

Environmental Studies



Engage pressing environmental issues and practice stewardship of the earth.

Widespread environmental problems rank among the most pressing global issues of our time, and their scientific, social and moral dimensions require a sophisticated, informed and compassionate response. The Environmental Studies program cultivates a deep understanding of human connections to the natural world so you can analyze and debate complex environmental problems and devise constructive, imaginative solutions. You'll discover how to practice stewardship of the earth in the context of Christian theology and social and environmental ethics. You'll also develop the knowledge and skills to engage contemporary environmental issues such as biodiversity loss, pollution, resource depletion, climate change, renewable energy, sustainable agriculture and sustainable development from local to global scales.

SELECTED COURSES

- Introduction to Environmental Studies
- Earth and Environmental Science
- Introduction to GIS
- Environmental Ethics
- Electives in Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Humanities, such as:
 - » Land into Landscape
 - » Environmental Politics
 - » Food Systems

Courses can include up to 4 units of internships or research.

Several courses satisfy GE requirements.

INTERNSHIPS

- Apeel Sciences
- Channel Islands Restoration
- Deckers
- ECOFaith of Santa Barbara
- Gaviota Coast Conservancy
- Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens
- Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
- Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
- Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network
- Santa Barbara Zoo
- The Trust for Public Land
- Westmont Garden
- Wilderness Youth Project

And many more!



WESTMONT
SANTA BARBARA

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



KATHERINE BRYANT, PH.D.

Specializes in international politics, international development, empirical methods, international conflict and peace building



STEPHEN CONTAKES, PH.D.

Seeks a cleaner world through new molecules with his specialty in inorganic biochemistry; thinks with you about integrating science and faith



AMANDA SPARKMAN, PH.D.

Director of Environmental Studies who studies the evolutionary ecology of reptiles

Other Faculty Include:

- *Art:* Lisa DeBoer, Meagan Stirling
- *Biology:* Beth Horvath, Laura Schultheis
- *Chemistry:* Stephanie Cowell
- *Communication Studies:* Deborah Dunn, Elizabeth Gardner
- *Computer Science:* Mike Ryu
- *English:* Anna Jordan, Marilyn McEntyre (Westmont in San Francisco)
- *History:* Alastair Su
- *Kinesiology:* Cynthia Toms, Tim VanHaitsma
- *Philosophy:* Stephen Zylstra
- *Physics:* Ben Carlson, Will Allison
- *Political Science:* Kate Bryant
- *Religious Studies:* Caryn Reeder, Sandy Richter
- *Sociology:* Blake Kent

OFF-CAMPUS OPPORTUNITIES



- Au Sable Institute for Environmental Studies, *Michigan or Puget Sound*
- Creation Care Study Program, *New Zealand or Belize*
- Westmont Downtown
- Oregon Extension
- Organization for Tropical Studies, *South Africa*

ALUMNI

Philip Smythe '23 has held a range of seasonal roles since graduating, including work as a scientific diver for a freshwater mussel consulting company and now as a fish hatchery technician with Idaho Fish and Game. He values the interdisciplinary nature of his environmental studies major, which gave him a broad perspective on how multiple fields engage with complex environmental issues.

Grace Gantt '25 is beginning a Master's in Theology and Ecology at Princeton Theological Seminary. As an environmental studies major at Westmont, she found a passionate community and discovered her specific interests within the field. She was especially shaped by her involvement in sustainable development efforts on campus.



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westmont.edu/environmental-studies-minor