

What's Special about Westfield State University's Department of Environmental Science?

- We're one of the few colleges and universities to have an actual Department of Environmental Science
- We're one of the largest Environmental Science programs in the country, with over 140 students
- We have a low student : faculty ratio
- We have small class sizes. Most ENVS classes are limited to 16-24 students. Labs are typically capped at 16 students. First year lab sciences typically have lectures with 48 students and labs with 16 students.
- Our focus is on hands-on learning with a project based curriculum.
- Our program is highly interdisciplinary.
- There are many options to double major or minor in other areas leading to careers in Environmental Planning, Environmental Policing, Environmental Policy, Environmental Law, Environmental Communication, etc.
- Our location allows for easy access to field locations for research, including the college's beaver / wetland complex, islands on the Westfield River, and many forest and mountain ecosystems.
- We have a new Science Lab building and renovated Departmental space due to open in the Fall of 2016.

For Parents

- Westfield State University has a clean, safe campus
- Westfield State University offers a quality, affordable education
- Our students have an excellent success rate for getting environmental jobs, even in the current economy. This past year's graduates reported starting salaries ranging between \$35,000 and \$50,000.

For Students

- The Environmental Science Major is designed to allow you flexibility. YOU choose coursework from a variety of options to design a program to meet YOUR future.
- Students in the major tend to form tight support groups during freshman classes, which last throughout their college experience and beyond.
- Though we've grown to be a fairly large major, you'll form tight bonds with the faculty in your classes and with your advisor.
- We're in a great location for outdoor activities including hiking, road biking, mountain biking, cyclocross, whitewater kayaking and canoeing, skiing, snowboarding, XC skiing, climbing, fishing, etc. WSU has property rights on the Westfield River, a whitewater river with many portions designated "Wild and Scenic" by the National Park Service. Blandford Ski Area (where several students work) is about ten-minutes up the road.

A Few Recent ENVS Capstone Senior Research Projects

- "Impact of Fragmentation on Wildlife along Route 112 in Huntington/Worthington." 2014
- "E. coli Point Source Tracking on the Westfield River" 2013
- "Quantifications and Distribution of Micro-plastics Along Cape Cod Beaches" 2012.
- "Recreational Greenways and their Effects on Terrestrial Wildlife," 2011.
- "Acid Deposition pH of Snowfall Strata," 2011.
- "The Effects of Artificial Snow on Freshwater Ecosystems," 2011.
- "Tailwater Return Irrigation in Agriculture: An Environmental Analysis of the Benefits and Detriments" 2010.
- "An Analysis of Best Practices in Organic Farming: A Survey of Ten Organic Farms in New England" 2010.
- "An Analysis of the Economic Benefits of Shark Conservation: SCUBA Tourism vs. Shark Harvesting Industry"
- "The Effects of Global Warming on Leaf Drop Timing as Determined by River Level Step Jumps" 2009
- "Trail, Agroforestry, and Replicate Native American Display Plan for Wapping Park, South Windsor, CT" 2008
- "Atlantic Salmon Microhabitat Dynamics in the Westfield River." 2008.
- "Using Jump Discontinuities in Water Flow Records to Estimate Watershed Primary Productivity," 2007.

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Recent ENVS Alumni's Job Successes

Students leaving our program go on to get a variety of jobs and attend graduate school. There are a lot of possible careers and futures in Environmental Science. Here are a few recent examples reported from Alumni this year:

- Dan S. (2012) is working for Tighe and Bond, an environmental consulting company.
- Dan W. (2013) is surveying bat kills from wind turbines. Last year he worked studying rabbits in the Everglades.
- Nicole (2013) is working as a ranger for the US Army Corps of Engineers at Buffumville Dam.
- Kaios (2013) works as an environmental scientist diving for APEX in Boston Harbor.
- Eric (2013) is teaching at new Paulo Freire Social Justice Charter School.
- Kim (2013) is working as an environmental scientist for VHB in Watertown.
- Lori (2012) is doing environmental monitoring for Hospira, a microbiology lab.
- Matt (2012) is a wetland scientist for BSC Group in West Yarmouth.
- Erin (2012) got a job working for the Town of Windsor's Inland, Wetland and Watercourse Commission.
- Rachel (ENVS 2012) is working at the Farmington Elementary School as the Science Enrichment Teacher.
- Katie aka "Smiley" (ENVS 2012) is now working for the Framingham Conservation Commission for Darrin (ENVS/REPL 2007) who is the conservation agent and supervises a staff of assistants.
- Rob (2010) is the Supervisor of Wendell State Forest within the Department of Conservation & Recreation.
- Alex (Wilderness Leadership / ENVS 2011) is now at the Department of Natural Resources in Falmouth.
- Mark (ENVS 2012) and Jo (ENVS 2012) both got jobs working for Springfield Water and Sewer. Caitlin (ENVS 2010) works in their water quality lab. Scott (ENVS 2009) is the GIS/Information manager for SW&S and Brian (ENVS 2010) is an engineering technician for them.
- Sarah (GARP/ENVS 2005) is a Conservation, Preservation, and Land Use Planner with the City of Northampton.
- Sean (ENVS 2009) works for ARCADIS on NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation projects.
- Laura (ENVS 2010) works for National Grid is beginning a graduate program in education at Worcester State.
- Paudraig (ENVS 2009) got a job working for the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.
- Sean (ENVS 2008) just got a new job working for a company called Arcadis as an Environmental Scientist.
- Jordan (ENVS 2010) is worked for the Connecticut DEEP and now is working on her Doctorate at UNM.
- Aubrey (ENVS 2010) came in second in the 2011 Triathlon World Championships, and works and trains in CO.
- Andrea (ENVS 2006) is the Metals Lab Manager at Contest Analytical Lab working with Libby (ENVS 2010).
- Nicole (ENVS/DGCE 2010) and Dan (ENVS 2011) both work at Spectrum Analytical Lab.
- Jordan (ENVS 2010) is working for the CT DEEP researching mosquitos, fisheries, and invasives.
- Jenna (ENVS/REPL 2008) is working as a contract employee for NOAA.
- John (ENVS/REPL 2008) is working as the GIS coordinator for the City of Westfield, and has sponsored Caitlin (2010), Nick (2010), Jon (ENVS 2011), and several ENVS students as interns.
- Tawny (ENVS/BIOL 2010) graduated with her MS in Biology / Entomology at UMaine, Orono and is working as an entomologist for the Mass DEP.
- Alicia (ENVS 2010) finished her MS in Env. Ed. at UMN and is traveling and teaching in Korea.

Recent ENVS Capstone Senior Internship Sponsors

- The Nature Conservancy
- The Trustees of Reservation
- National Park Service
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- The Department of Defense
- Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
- Riverways
- Southwick Conservation Commission
- Contest Analytical Lab
- City of Westfield Planning Dept.
- City of Greenfield Conservation Dept.
- Chicopee Water Dept.
- Springfield Water and Sewer
- Wilderness Experiences Unlimited
- Forest Park Zoo
- Blue Star Equiculture

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