



## CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

### STUDENT EXPERIENCE



"I came to Connecticut College thinking of majoring in chemistry, but after I took my first course in environmental studies, I knew it was the right fit for me,

especially because I love being outdoors.

The College's Arboretum is an amazing laboratory. Any type of terrain you could be looking to study is there. In one of my classes, we did an inventory of animals and organisms in the pond.

In my geomorphology class, 10 of the 11 labs were outside: on campus and off campus along the coastline. New London is an urban setting, but our campus is not at all. To have the ocean so close by is very beneficial for an environmental studies major.

I want people to know how rooted Connecticut College is in the study of the environment. We practice what we preach here. The whole school, in essence, does environmental studies. Student initiatives have led to the College's annual purchase of renewable energy credits and a system for composting food wastes. Whenever the College builds, it takes the environmental aspects into account.

Environmental studies is a hot field right now. I could have gone right to grad school, but I've opted to go to work for an environmental consulting firm."

— Craig McCarrick '07  
Environmental studies major



## Environmental Studies

THE CONNECTICUT COLLEGE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES MAJOR is one of the oldest in the country, founded in 1969 by two long-time faculty members and nationally renowned ecologists, William A. Niering and Richard H. Goodwin. The College honors both with its Goodwin-Niering Center for Conservation Biology and Environmental Studies.

In this strongly interdisciplinary major, you will choose from two tracks — one natural science-focused, the other with a strong social science perspective. Graduates from both tracks are in strong demand in industry, government, environmental consulting and advanced research.

Faculty from 10 departments serve as instructors, advisers and research mentors, and they will push you to tackle issues from multiple perspectives. For example, you might take a government course on environmental policy in the Southwest along with an environmental studies class on the region's ecology and geology.

The environmental studies major is part of a College commitment to conservation and sustainability. In 1999, the College was the first in the nation to sponsor a carbon offset program. You might serve on the Environmental Model Committee, join the Renewable Energy Club or work in the College's organic garden.

### Special Opportunities

You'll have many opportunities to participate in research with faculty. Our equipment and facilities include transmission and scanning electron microscopes, a light microscope facility, an extensive greenhouse, water quality instruments and a hydraulic flume used to model stream and river hydrodynamics. Classes and research take full advantage of our arboretum, which includes native plant collections and data collection sites for long-term studies of vegetation change. Our freshwater ecology lab maintains interactive databases of chemical, physical and morphological data on lakes in the northeastern U.S. as well as tools to identify microscopic algae.

Many students participate in a semester-long immersion program in ecological sciences at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass., one of the world's foremost marine research centers. You might accompany faculty to regional, national and international conferences and symposia, or travel with faculty on research and academic trips. Most students participate in the College's funded internship program in the United States or abroad.

In your sophomore year, you may apply for one of the College's interdisciplinary certificate programs. Students in the Goodwin-Niering Center program have interned at sites as varied as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Boston and organic farms in Costa Rica and Panama.

## Faculty

**Robert Askins**, *Karla Heurich Harrison '28 Director of the Goodwin-Niering Center/Professor of Biology*

B.S., University of Michigan; M.S., Ph.D., University of Minnesota  
Ecology; ornithology; impact of forest fragmentation on natural communities; ecology of early successional birds

**MaryAnne Borrelli**, *Associate Professor of Government*  
B.A., Wellesley; M.A., Ph.D., Harvard University  
Environmental policy

**Beverly Chomiak**, *Senior Lecturer in Geology, Lecturer in Environmental Studies*  
B.S., M.S., University of Connecticut; Ph.D., New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology  
Economic geology and geochemistry; geographic information systems

**Andrew N. Davis**, *Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies*  
B.S., Trinity College; M.S., Ph.D., University of Massachusetts, Amherst; J.D., George Washington University  
Environmental law and policy

**Jane Dawson**, *Virginia Eason Weinmann '51 Professor of Government*  
A.B., Bryn Mawr; M.A., Harvard University; M.A., Johns Hopkins University; Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley  
International environmental politics; comparative environmental activism and politics

**Glenn Dreyer**, *Charles and Sarah P. Becker '27 Arboretum Director/ Executive Director, Goodwin-Niering Center for Conservation Biology and Environmental Studies*

B.S., University of California, Davis; M.A., Connecticut College  
Vegetation management; ecology and horticulture of native plants; invasive exotic woody plants; large and historic trees

**William Frasure**, *Professor of Government*  
B.A., University of Pittsburg; J.D., Yale University; Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University  
Environmental policy and law

**Pamela Hine**, *Senior Lecturer in Botany*  
B.A., Bates College; M.A., Connecticut College  
Environmental education; tidal marsh ecology; pollination ecology

**Chad Jones**, *Assistant Professor of Botany*  
B.S., Brigham Young University, Ph.D., University of Washington  
Terrestrial plant ecology; invasive plants; plant succession

**Manuel Lizarralde**, *Associate Professor of Ethnobotany*  
B.A., M.A., Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley  
Ethnobotany of tropical rainforests and New England native Americans

**Arlan Mantz**, *Oakes Ames Professor of Physics*  
B.A., Catawba College; M.S., Ph.D., Ohio State University  
Impact of world population on the atmosphere and environment

**Peter A. Siver**, *Charles & Sarah P. Becker '27 Professor of Botany*  
B.A., SUNY Binghamton; M.S., University of New Hampshire; Ph.D., University of Connecticut  
Limnology & phycology; biodiversity and biogeography of aquatic organisms; paleolimnology

**Douglas M. Thompson**, *Professor of Geology*  
B.A., Middlebury College; M.S., Ph.D., Colorado State University  
Geomorphology, hydrology, river restoration

**Derek Turner**, *Associate Professor of Philosophy*  
B.A., American University; Ph.D., Vanderbilt University  
Environmental philosophy

**Gerald Visgilio**, *Professor of Economics, Associate Director of Goodwin-Niering Center*  
A.B., Providence College; M.S., Ph.D., University of Rhode Island  
Environmental and natural resource economics

**R. Scott Warren**, *Jean C. Tempel '65 Professor Emeritus of Botany*  
B.A., Defiance College; M.S., Ph.D., University of New Hampshire  
Wetland and tidal marsh ecology; the influence of sea-level rise on coastal wetlands and tidal marsh restoration.

**Marc Zimmer**, *Barbara Zaccheo Kohn '72 Professor of Chemistry*  
B.S., M.S., University of Witwatersrand, South Africa; Ph.D., Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
Environmental chemistry

## What can you do with a major in environmental studies?

### Toby Ahrens '99

Ph.D. candidate in biogeochemistry at Stanford University.

Earned a master's degree in environmental engineering from Stanford and worked as a research assistant in the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass.

### Hannah Shayler '02

Working on a master's degree in natural resources at Cornell University, and investigating how to best foster informed decision-making about fish consumption.

### Henry Kesner '03

Curatorial assistant and project manager for the Latin American Plant Initiative project at the Harvard University Herbaria. Also working on a master's degree in management at Harvard.

Double majored in anthropology and environmental studies and earned a certificate in museum studies. Was a curator of collections intern at the Wellesley College Greenhouses and Botanic Gardens.

### Sara Zisa '03

Earned a master's degree in environmental studies at Brown University. Wrote her thesis on "Wal-Mart and Sustainability: Closing the Eco-Efficiency Gap."

While at Connecticut College, went to Cuba with Professor Dawson for a conference on environment and development.

## Selected Courses

Environmental Studies as a Natural Science; Environmental Studies as a Social Science; Hydrology; Environmental Activism and its Political Impact Around the Globe; U.S. Environmental Policy and Politics; Introduction to Geographic Information Systems; Freshwater Ecology; Estuarine Ecology; Plant Ecology; Earth Surface Processes and Landforms; Coastal Dynamics of Southern New England; Environmental River Restoration; The Impact of the World's Population on our Environment; Geologic Hazards and Humans; Sustainable Agriculture; Law and the Environment; Environmental Economics; Thinking Philosophically About the Environment

## About Connecticut College

Connecticut College is a highly selective residential liberal arts college with 1,900 students from all over the country and the world. The academic program offers more than 50 majors in the arts, sciences, social sciences and humanities, as well as innovative interdisciplinary programs. Students engage with dedicated faculty and each other to create a vibrant social, cultural and intellectual community in which learning is valued for its own sake — and individuals' diverse perspectives enrich the experience of all.

For more information, visit  
[www.conncoll.edu/academics/](http://www.conncoll.edu/academics/)