As an interdisciplinary academic field, environmental science includes the study and application of ecology, physics, chemistry, geology, atmospheric science, hydrology, limnology, geography, oceanography and natural resource management. Through engaging course work and exciting, hands-on field studies, environmental science students learn how to address problems that fall outside the realm of traditional scientific disciplines.

**Why Environmental Science at Florida Tech?**

Individual faculty attention, small classes and the ability to participate in environmental research as an undergraduate student set the environmental science program at Florida Tech apart from other institutions. Professors teach all the classes and get to know all of their students by their first names. The result is a tight-knit community of learners helping each other succeed at every turn. Additionally, the Florida Tech environmental science program has an outstanding reputation among employers, many of which are alumni with firsthand appreciation for the quality of a Florida Tech education.

**Your First-Year Experience**

A unique and memorable component of each student’s first-year experience in the environmental science program at Florida Tech is the “Whole Earth Course.” This class, which integrates biology, chemistry, physics, geology and mathematics leads students to experience and understand our planet as a system of interacting processes. Six full-time faculty lead the course collaboratively, showing students how scientists from different disciplines treat the same subjects with a different approach. As a result, students gain a useful understanding of the interactions between the cosmosphere, geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, biosphere and anthroposphere (the “people sphere”).

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- Ocean-minded students may conduct research and fieldwork at Florida Tech’s Vero Beach Marine Laboratory.
- Small boats are available for research and class work in the Indian River Lagoon. Scuba diving is another option.
- Related student organizations include the Florida Tech Environmental Club and the Student Organization for Sustainability Action (SOSA).

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**Natural Labs**

The world is your laboratory when you have access to an abundance of natural resources like Crane Creek, St. Johns River, the Indian River Lagoon and the Atlantic Ocean.

**Active Learning**

Environmental science students often engage in local, regional and global environmental issues—like the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and the Kissimmee River restoration, for example.

**Out and About**

Field trips to local and state water bodies, water treatment facilities, air pollution monitoring sites and protected lands are staples of the program.
Environmental Science

Every scientific discipline you can think of has a direct relationship to environmental science because the environment is all around us. It is a very broad field with global importance.

What to Expect
Environmental science students may expect small classes and the opportunity to work with faculty addressing a variety of environmental challenges (such as beach erosion, air pollution and the preservation of endangered species). The program’s reputation and proximity to a variety of scientific agencies and laboratories means you can also expect to build valuable field experience off campus.

Specialized Labs
High-tech laboratories provide facilities and instrumentation that can be used for core boring and sediment analysis, beach surveying, the measurement and analysis of water quality, the processes of fouling by marine organisms and saltwater corrosion, and more.

Faculty Research Areas
The department is an integrated group of environmental scientists, oceanographers, ocean engineers and meteorologists who share a keen interest in preserving, protecting and enhancing natural resources. Their research interests are broad and often interrelated. Current research focuses on, for example:

- Offshore oil spills and Antarctic oil drilling
- Sea-level rise
- Managing natural resources
- Fertilizer and septic tank impacts on waterways

Careers
Graduates of the environmental science program traditionally get their first jobs at environmental management organizations and often move on to careers in research, policy, law and management. Employers of recent graduates include:

- St. Johns River and South Florida Water Management Districts
- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- Dynamac Corporation
- Various environmental and engineering consulting firms

Graduate Study
Graduates of the environmental science program at Florida Tech are prepared to pursue advanced degrees in environmental science and related fields and have gone on to study at graduate schools such as:

- City University of New York
- Florida Tech
- Florida Atlantic University
- Florida State University
- University of Florida

Summer Field Projects
In the summer between their junior and senior years, students carry out capstone research projects in a wide variety of areas, from water or air quality to impacts of local weather phenomena on environmental systems.

Exciting Futures
With a degree in environmental science, your future may include work on offshore oil recovery, lake and river management, environmental protection, global climate monitoring, renewable energy or natural habitat restoration.

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