

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

Department websites: <https://www.uwplatt.edu/department/geography> (<https://www.uwplatt.edu/department/geography/>)
<https://www.uwplatt.edu/program/environmental-science-and-conservation> (<https://www.uwplatt.edu/program/environmental-science-and-conservation/>)
<https://www.uwplatt.edu/department/social-and-environmental-justice> (<https://www.uwplatt.edu/department/social-and-environmental-justice/>)

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Program Coordinator
Social and Environmental Justice: Claudine Pied
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MAJOR

- Environmental Science and Conservation, B.S. (<http://catalog.uwplatt.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-education/geography/environmental-science-and-conservation/>)

Environmental science has become a fundamental discipline across a range of careers and fields, and its importance will only increase in the future as societies contend with increasingly complex issues surrounding environmental conservation, regulation, ethics, and resource management. The major will provide students with a scientific background in which they will learn to think critically and draw connections between the physical, ecological, social, and information sciences to engage the growing complexity of environmental issues. Through a dynamic curriculum that includes multiple field and lab classes and research opportunities integrated throughout the degree, students will gain hands-on experience that will prepare them to immediately enter the workforce and/or pursue a graduate degree in which they are able to effectively address and solve current and future environmental problems.

MINORS

- Environmental Science (<http://catalog.uwplatt.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-education/geography/environmental-science-minor/>)
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) (<http://catalog.uwplatt.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-education/geography/geographic-information-systems-minor/>)
- Geography (<http://catalog.uwplatt.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-education/geography/minor/>)
- Social and Environmental Justice (<http://catalog.uwplatt.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-education/geography/social-environmental-justice-minor/>)

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) (<http://catalog.uwplatt.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-education/geography/geographic-information-systems-certificate/>)
- Social and Environmental Justice (<http://catalog.uwplatt.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-education/geography/social-environmental-justice-certificate/>)

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

You will study with faculty who are broadly trained in fields that include biogeography, climatology, environmental conservation, fire ecology, GIS, paleoecology, and social and environmental justice. Our faculty have conducted over \$1.2 million in externally funded research during the past decade, most of which funded projects that supported student research. We constantly strive to develop innovative approaches to teaching while maintaining firm foundational curricula and close mentoring partnerships with our students.

Our students explore the human and natural world through classroom, laboratory, and field experiences, as well as through individual research, internships, and attendance at professional conferences. If you like to travel, we offer multiple field-trip courses to locations around the world. Our graduates experience high placement rates in their preferred career fields and graduate programs and are ideally suited to address some of the world's

most pressing problems, such as addressing global climate change, assessing the impacts of environmental and social policies, natural resource conservation and management, and sustainable development.

Our facilities are state-of-the-art and include over 2,500 square feet of dedicated undergraduate research space; newly renovated, spacious, and comfortable classrooms; access to modern technology, including a dedicated GIS lab with the latest geospatial software and databases; and a beautiful outdoor laboratory and classroom provided by our 400 acre campus grounds that encompass woodlands, streams, restored native prairie, and the geologically and ecologically unique Platte Mound (elevation ~1,500 feet).

MISSION STATEMENT

We will create a vibrant learning environment through the integration of high-impact practices in field, classroom, and laboratory settings to provide an excellent comprehensive education to UW-Platteville students and inspire reflective, life-long learning and the ethical application of knowledge to enrich our students, region, state, and society. We will provide an exceptional education to our majors through individualized programs of study that incorporate project-based learning, critical reflection, transformative experiences, and a rigorous pursuit of knowledge that produces environmental and conservation leaders. We will embrace diversity and maintain a supportive departmental culture that promotes the professional development and growth of our students, staff, and faculty and helps form engaged, global citizens working to make our world a better place.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Graduates will:

1. demonstrate mastery of fundamental concepts of the ecological, physical, and social sciences and apply them in the practice of environmental science and conservation;
2. comprehend and apply the integral concepts of ecological and social resilience, ecosystem services, the "land ethic," ecosystem restoration, and sustainability;
3. identify, define, and explain relationships between human and environmental systems from local to global scales;
4. use the techniques, skills, and modern tools necessary to collect and analyze environmental data;
5. apply quantitative techniques to describe and evaluate diversity in human and environmental systems;
6. synthesize and communicate research results to answer questions about the past, present, and future of our human and physical environment;
7. appraise and contribute ideas and solutions to local, regional, national, and global environmental problems, and;
8. articulate a thoughtful, creative, and ethical perspective that promotes civil discourse among corporate, public, and governmental stakeholders to advance the sustainability of our society and planet.

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- Geography (<http://catalog.uwplatt.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-education/geography/minor/>)
- Social and Environmental Justice Minor (<http://catalog.uwplatt.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-education/geography/social-environmental-justice-minor/>)

CERTIFICATES

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FACULTY AND LECTURERS

Additional information about the Faculty and Lecturers below may be found in the Faculty and Academic Staff (<http://catalog.uwplatt.edu/faculty-academic-staff/>) section of this catalog.

Dornak, L. Lynnette

Larson, Evan

Stradford, H. Todd

Underwood, Christopher A.

Valiga, James