

College of the Environment

The College of the Environment has seven degree-granting units, where disciplines span the land and sea, atmosphere and space, and connect both the natural and social sciences. In addition, the College is also host to numerous research and field stations, outreach centers, and facilities that foster collaborative initiatives and unique partnerships.

Academic Unit

Aquatic and Fishery Sciences

Description

The School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences engages in basic and applied sciences with an emphasis on fisheries management and marine resource conservation. Faculty, staff, and students are globally engaged in research that includes a range of species and habitats. They collaborate with numerous public and private organizations, as well as environmental and regulatory agencies. Faculty are known for bringing robust data and models to bear on pressing issues of sustainability in fisheries.

Atmospheric Sciences

Research in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences focuses on advancing the fundamental understanding of the physics, chemistry and motions of the atmosphere of Earth and other planets. Faculty and students consider problems that are both scientifically challenging and critical for the welfare of modern society, such as global climate change, air pollution and weather events. Quantitative methods are applied to develop observation and predictive tools that can provide benefits to human decision making, from short-term weather or air quality forecasts to projections of the climate a century into the future.

Earth and Space Sciences

The Department of Earth and Space Sciences furthers the understanding of Earth, the solar system, and their histories. The department's scope extends from the center of Earth to the rim of the solar system, and its activities cut across traditional disciplines of physics, chemistry, biology, geology, and mathematics. Faculty, students, and staff examine geologic hazards, processes affecting the surface environment, the surrounding space environment, planetary processes, geobiology, and the Earth's interior structure, chemistry, motion, and dynamics.



Academic Unit

Environmental and Forest Sciences

Description

The vision of the School of Environmental and Forest Sciences is to provide internationally recognized knowledge and leadership for environmental and natural resource issues. Academic programs focus on the integrating theme of sustainability in environments that include wilderness and park-like ecosystems, intensively managed forests, and urban environments. The school educates the next generation of leaders in natural resource stewardship and public and private land management throughout the state, the region, and the nation, and contributes solutions to natural resource and environmental challenges across the globe.

Marine and Environmental Affairs

The strength of the School of Marine and Environmental Affairs lies both in its rigorous academic program and its faculty research in current environmental issues. Students learn creative approaches to resolving marine problems and conflicts and may concentrate in a variety of subject areas from coastal zone management to marine environmental protection to port and marine transportation management. Faculty and students are breaking new ground in such fields as climate change impacts, waste management, salmon and habitat recovery, ecosystem management, risk analysis, and international collaborations.

Oceanography

The School of Oceanography fosters continued advancement of the ocean sciences, solutions to problems of societal relevance, and public awareness of the marine environment. It is at the forefront of creating knowledge and understanding about the ocean through observation, theory, modeling and technological innovation. The school focuses on learning and discovery, equipping students with knowledge and insights, scholarly methods, scientific tools and communication skills.

Program on the Environment

Environmental Studies at the Program on the Environment provides a unique interdisciplinary degree option for undergraduates and a graduate certificate in environmental management. Its programs tap the talents of faculty across disciplines and across the UW campus to achieve a genuine integration of natural and social sciences, humanities and professional development. By actively learning in the field and in the classroom and working side by side with faculty and environmental experts, graduates of the program are poised to creatively apply their education as skilled environmental practitioners.

For more information, contact the College of the Environment at: coenv@uw.edu, or 206.685.5410