

Sustainability Learning Goals at Connecticut College

Environmental Studies Major

Connecticut College graduates with a major in Environmental Studies will:

- Demonstrate a general understanding of environmental studies that spans and is informed by scholarly insights from both the natural and social science branches of the field.
- Demonstrate a strong understanding and appreciation of the natural world that draws on physical, biological, and/or chemical perspectives. Graduates will demonstrate the ability to apply the scientific method to environmental issues and problems and to collect, analyze, and critique data and formulate conclusions.
- Demonstrate an appreciation of environmental issues on local, national, and international scales, as well as from the viewpoint of developed versus developing nations. Students will be conversant in contemporary environmental issues and be able to discuss them from scientific, social, political, and economic points of view, reflecting the multidisciplinary nature of the field.

Economics Major

As an economics major...

- You will explore the latest economic ideas and their application to such fields as: finance, labor, environmental economics, industrial organization, public finance, health, development, and econometrics.
- You will learn how different societies organize the allocation of scarce resources among competing needs and what the consequences are for equity, efficiency and economic growth.
- By taking courses in related areas such as international relations, government, sociology, and environmental studies, you will come to understand the necessity of an interdisciplinary approach to economic issues.
- Among the challenging questions you will investigate as an economics major are the following:
 - What are the causes of economic crises, and why do economists differ about these causes?
 - Are markets the solution for all economic problems?
 - Is there a role for government in the economy?
 - What are the factors that enable some countries to develop, while others lag behind?
 - What consequences follow from the fact that all countries are now part of an international, globalized economy?
 - What are the causes of, and solutions for, poverty?
 - What role does economics play with respect to such issues as race and gender?
 - What is an equitable distribution of income? Should economists ask this question?

Gender and Women's Study

This department follows ideas, movements, and bodies across all kinds of disciplinary and political boundaries to arrive at new syntheses and insights that are necessary for creating local and global communities of justice, sustainability, and peace in the 21st century. It also works to set the student on a vocational path into a world that needs such talents, training, and dedication.

Upon completion of a Gender and Women's Studies Major, students will master the power of gender as an analytical concept and be able to apply it in other academic disciplines and in everyday life. The GWS major will:

Gain analytical skills:

- Understand the nuanced historical processes by which humans live out gender across geographies and histories, and the institutional and ideological practices that shape them;
- Know how other forces of identity and power such as race, sexuality, class, religion and nationality intersect and interact with gender;
- Learn how major social movements shape history, how the great social movements of modernity are gendered, when and how autonomous women's organizing emerged, and how these movements are engaging the conditions of human lives and communities globally;
- Understand the major issues facing women nationally and globally, and the stakes and strategies in addressing these challenges.

Apply theory in practice:

- Appreciate the power of individual and collective agency;
- Learning to work in campus and community organizations to create a more just and sustainable world.

Goodwin-Niering Center for the Environment Certificate Program

Students in the program will develop the following skills:

- Objectively assess and effectively marshal information to understand contemporary environmental problems.
- Integrate information and concepts about environmental issues from different disciplines and perspectives to achieve a creative and innovative synthesis.
- Understand connections among components of complex environmental systems.