environmental studies
it’s your turn to nurture nature.

why you belong here
If you’re passionate about improving our environment, advancing sustainability and making a difference in how people understand and decide on environmental issues, then you belong in this program.

Through our environmental studies program, you will work with an internationally recognized faculty to understand and appreciate the natural world that surrounds us, the impact we have upon that world, and the tools for making positive contributions to environmental sustainability.

At Chatham, you will undertake a transdisciplinary exploration of the environment from the local to global scale, through the lenses of political science, biology, economics, English, and a range of other fields. You will work alongside dedicated faculty members who share a commitment to a holistic perspective on environmental issues.

what you can expect
At Chatham University, you can expect intimate classroom settings in which to build close bonds with your professors and fellow students. You will complete a three-term sequence of courses that includes the opportunity to conduct original research in environmental studies. During this yearlong undergraduate thesis, considered to be the capstone of a Chatham education, you will work in collaboration with a faculty member. Chatham is one of the few colleges in the country to offer students such a program.

Live and learn on a campus recognized for its commitment to sustainability
Conduct original research using doctorate-level scientific equipment
Travel the world through environmental management exchange programs
Graduate equipped for a successful career as an environmental professional
what you will learn

As a student of environmental studies, you will delve into a variety of topics, including economics, policy, history, and ecology, that will prepare you for upper level work in environmental policy and economics, environmental ethics, and environmental organizations and governance. You might also choose to participate in a study-abroad program to New Zealand, Peru, France, the Galapagos Islands, Belize, Costa Rica, or other locales to gain hands-on experience in environmental management projects.

where it will take you

Follow your passion for sustainability and the environmental as you embark on an internship with the City of Pittsburgh, the Group Against Smog and Pollution (the nation’s oldest citizens environmental organization), Conservation Consultants, Clean Water Action, local township offices, the Student Conservation Association, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, and a wealth of other organizations.

After completing an average of two internships, along with the environmental studies curriculum, you will be fully equipped to enter the government, non-profit, academic or private sectors as an environmental scientist, engineer, public policy expert, activist, business manager, writer, artist, teacher or a variety of other occupations. Having completed a thesis, you will be highly competitive for graduate degree programs in many related fields.

learn more

Read faculty bios, browse course descriptions, and watch videos about environmental studies at chatham.edu/environmental.

‘I ensure that students know that environmental studies and environmental science are not so much subjects as they are lenses for viewing the world. I hope that, for many of my students, sustainability is a set of lenses they choose to put on daily.’

— Joseph MacNeil Ph.D., associate professor

trending now

- Chatham University alumna Rachel Carson was one of the first people to recognize that environmental issues also present pressing intellectual and social challenges. Her groundbreaking book, Silent Spring, is credited with forming the modern environmental movement and influencing change in policy and law in the U.S.

- Eden Hall, a 400-acre campus located north of Pittsburgh, represents the next evolution in Chatham’s commitment to improving sustainability and to smart university expansion following Shadyside campus, which is a registered arboretum, and our Chatham Eastside expansion, which successfully reclaimed a former manufacturing facility.

- The Princeton Review and the U.S. Green Building Council recognized Chatham as one of the most environmentally responsible colleges in the United States and Canada. Chatham received a “Green Rating” score of 98 out of a possible 99 - the highest of any university in Pittsburgh – for demonstrating notable commitments to sustainability in academic offerings, campus infrastructure, activities, and career preparation.