Environment, Economy, Development and Sustainability

The environment, economy, development and sustainability (EEDS) major is a multi-disciplinary major that focuses on the economic, business and social dimensions of sustainability. This cutting-edge major provides the core knowledge and skills students need to launch a career in sustainability in the private, public or non-profit sectors.

Work in sustainability requires knowledge of human and natural systems and the skills to manage change, think holistically and assess sustainable development in a variety of settings. Sustainability is not just a specialization. It is becoming an important competency in many types of jobs. The goal of the EEDS major is to provide students with rigorous course work and hands-on experience in sustainability to prepare them for the career path they choose. EEDS gives students that have a passion and a purpose the tools they need to become agents of change.

EEDS is a joint major between the School of Environment and Natural Resources (SENR) and the Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics (AEDE) in the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. Additional partners include the Fisher College of Business; Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering; City and Regional Planning; International Studies; John Glenn School of Public Affairs; and the President’s and Provost’s Council on Sustainability.

Pursuing Environment, Economy, Development and Sustainability at Ohio State

All freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus; find admissions criteria at go.osu.edu/admissions.

Students in the EEDS major are typically interested in addressing today’s pressing issues related to sustainability and the challenges of balancing economic prosperity, environmental health and social equity. A successful EEDS student is highly motivated and seeks to acquire the knowledge and tools to make a difference in the world; excels at communication; is capable of analytical problem solving; thrives when engaging in complex issues; and likes to “connect the dots.” EEDS students are likely to be very active in the School of Environment and Natural Resources, in broader university organizations, and in the community.

Admitted students can directly enroll as majors in EEDS within the School of Environment and Natural Resources. A student’s first year includes several foundational courses in environment and natural resources and general education requirements such as mathematics, chemistry, biology, the humanities, etc.

For more information, check these websites:

Environment, Economy, Development and Sustainability:
eesds.osu.edu
School of Environment and Natural Resources:
senr.osu.edu

Specializations in Environment, Economy, Development, and Sustainability

All EEDS students take an integrated set of course work in environmental economics, business management, environmental sociology, community and international development, ecological engineering and environmental sciences. Students build on this foundation by choosing to specialize in one of four areas:

Sustainability and business: Study how and why businesses are moving to a sustainability management approach and learn the tools needed to assess, manage and lead sustainability in a business context.

Environmental economics and policy analysis: Study how to measure and enhance the benefits of ecosystem services and learn how to design and evaluate policies that address environmental problems by accounting for the natural science and social dimensions of economic activity.

Community development: Study the theories and processes of community planning, local economies and social change. Learn the skills needed to implement positive social, economic and environmental change while taking a holistic community approach and encouraging citizen engagement.

International development: Study the theory and practice of sustainable development in an international setting and learn how to reduce long-term poverty by developing approaches that promote improved, secure and sustainable livelihood strategies for those whose basic survival depends directly on the natural environment.

Co-Curricular Opportunities

The college works with businesses, non-profit organizations, institutions and public agencies to establish a variety of internship opportunities. Students can tailor an internship that complements their particular passion for sustainability, provides the work experience they want on their resume and starts to build their professional networks.

EEDS students can also study abroad to explore the connections between humans and the natural environment in different parts of the world. EEDS students may be especially interested in Sustaining Human Societies and the Natural Environment—a study abroad opportunity in Queensland, Australia.

All EEDS students take a project-based capstone course in which they develop and pitch their own sustainability project and receive feedback from outside experts in the field. In addition, EEDS students have opportunities to go on local field trips and hear from outside speakers who are engaged in sustainability in their own company or organization. Students
This is a sample list of classes a student will take to pursue a BS in Environment and Natural Resources. Since university students need more than specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete General Education (GE) requirements. Because GE courses come from a variety of academic areas of study, this course work helps students develop fundamental skills essential to collegiate success and allows them to tailor these courses toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree with a major in environment, economy, development and sustainability. More information is available at eeds.osu.edu.

**Freshman Year**
- Survey course: 1
- Introduction to Rural Sociology: 3
- Natural Resources Data Analysis: 3
- Biology: 4
- Society and Natural Resources: 3
- Introduction to Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife: 3
- Microeconomics: 3
- GE courses: 15
- **Total hours:** 35

**Sophomore Year**
- Environmental Science: 3
- Introduction to Sustainability in Business I: 3
- Community, Environment and Development: 3
- World Population, Food and Environment: 3
- Introduction to Sustainability in Business II: 3
- Regional Economics and Sustainable Growth: 3
- EEDS specialization courses: 6
- GE courses: 6
- **Total hours:** 30

**Junior Year**
- Environment and Resource Economics: 3
- Environmental and Natural Resource Policy: 3
- Diffusion of Innovation: 3
- The Sustainable Economy: 3
- Ecological Engineering: 3
- Spatial Info for Natural Resources: 2
- Internship/study abroad: 2-5
- EEDS specialization courses: 6
- GE courses: 6
- **Total Hours:** 31–34

**Senior Year**
- Capstone course: 3
- EEDS specialization courses: 12
- Elective courses: 12
- GE courses: 3
- **Total hours:** 30

have the opportunity to join the SUSTAINS Learning Community, which fosters connections among students who are interested in becoming sustainable leaders. Students will learn how sustainability influences their own and other’s lives and how their actions impact society.

The Ohio State University campus offers many opportunities for students to engage in sustainability outside the classroom, including campus-based sustainability initiatives such as the Zero Waste Stadium initiative and the Fisher College of Business’ Net Impact Sustainability Certificate Program.

**Honors & Scholars Programs**
Ohio State offers the Honors and Scholars programs to create an environment of intellectual support and stimulation within a close-knit community of high-ability undergraduate students. Through these programs, students have access to smaller classes, undergraduate research opportunities, close working relationships with faculty, priority scheduling and unique housing options. For more information about these opportunities, visit honors-scholars.osu.edu.

Environment and Natural Resources Scholars share an interest and passion for the environment and being outdoors. Students participate in various environmentally based service learning projects, educational trips, and seminars and workshops with leading environmental researchers. These students also have a unique study abroad experience—most recently they have traveled to Iceland to learn about the culture, environmental challenges and Ohio State research connections to this country. The Scholars live together in Morrill Tower.

The Environment and Natural Resources Honors program challenges high-ability students by providing a program in greater breadth and depth and provides special recognition and scholarships for outstanding scholastic achievement. Freshmen with University Honors standing may be accepted directly as a candidate for the Environment and Natural Resources Honors program.

**Career Prospects in Environment, Economy, Development and Sustainability**
Sustainability is a rapidly growing area that requires knowledge and skills that have both depth and breadth. Focusing on the economic, business and social dimensions of sustainability, EEDS gives students that have a passion and a purpose the tools they need to become agents of change.

Below are examples of sustainability-related jobs:
- Purchasing and materials manager
- International project manager
- Cooperative enterprise manager
- Community organizer
- Environmental conservation economist
- Regional planner
- Peace Corps volunteer
- Environmental policy analyst
- Supply chain analyst
- Sustainability coordinator
- Energy economist
- Energy efficiency program manager
- Capacity development expert

**Revised December 2013.** Information subject to change. For the most up-to-date information on the environment, economy, development and sustainability program, visit eeds.osu.edu.

**Contact information:**
Esther Dwyer | School of Environment and Natural Resources
210 Kottman Hall | 2021 Coffey Road | Columbus, OH 43210
614-688-1904 | dwyer.79@osu.edu