



ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES

» What do cricket frogs in the Francis Marion forest have to do with climate change? How do property rights affect economic policy? And what does equitable community development have to do with sustainability? These questions fall within the realm of environmental and sustainability studies – a broad area that enhances our understanding of how political, social, cultural and economic activities relate to the physical world.

Our program can help you understand important issues that confront society, which can give you an edge in the professional world or graduate school. By combining courses in the natural sciences (geology, physics, biology and chemistry) and the social sciences and humanities (anthropology, psychology, political science, sociology and philosophy) – as well as studies in economics, historic preservation and math – this program offers insight into the inter-relatedness of events and an appreciation for environmental and sustainability issues on a local, national and international scale.

Hands-on research projects our students have done include:

- » investigating the effects of coastal erosion on the wildlife habitat of nearby barrier islands.
- » undertaking energy audits of the College's entire campus.
- » studying religion and climate change in Ladakh, India.

The faculty who teach in this program represent a cross section of expertise, spanning areas as diverse as ethnobotany, natural disasters, environmental justice and the documentation of cultural landscapes.

Internships are key. Recently, our students interned with:

- » an urban agriculture program promoting sustainability and community development.
- » a state-owned energy company working on sustainable energy initiatives.

So, what do those cricket frogs have to do with climate change? Check out our Environmental and Sustainability Studies Program and find out.

"This program melds science, policy and philosophy into a comprehensive perspective regarding today's social, political and environmental problems. As a student of math and sciences at a liberal arts college, I found this minor to be an academically fulfilling and holistic step in my college career."
– Cara Lauria '15



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ALLISON WELCH • PROGRAM DIRECTOR • 843.953.5451 • WELCHA@COFC.EDU • ENVIRONMENTAL-STUDIES.COFC.EDU