Environmental Science is an interdisciplinary field that explores the interconnection between humans and the natural environment. Modern environmental issues reflect the complex interactions of natural and social systems at global and local scales, and the resulting impacts on the Earth have led many to ask whether humankind has entered into a new epoch in the planet’s history, one in which humans are now a key driver in the change of Earth systems. The Environmental Science program fosters the critical, integrative thinking required to better understand the complexities of this human-nature relationship and the resultant scales of impact, and to assess and develop solutions that meet intergenerational human needs without compromising the natural systems upon which humans depend.

The Environmental Science program offers a major in Environmental Science for both the BA and BS degrees and several interdisciplinary courses for students interested in broadening their understanding of environmental issues. These courses often are team-taught by faculty from various areas of study.

Students desiring a major with an environmental emphasis have multiple options:

- the aforementioned environmental science major (through the pursuit of the BA or BS degree)
- environmental engineering (a major concentration in the Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering major)
- environmental engineering (a major concentration in the Civil and Environmental Engineering major)
- environmental earth science track (a track in the BS degree with a major in Earth Science)

Students seeking information or advice on the Environmental Science major should contact:

- Dr. Andre Droxler (andre@rice.edu) for the major concentration in Earth Science, or
- Dr. Evan Siemann (siemann@rice.edu) for the major concentration in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

Environmental Science Major Advisors
Andre Droxler
Evan Siemann

For Rice University degree-granting programs:
- To view the list of official course offerings, please see Rice’s Course Catalog (https://courses.rice.edu/admweb/!SWKSCAT.cat?p_action=cata)
- To view the most recent semester’s course schedule, please see Rice’s Course Schedule (https://courses.rice.edu/admweb/!SWKSCAT.cat)

Descriptions and Codes Legend
Note: Internally the university uses the following descriptions, codes, and abbreviations for this academic program. The following is a quick reference:

Course Catalog/Schedule
- Course offerings/subject code: Courses from various subjects may apply toward the graduate degree

Department (or Program) Description and Code
- Environmental Science: ENST

Undergraduate Degree Descriptions and Codes
- Bachelor of Arts degree: BA
- Bachelor of Science degree: BS

Undergraduate Major Description and Code
- Major in Environmental Science (both the BA and BS Degrees): ENVS

Undergraduate Major Concentration Descriptions and Codes
- Major concentration in Earth Science (both the BA and BS Degrees): ESEA
- Major concentration in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (both the BA and BS Degrees): ESEC