sciences through the Environmental Sciences Graduate Program.

Environmental sciences are central to the mission of Oregon State University—a university with extensive programs related to the environment and wide use of natural resources. Recognized as a Land, Sea, Space, and Sun Grant institution, OSU has exceptional strength in many of the disciplines that are required to provide a high-quality interdisciplinary education for future environmental scientists, and to provide continuing post-graduate education to scientists who are already active in the field. The Environmental Sciences Graduate Program builds on these institutional strengths.

Faculties from all representative departments have designed a core curriculum which includes core courses, and an annual inter-campus meeting among students from Oregon State University, the University of Oregon, and Portland State University.

The graduate degrees in environmental sciences represent OSU's contribution to the Joint-Campus Graduate Program in Environmental Sciences, Studies, and Policy. The joint-campus program links OSU expertise, equipment, and resources to Oregon's other major research universities.



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