About the Program

The Graduate Program in Environmental and Sustainability Studies at the College of Charleston has been designed to provide students with an appreciation of the interdisciplinary nature of environmental problems through graduate level studies of both Policy and Science.

This interdisciplinary focus allows us to address a wide variety of the resource, development, and planning pressures that currently face society. Through our core and elective course curriculum, faculty expertise, and specialization development (the clustering of courses in areas such as coastal and wetlands management, environmental planning, and environmental hazards), the program provides training that addresses each of these challenges. Our alumni are finding employment in a wide variety of fields, where their training in both Science and Policy serves them well.

Quick Facts

- 1996: Program originated
- Approximately 525 graduates as of 2019
- 70 current students
- Program length: 2 years (for full-time students)
- Thesis or Academic Internship required
- 38 credit hours required
- We offer both degree-seeking and non degree-seeking options to fit students’ professional and academic needs.
- Night and online classes offer flexibility for working students
**Structure**

Students are required to take core and elective courses and complete a year-long thesis or internship project.

**Program of Study**

Upon entering the program, students are guided by the Program Director and Program Coordinator. Students will later select an Academic Advisor who will help the student create a program of study and a thesis or internship committee based on their area of interest.

**Faculty**

Our dedicated faculty come from many departments, including Biology, Geology and Environmental Geosciences, Mathematics, Physics and Astronomy, Political Science, and Economics. Faculty from many other departments and off-campus institutes and agencies are an invaluable part of the program as well.

**Our Alumni**

- Top 3 skills alumni say they gained proficiency in during their time in the program:
  1) Scientific communication
  2) Literature analysis
  3) Critical thinking

- 84% of alumni are very satisfied with the variety of courses available in the program
- 80% of alumni feel the program prepared them for their field
- 78% of alumni feel the program helped them obtain their current position
Our Students

Students are required to take core and elective courses and complete a year-long thesis or internship project.

- Students have a background in a variety of disciplines, including Biochemistry, Biology, Environmental Science, Geology, Marine Science, Natural Resources, and Political Science.
- There is a continued interest in both environmental policy and science, with the majority of students focusing on science.
- 60% of students choose the thesis option and 40% choose the academic internship option.
- Number of current students: 70
- Average cohort size: 23
- Average class size: 10
- Average age: 26
- 90% full-time students: 10% part-time students
- 65% female and 35% male
- 95% of our students receive some sort of funding.

Top three reasons our students choose the Graduate Program in Environmental and Sustainability Studies:

1) Location
2) Curriculum
3) Research opportunities

The College of Charleston offers a concurrent program for students interested in Environmental and Sustainability Studies and Public Administration. The 3 year program allows students to receive two masters degrees in as few as 60 credit hours.

Website: http://espa.cofc.edu/
Email: espa@cofc.edu

Application Deadlines

**Fall:** March 1: priority deadline for scholarships and assistantships
July 1: final deadline

**Spring:** November 1

**Summer:** March 1

CONTACT US

Dr. Annette Watson
Program Director
watsonam@cofc.edu

mes.cofc.edu
843.953.2000

Lucy Davis
Program Coordinator
davislh@cofc.edu

Facebook: @cofcenvstudies
Instagram: @cofc_mesprogram
Twitter: @CofCMES