Why Study Ecology and Environmental Sciences at the University of Maine?

If you are passionate about the outdoors, about studying and observing the natural world, and you’re concerned about local and global environmental issues, the ecology and environmental sciences program (EES) at the University of Maine will provide you with outstanding opportunities to begin your career. The UMaine campus is surrounded by 32,000 miles of rivers and streams, 3,500 miles of coastline, 6,000 lakes and ponds, and 17 million acres of forest. Maine is a living laboratory for UMaine EES students.

Because of UMaine’s location, facilities and reputation, some of the world’s top scientists and scholars choose to make UMaine their home. Our faculty members are experts in a breadth of disciplines, including geosciences, soils, biology, ecology, environmental sciences, economics and policy.

What Can I Do with a Degree in Ecology and Environmental Sciences?

The interdisciplinary EES degree is highly marketable to employers. An EES degree demonstrates that you have diverse interests and skills, and concern for both the human and ecological issues shaping the quality of our environment. EES graduates pursue careers in environmental consulting, natural resource management, conservation, land-use planning, biology and policy. Employment opportunities are available with nonprofit organizations, local, state and federal agencies, corporations, consulting firms, schools and universities. In addition, many undergraduate EES students pursue graduate degrees.

Our Graduate Program

The University of Maine offers competitive M.S. (thesis and nonthesis) and Ph.D. degrees in ecology and environmental sciences. Our graduate students employ and mentor many of our undergraduate students and have ample opportunity to engage in EES-related program development (e.g., seminar series, student activities and career development).

Our Faculty

EES faculty are engaged in cutting-edge, internationally recognized research on complex environmental problems — from
songbird migration in the Gulf of Maine to global climate change issues. Our faculty influence the way people perceive, use and manage natural resources. They regularly publish popular literature and scientific articles in leading magazines and journals in their areas of expertise, and have authored books used in college-level instruction. Our faculty hold leadership positions in national and international professional organizations and nongovernmental organizations.

EES faculty members are accessible and committed to the enrichment of their students. Many faculty employ and mentor undergraduates, providing volunteer and paid research positions both during the academic year and the summer months.

EES undergraduate Ray Peck conducts wildlife surveys as part of his internship with an environmental consulting firm.

OPPORTUNITIES TO EXCEL

EES faculty have active research programs that provide students access to diverse research initiatives in the field and in the lab, as well as employment opportunities in their fields of study, both during the academic year and the summer months. Our students engage actively in the research process; it is not uncommon for undergraduates to coauthor papers with faculty and graduate students.

EES students are encouraged to pursue internships and study abroad field opportunities for academic credit. UMaine students have pursued a variety of experiences, ranging from working with attorneys on solid waste disposal issues to monitoring wildlife at wind power production sites. In Maine, EES has established competitive internships with regional consulting firms, and state and federal agencies.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Visit umaine.edu for an application, as well as information about academics and life at UMaine.

After receiving such a fantastic interdisciplinary undergraduate education, I have the ability to step into a wide variety of projects within the company. This is an asset that not every new employee can bring to the table.”

— Nicholas Bonzey, Class of 2006, Soil Scientist with Stantec Inc.