

# Environmental Studies



Environmental Studies examines issues that arise from the interaction of human beings with the natural world. Understanding these issues and meeting the challenges they pose requires knowledge from diverse fields and new modes of thinking.

## Why Environmental Studies at Illinois Wesleyan?

Our interdisciplinary Environment Studies Program is designed to educate a new generation of students who are critical and creative thinkers, committed to advancing environmental sustainability both locally and globally.

- Our ES majors acquire a **solid foundation** in ecological principles, earth science concepts and scientific causes of today's environmental challenges, as well as the institutions — cultural, political and economic — through which to tackle them.
- They grapple with the **ethical dimensions** of the human-environment relationship.
- And they engage in **applied learning**, bridging the language gap between specialists and the lay public, and gaining experience building a just and sustainable society.

We offer **four unique ways** to complete the major. Students can pursue a **General Major** or choose one of three areas of concentration: **Ecology**, **Environmental Policy** or **International Environmental Sustainability**.

## Learning from a Quality Faculty

- **Laurine Brown (program coordinator)**, *Associate Professor of Health and Environmental Studies*  
*Ph.D. – Tufts University*  
Specializes in environment and public health.
- **Given Harper (director)**, *George C. and Ella Beach Lewis Endowed Chair of Biology*  
*Ph.D. – Illinois State University*  
Specializes in avian ecology.
- **Abigail Jahiel**, *Associate Professor of Environmental Studies and International Studies*  
*Ph.D. – University of Michigan*  
Specializes in Chinese environmental policy and global environmental politics.
- **Edgar Lehr**, *Assistant Professor of Biology*  
*Ph.D. – Johann Wolfgang Goethe University*  
Specializes in biodiversity of amphibians and reptiles in the Neotropics (Peru).

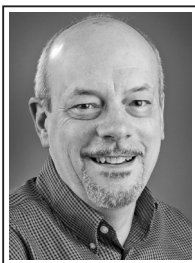
## A Sampling of Courses Offered by Environmental Studies

Environment and Society  
Health and the Environment  
Conservation Biology and Restoration Ecology  
Marine Realm  
Earth Systems Science  
American Environmental Politics  
Ethics and the Environment  
Population and the Environment  
Globalization and the Environment  
Thinking Like a Mountain  
Energy and Society

## Recent May Term Courses in Environmental Studies

Tropical Ecology: Costa Rica (*travel course*)  
Water Quality  
Toxic Threats to Reproduction and Child Development  
Native Americans and the Environment  
Field Ornithology

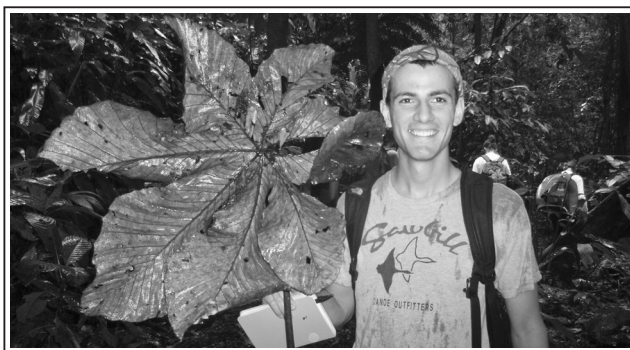
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“Environmental Studies students are passionate about their subject of study. They want to make a difference in the world and the major prepares them for

doing just that! Our students acquire a solid grounding in the scientific and societal causes of today’s environmental challenges, the means to address these challenges and real-world experience doing so. They leave Illinois Wesleyan well prepared for graduate school and for work in a wide range of careers.”

- **Aaron Shoults-Wilson**, *Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies*  
*Ph.D. – University of Georgia*  
Specializes in toxicology.
- **Additional faculty affiliates include:** Susie Balser (Biology), Rebecca Gearhart (Anthropology), Narendra Jaggi (Physics), Linda Kunce (Psychology), William Munro (Political Science), Rebecca Roesner (Chemistry), Alison Sainsbury (English), Jim Simeone (Political Science), Charles Springwood (Anthropology), Michael Weis (History).



**Professor Given Harper**

Environmental Studies Director

*Photo, left: Joe Daniels '13 traveled with classmates to Costa Rica for a May Term course “Tropical Ecology.”*

**Putting Learning into Practice**

Our students:

- **gain professional experience** through internships with organizations such as the Ecology Action Center, Sugar Grove Nature Center, Illinois EPA Governor’s Environmental Corps and local governments.
- **study abroad** in places such as Australia, Denmark, Ecuador and Tanzania.
- **conduct research with faculty** on topics such as monitoring populations of bird species in Illinois, and the environmental effects of development practices in China.
- **spearhead campus sustainability efforts** through their involvement in the GREENetwork and their leadership in the IWU Sierra Student Coalition, Student Senate and Peace Garden.

Our graduates:

- **work in a variety of jobs**, including for the National Park Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Chicago Field Museum, Environmental Law and Policy Center and environmental consulting companies.
- **pursue graduate degrees in a range of fields**, including Ecology, Environmental Law, Environmental Management, Oceanography, and Plant Science, at such schools as Cornell University, Duke University, University of Illinois and New York University.



**ILLINOIS WESLEYAN**  
UNIVERSITY

**For Further Information,  
Write or Call:**

**Dr. Given Harper**

George C. and Ella Beach Lewis  
Endowed Chair of Biology and  
Director, Environmental Studies  
Program  
Illinois Wesleyan University  
P.O. Box 2900  
Bloomington, IL 61702-2900  
309/556-3056  
[gharper@iwu.edu](mailto:gharper@iwu.edu)

[www.iwu.edu/environ](http://www.iwu.edu/environ)