

# Environmental Studies and Sustainability (BA)



## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Department of Biodiversity, Earth and Environmental Science (BEES) is the prime destination at Drexel for students who are committed to fighting for environmental justice and addressing climate change. The BEES motto is “Field Experience, Early and Often.” Environmental Studies and Sustainability majors investigate firsthand how to restore vulnerable coastal marshes and preserve vulnerable forestlands. They learn from and work with Drexel faculty and local community activists seeking to enhance the ecological resilience of urban neighborhoods and create sustainable urban food systems. Experiential learning through BEES courses and co-ops permits students develop the knowledge they desire to create a just and sustainable world.

Drexel University’s unique partnership with the Academy of Natural Sciences, America’s oldest natural history museum, offers students opportunities to take leadership roles in ecology, environmental science, environmental policy and environmental justice. Working side by side with faculty affiliated with both BEES and the Academy enhances students’ experiential learning and opens doors to make a difference locally, regionally and globally. Work at the Academy opens extraordinary doors. Students have gone on to lead non-profits, be awarded Fulbright Scholarships, earn PhDs and influence public policy.

The Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies and Sustainability is for students who want to address contemporary environmental issues from a perspective that foregrounds the social sciences and humanities. Drexel’s nationally and internationally acclaimed scholars in environmental politics, environmental sociology, environmental philosophy, global studies, and science and technology studies support students’ creative and critical thinking, pursuit of leadership skills, desire for research expertise and self-directed explorations of the environmental concerns that matter to them.

Career paths for Environmental Studies and Sustainability majors include work in **governmental agencies, non-profits, consulting and assessment firms, NGOs,** and in such fields as **environmental urban planning, environmental health, food policy and conservation.**



## BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

### PRE-TERM FIELD EXPERIENCE

All incoming BEES students participate in an interactive course at the Barnegat Bay Field Station in New Jersey prior to the start of classes in the fall. This unique opportunity provides a sneak peek into the experiential learning at the core of a Drexel education. It also jumpstarts lasting friendships with classmates and enriching educational relationships with faculty. Over the course of the multi-day program, students gain hands-on experience in diverse research areas like turtle ecology, wetland processes, plant and animal identification, climate change, nutrient dynamics, systematic biology and more. Students learn from the get-go the knowledge they will gain in BEES while also building camaraderie with their classmates and professors.

### GLOBAL ADVENTURES

International co-op, research, and study abroad opportunities abound for BEES students. On Bioko Island, off the coast of Equatorial Guinea in Africa, students study rare monkeys and nesting sea turtles. In Ecuador, they explore how to conserve tropical rainforests. In remote areas of Mongolia, they study the impacts of climate change on the local ecosystems and the way herders work the land. These are just a few examples. Many more travel and research adventures await!

### RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Environmental justice considerations of oil refineries on ad communities, environmental racism and local land-use policies, permaculture design, Indigenous ecological knowledge systems, multispecies urbanism, place-based studies of the Rust Belt, the environmental implications of global economic development: all have been subject to research involving Environmental Studies and Sustainability majors. Majors have ample opportunity to work with faculty from across the College of Arts and Sciences. They routinely engage in self-directed research under the guidance of established experts in the field. Further opportunities are made possible through the Academy of Natural Science, which houses over 18 million specimens of global significance, and through access to the Barnegat Bay Field Station in Ocean Township, NJ, the pristine glacial lake of Lacawac Sanctuary in the Poconos and numerous other field sites.

## STUDENT CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Biodiversity Buddies; Climate & Sustainability Eco-Reps; Drexel Sierra Club; Drexel Urban Growers; Paleontology & Geology Club of Drexel

## MINORS

**CLIMATE CHANGE** provides an overview of the Earth's climate system, the science of climate change, the philosophical and political implications of mitigation and adaptation efforts, and the prerequisites and prospects for climate justice.

**GEOSCIENCE** is designed to give students the skills to understand and analyze key issues in earth science and geology. It is a great fit for students who wish to understand the physical world and how it affects ecology and biodiversity.



## DREXEL CO-OP

Through Drexel's cooperative education (co-op) program, students embark on up to three, six-month periods of employment, exploring their career options, strengthening their resumes, and building a professional network in the process. Gaining experience both in the U.S. and abroad, BEES students have held co-op positions at:

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES OF DREXEL  
UNIVERSITY • EXELON CORPORATION • THE  
BIOKO BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION PROGRAM  
AND THE PHILADELPHIA WATER DEPARTMENT,  
AMONG OTHERS.**

LEARN MORE  
ABOUT THE  
PROGRAM



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