



What is the Environmental Studies Program?

Environmental studies is an exciting field of learning that involves an interdisciplinary approach to the study of human interaction with the environment. Students in this major examine the connections between social, scientific, economic, and legal aspects of environmental issues. The complex interaction that occurs between the natural and constructed environment requires the application of the biological and physical sciences in order to manage, coordinate, and solve these problems.

Students who major in environmental studies may find positions in a variety of fields. Individuals working in environmental careers use their skills and knowledge of science and policy to help protect and preserve the environment and human health. A person may be involved in cleanup of a polluted area, work in industry to reduce waste, or act as an advisor to legislators. They may also work in an office, laboratory, or in the field gathering data or monitoring a specific environmental areas.

Students in this program will complete a multi-disciplinary core set of courses within a structured, exploratory program of environmental studies that prepares them for transfer to a four-year institution. Depending

on career interests, students will be able to select courses from a list of restricted electives that include science, policy, and government courses that focus on economic, social, and political aspects of environmental issues.

Additional information is available online at www.hagerstowncc.edu/environmentalstudies

What type of students excel in this program?

Students who do well in this program typically enjoy hands-on activities and exploring the environment through field studies. They have good analytical and problem-solving skills, enabling them to look at a variety of methods to approach a problem and use data to find an appropriate solution. They must have self-discipline and be self-motivated since they often work independently. Excellent oral and written communication skills are essential for delivering information to a wide audience of people. Interpersonal skills are a must for working effectively with a team of people to complete a common goal.

What is the employment outlook for this career field?

Environmental specialists and environmental scientists are among the fastest growing occupations nationally, projected to experience a 25.1 percent growth rate in the next 10 years. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Maryland ranked seventh of 50 states in private-sector green jobs. Labor officials also project substantial growth in jobs associated with the environment in Maryland. According to a January 2017 press release from the Office of the Maryland Governor, the state plans to spur job growth in green industries, including solar, wind, and hydroelectric industries. There is the potential to add 1,500 workers for jobs in green industries in order to meet the perceived future needs of Maryland. Current governmental policies and incentives in Maryland will encourage green economic and workforce development and increase the demand for workers with a background in environmental studies.

What types of jobs can originate from the Environmental Studies Program?

There are a variety of jobs that can be pursued with a degree in environmental studies,

and for which an associate degree or higher is preferred. Most students who major in Environmental Studies go on to obtain a four-year degree which leads them to careers as field analysts, research assistants, or laboratory and office technicians. Others may become environmental engineering technicians or environmental engineers. Wastewater and water treatment plant operators and environmental protection technicians are also options. The areas of agriculture, forestry, and hunting require either a biology-related degree or a degree in environmental studies. Facilities such as hospitals have environmental health and safety engineers that monitor radiation/chemotherapy agents and biological, chemical, and hazardous wastes.

What would someone in environmental studies expect to earn?

Earnings vary depending on experience, education, geographical location, and area of specialty. According to the Occupational Outlook Handbook (2016-2017), an environmental scientist or specialist with a bachelor's degree can earn up to \$68,910 per year. An environmental engineering technician with an associate's degree has a median annual salary of \$49,170. (Source: www.bls.gov)

What are the program options?

Students can earn a two-year associate of science degree in Environmental Studies. Through transfer agreements with collaborating four-year institutions, students will be provided with seamless transfer options to allow them to complete their bachelor's degree in a timely manner.

Students majoring in environmental studies can pursue dual degrees with other STEM programs such as biology, chemistry, physics, and engineering.

Why choose HCC?

- The Environmental Studies Program provides a strong foundation in environmental science and policy, with opportunities to take specialized electives that align with personal interests and career goals.

- HCC students enjoy small class size compared to most four-year colleges and universities.
- The environmental studies classes are taught by faculty with robust backgrounds in environmental biology and environmental sciences.
- Hands-on learning and application of scientific method is employed in the laboratory classes, which are taught in the fully equipped, state-of-the-art facilities in the STEM Building.
- HCC offers articulation agreements with a variety of four-year institutions. Shepherd University and HCC have signed a 2+2 transfer articulation agreement that will allow students earning a two-year degree in environmental studies at HCC to easily transfer to Shepherd.

A.S. Degree

Environmental Studies

The Environmental Studies Degree will provide students with the opportunity to study both the scientific and policy applications of environmental issues. Students in the program will complete a multi-disciplinary “core” set of courses within a structured, exploratory program of environmental studies that prepares them for transfer to a four-year institution. Depending on their intended career and/or transfer goals, students will be able to select courses from a list of restricted electives that include science, policy, and government courses. The environmental science courses will involve students in the study of the natural sciences and the human context of environmental problems. Students who desire to focus more heavily on environmental policy can focus on the economic and political aspects of environmental issues.

Program Requirements 60 credits
(Includes 29-30 General Education Requirements and 18 program requirements)

First Year Fall

ENG 101	English Composition	3
MAT 109	Introduction to Statistics.....	3
OR		
MAT 161	Pre-Calculus	3
CHM 101	Introductory College Chemistry.....	4
OR		
CHM 103	General Chemistry I	4
ENV 201	Fundamentals of Environmental Science I	4
TOTAL		14



First Year Spring

Gen Ed	Arts/Humanities	3
Gen Ed	Behavioral/Social Sciences	3
ENV 202	Fundamentals of Environmental Science II	4
Restricted Elective, Choose from the list.....		3
Restricted Elective, Choose from the list.....		3
TOTAL		16

Second Year Fall

Gen Ed	Diversity	3
Gen Ed	Arts/Humanities.....	3
BIO 113	Principles of Biology I	4
ENV 204	Public Health and the Environment.....	3
Restricted Elective, Choose from the list.....		3
TOTAL		16

Second Year Spring

Gen Ed	Behavioral/Social Sciences	3
ENV 203	Environmental Policy and Regulations ...	3
BIO 114	Principles of Biology II	4
Elective	Choose in consultation with an Advisor	3
TOTAL		14

Restricted Electives 9-10 Credits

Please select 9-10 credits of Restricted Electives from the following options:

Select any Biology (BIO) course with a laboratory.....	4	
Select any Biotechnology (BTC) course	3-4	
CHM 104	General Chemistry II	4
CHM 203	Organic Chemistry I	4
CHM 204	Organic Chemistry II	4
ECO 201	Macroeconomic Principles.....	3
ECO 202	Microeconomic Principles	3
ENV 101	Introduction to Sustainable Agriculture.....	3
Select any Engineering Science (EGR) course	3-5	
MAT 203	Calculus I	4
PHS 109	Meteorology	4
PHS 111	Earth and Space Science	4
PHS 113	AMS Ocean Studies	4

POL 101	American Government.....	3
POL 102	State and Local Government.....	3

Free Elective 3 credits
Select 3 credits of free electives in consultation with an advisor.

Degree Requirement..... 60

Contact Information:

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