

## Environmental Majors at Cornell University

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CAL S) at Cornell has many different majors for studying the Environment. Brief descriptions of seven environmental majors are listed below. We strongly urge you to explore in more detail those majors that appear to match your interests.

Major	Brief description of major	Educational objectives
<p><a href="#"><u>Agricultural Sciences</u></a></p>	<p>Agricultural Sciences is the scientific study of environmental and socio-economic issues related to soil, water, plant, and animal resources in managed ecosystems.</p> <p>This interdisciplinary major has an “applied focus” and trains students to be broad thinkers who are scientifically skilled and knowledgeable about environmental and socio-economic issues related to agricultural systems</p>	<p>Students take core courses in sustainable agriculture, soil sciences, animal sciences, horticulture, food science, and integrated pest management. Coursework includes social sciences, such as communications, marketing, education, and economics.</p> <p>Students gain practical experience by completing an internship and a "hands-on" experiential learning capstone course addressing real problems in agricultural science.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Atmospheric Sciences</u></a></p>	<p>Atmospheric Sciences is the scientific study of the behavior of weather and climate, and applications to the important practical problems of weather forecasting and climate prediction.</p> <p>A fundamental goal is to acquire the skill and experience in the analysis, interpretation and forecasting of meteorological events.</p>	<p>Students gain a sound understanding of physical sciences and mathematics, and applied fields such as computer science, and statistics.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Ecology and Evolutionary Biology</u></a></p>	<p>Ecology is the study of the distribution and abundance of organisms and how they interact with each other and with their biological and physical environment. Evolutionary biology emphasizes the origin of species and their interactions.</p>	<p>Students obtain a broad background in the biological, physical, and natural sciences, including chemistry, biology, physics, and mathematics.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Environmental Engineering</u></a></p>	<p>Environmental Engineering studies the interface between built and natural environments.</p> <p>Environmental engineers identify, design, build, and operate systems to create sustainable solutions in a social and economic context.</p>	<p>Students take basic courses in subjects associated with engineering (mathematics, physics, chemistry, and engineering design) and the environmental fields (biological sciences, microbiology, and ecology).</p>

<p><b><u>Natural Resources</u></b></p>	<p>Natural Resources is the application of biological sciences and social sciences to study, manage, and conserve organisms and natural ecosystems.</p> <p>The field helps balance the needs of people and the economy with the ability of ecosystems to support soil, water, forests, wildlife, fish, and recreational resources.</p> <p>Natural resource managers guide stakeholders --including communities, agencies, and business/industry – to make decisions that sustain populations of organisms and natural ecosystems.</p>	<p>Students undertake an interdisciplinary core of natural and social science courses, including basic courses in biological sciences, chemistry, mathematics, statistics, communications, economics, and ethics.</p>
<p><b><u>Science of Earth Systems</u></b></p>	<p>The Science of Earth Systems examines the earth and its processes, including earth's materials, structure, history and all of the living things on it, including how and when they formed and evolved.</p> <p>Earth scientists include geologists, meteorologists, oceanographers, and ecologists.</p>	<p>Students gain a sound understanding of physical sciences and mathematics. Coursework includes physical geography, geology, meteorology, oceanography, atmospheric sciences, physics, and chemistry.</p>
<p><b><u>Science of Natural and Environmental Systems</u></b></p>	<p>Science of Natural and Environmental Systems is an interdisciplinary approach that integrates physical sciences, biological sciences, social sciences and technology to understand the impact of humans on natural and managed systems.</p> <p>Typical environmental problems include effects of increasing human population, the sustainability of resource use, degradation caused by pollution and disturbance, and threats to species and natural ecosystems.</p>	<p>Students achieve a rigorous, basic scientific core in physical, biological, and social sciences and a foundation in environmental sciences before undertaking advanced study in one of five concentrations: Environmental Agriculture, Environmental Biology, Environmental Economics, Environmental Information Systems, or Sustainable Development.</p>