Bachelor of Science in

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Solving Tomorrow's Challenges Today

Practical solutions to complex environmental problems cross traditional disciplinary boundaries. The environmental science major is an interdisciplinary program administered jointly by the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Department of Earth, Geographic and Climate Sciences, and the Stockbridge School of Agriculture. Environmental scientists address problems of ecosystem degradation, inadequate management of natural resources, and contaminants from industrial activities and food production. Our students learn to meet the challenges of creating safe and healthy environments, controlling and remediating the impact of pollution, and reducing stress on natural ecosystems.

The Curriculum

Students develop a strong background in natural sciences and mathematics, aligned with a core curriculum that includes environmental policy and economics, biodiversity, global change, and environmental quality. The curriculum emphasizes praxes—hands-on experiences such as independent research with faculty, internships, and classes that provide skills and certifications valued in the environmental marketplace. Students work with their individual faculty mentor to design a unique plan of upper-level courses tailored to their specific interests.

Thematic Areas of Study

All students develop their own Focus Area under one of three overarching themes: Environmental Quality, Natural Systems, or Environment & Society. Popular choices include environmental policy and law, ecotoxicology, conservation biology, wildlife management, hydrogeology, watershed management, wetland science, environmental soil science, hazardous waste remediation, environmental education/communication, and many others.

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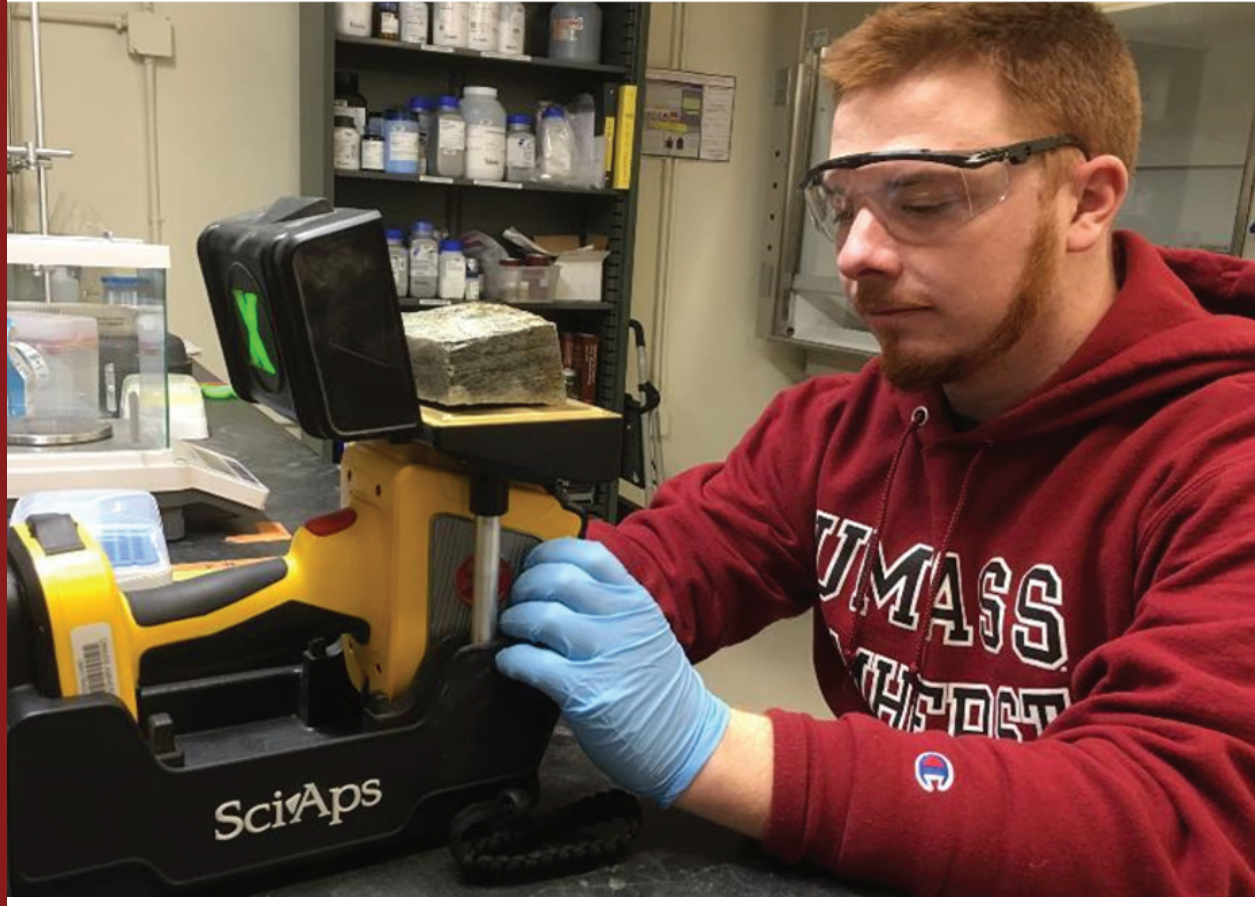

Pathways for Success

Woven into the major is support for students' success at UMass and beyond. The first-year seminar series introduces the major and develops students' sense of the breadth of environmental science scholarship, then connects students with faculty research and helps students to define their personal curriculum plan and focus area. Peer mentors lead community-building and networking activities outside the classroom, while clubs host regular environmental-science-related events. In our career planning seminar, students align their class selections with potential careers and use LinkedIn to begin building their professional network. Students engage with working professionals from environmental consulting, nongovernmental organizations, and federal environmental agencies in our seminars and alumni career panels.

Our Graduates Do Amazing Things

The Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Environmental Science leads to a wide range of careers in private-sector consulting firms, non-profit environmental organizations, and a variety of federal, state, and local government agencies. Many students go on to graduate school in environmental specialties ranging from spatial analysis to biophysical science to social science to business.

Want to Join the Major?

Students may apply to the Environmental Science major when enrolling at UMass. For those beyond their first year or transfer students, an appointment should be made with an Environmental Science advisor.

Scan the QR code to learn more about joining the program.