Program Mission Statement

The environmental studies minor should lay the foundation for understanding complex environmental issues and the interactions between human behavior, technology, and the natural environment. Students should be able to appreciate the role of biodiversity, sustainability, biotechnology, resource conservation, legal and policy issues, and ethics in our interactions with the natural environment.

Student Learning Outcomes

Graduates will be able to:

Content/Discipline-Specific Knowledge/Skills
- explain importance of natural resources and ecosystem services to our lives
- assess the level of sustainability for various human practices.

Communication Skills
- write a formal critical analysis on a current published article relating to environmental studies, utilizing scholarly information sources to support the argument.

Critical Thinking Skills
- apply ethical perspectives in decisions about issues of environmental concern.

Assessment Approaches

Students will be assessed for basic knowledge and writing skills in the two required courses for the minor: Intro to Environmental Studies, and Environmental Ethics. Direct assessments of basic knowledge include mid-term and final exams short answer questions in the core courses. Direct assessment of writing ability will be based on a critical evaluation paper that students create based on a current article relating to environmental studies.