



Green Is the New Blue – Environmental Majors Sweet Briar College

At Sweet Briar College, there are numerous pathways through which students can pursue their interests in agriculture, food systems, conservation and the environment. Our environmental science and biology programs include courses such as Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems, Natural Resources Management, Agricultural Operations, Animal Behavior, Ecology, Global Biodiversity Conservation, Environmental Policy and seminars on special topics that provide space for students to tackle pressing global and local challenges.

In addition to our environmental science program, the Center for Human and Environmental Sustainability is one of Sweet Briar's Centers of Excellence and a cornerstone of our work toward a more sustainable and resilient future for our campus and surrounding region. The center provides students with a way to become further involved in sustainability both on and off campus through partnerships and research opportunities.

However, here, any student with an interest in environmental science, agriculture and sustainability can get involved, no matter what she chooses as her primary area of study. For starters, all students in their first year take the Sustainable Systems course as part of Sweet Briar's innovative Leadership Core curriculum. This course provides a key foundation for thinking about resource use and planning for the future.

The equestrian program and the Center for Human and Environmental Sustainability regularly work together on initiatives that support a greener campus for the entire community—people and horses alike. Students and staff are currently looking at ways to boost hay production, manage composting, use environmentally friendly bedding and improve pasture management practices. Students who pursue an Equine Studies Certificate (in management or in teaching and schooling) take courses in environmental science such as Environmental Policy. Together, these two programs of study create a focus on how to increase sustainability within the equine industry.

Environmental Science Program

The Environmental Science Program allows students to focus their courses in an interdisciplinary study of the complex issues regarding the sustainability of the natural environment in the face of human development. The program integrates humanities, natural and social science, policy and planning perspectives. A variety of courses provides students with emerging paradigms, theories, approaches, methods, and technical tools in environmental studies. These courses also develop ideas and skills needed to engage constructively with social and environmental issues brought about by changes in economic activities, technology, population, and human values.

Environmental Science (B.S.)

Environmental Science (B.A.)

Environmental Science Minor