



Department of Earth Environment and Society FAQs

1. What majors and minors are included in the Department of Earth, Environment, and Society?

Majors include Geology, Geography, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Environmental Science, and Environmental Studies. Minors include Sustainability, Geology, Geography, GIS, Environmental Science.

2. What is the difference between Environmental Science and Environmental Studies?

While both of these majors focus on solving environmental problems, they use a different set of tools. Environmental Science (a BS degree) focuses on the Natural Sciences including a concentration in either Geology, Biology or Chemistry. Environmental Studies focuses on competencies in the social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences, including a concentration in a specific area of your choice such as public policy and planning, engineering, business management and communications.

3. What are the career options for students with these degrees?

There is a full range of careers that you can pursue including in the private sector, nonprofits, and local, state, and federal government agencies. Graduates go into careers in environmental consulting, conservation, urban planning, and education. Our students have worked for agencies including the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, MN Department of Transportation, and MN Department of Natural Resources. They are also well-prepared to attend graduate school to obtain advanced degrees.

4. What is a Sustainability minor and why would I want to pursue it?

A minor in Sustainability can enhance any major. The minor exposes students to the variety of disciplines that will prepare students to engage in their career of choice with a Sustainability lens. The minor includes 5 courses from at least three disciplines that include a substantial sustainability focus. There are over 100 courses to choose from covering over 80% of the disciplines at St. Thomas.

Contact:

Dr. Gaston Small; smal7939@stthomas.edu or (651) 962-5166 (through June 30)

Dr. Elise Amel; elamel@stthomas.edu or (651) 917-9192 (starting July 1)