

Major in the Environment at QC



The Queens College School of Earth & Environmental Sciences (SEES) offers two undergraduate majors that provide a broad and complementary set of opportunities for all students interested in professions relating to the environment. Students majoring in Environmental Science (BA or BS) or Environmental Studies (BA) have career opportunities including government service, NGO employment, private sector opportunities in environmental consulting services, and graduate education in a wide variety of environmentally related fields. Minor fields of study are available in both Environmental Science and Environmental Studies.

Environmental Science Major (BA or BS)

The Environmental Science majors at Queens College are intended for students planning on careers as professional environmental scientists, planners, or consultants. The major is intended to meet the needs of students who are interested in the technical professions that address environmental quality and sustainability. The Environmental Science major provides the breadth and rigor to allow students to immediately enter to workforce after graduation or pursue an advanced academic (MA, MS or PhD) or professional degree in other related fields such as law, government, or urban planning. Central to the goals of the Environmental Science curriculum is a balance between breadth and a clear focus on a particular area of study within the biological, chemical, and physical sciences. The Environmental Sciences major emphasizes basic science in a rigorous curriculum drawn from a variety of disciplines and departments including biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics, geology and environmental sciences. The major is structured around a hands-on introductory course (Ensci 100, Challenges to Humanity in the 21st Century), a series of core courses (200 level), elective advanced courses (300 level) and a senior year capstone course (Ensci 373W, Environmental Problem Solving). To earn a BS environmental science degree, student must satisfy the requirements for the BA and complete additional core and advanced courses, as well as additional supporting sciences.

Environmental Studies Major (BA)

The Environmental Studies major is designed for students interested in addressing today's critical environmental issues. The Environmental Studies major offers students the opportunity to obtain an integrated understanding of contemporary environmental problems, policy issues, and solutions from local, national, and global perspectives. The major has an interdisciplinary foundation that includes natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities, emphasizing both the School of Earth and Environmental Science's orientation toward environmental science and the Urban Studies Department's emphasis on social justice and public policy. Graduates with a BA in Environmental Studies can pursue careers in the public or private sectors developing and implementing environmental practices and policies. While the program emphasizes social science theory and methods, students also take courses in the natural sciences. Environmental Studies graduates will be able to address environmental issues systemically from a perspective that considers their social and economic context of these problems, especially as they affect urban areas, as well as the long-range impacts of potential solutions.

The Queens College Academic Advising Center (AAC) located in 217 Kiely Hall provides general undergraduate advising services. The advisor for environmental science is Professor J. Bird, E-220 NSB, jbird@qc.cuny.edu and the advisor for environmental studies is Professor M. Checker, 250 Powdermaker, mchecker@qc.cuny.edu