Department Overview

UWL is proud that the environmental studies minor is a true interdisciplinary program. The core environmental studies courses are taught by instructors with a wide range of expertise, while courses from other departments are taught by faculty members with expertise in the environmental aspect of their respective discipline. More and more students come to UWL wanting the opportunity to grow in environmental literacy. This interdisciplinary program works well for these students.

The environmental studies minor is part of a campus-wide effort to enhance environmental awareness at UWL. Open to students in all majors, the minor is intended to help undergraduate students 1) integrate equity and complexity in approaching environmental issues, 2) differentiate multidisciplinary approaches to environmental issues, and 3) reflect critically about their roles as citizens, consumers, and participants in an interconnected world.

Program Features

The environmental studies minor has two major curricular components. The first component is a 4-course series that moves students from a basic understanding of environmental topics to a senior-level course in environmental action. The second component of the minor is elective coursework. Students select from a wide range of class options, addressing environmental topics in the natural sciences, social sciences, and the arts and humanities.

Career Opportunities

The environmental studies minor provides supplemental training for a variety of fields where environmental literacy is critical. Examples include teachers with an interest in environmental education, recreation professionals with an interest in outdoor education and adventure programming, students of any of the social sciences with an interest in environmental action, students majoring in biology and chemistry with a desire for a broader view, business people with an interest in environmental compliance, philosophers with an interest in environmental ethics, geographers with an interest in humankind’s relationship with the natural world, and English majors interested in nature writing and conservation journalism.

Many environmental studies minors have advanced to pursue graduate work or careers in areas including natural resource management, green businesses, outdoor recreation, and environmental education.

Undergraduate Program

Minor: • Environmental Studies

This minor is interdisciplinary, experiential, and emphasizes community engagement. Students appreciate the hands-on learning and number of field trips relative to other classes.