

Carleton

Environmental Studies Program

507-222-5248

Dear Future Carl,

Congratulations on being accepted to Carleton! As the Director of the Environmental Studies Program, I'm delighted to hear of your interest in majoring in Environmental Studies. I write to welcome you to the college and to the program.

The [Environmental Studies Program](#) offers the opportunity for interdisciplinary exploration of the world's environmental issues and problems. Our students investigate the interconnections between human and natural communities from scientific, economic, historical, cultural, and political perspectives, and they learn to marshal that knowledge in pursuit of a more sustainable society. The program emphasizes collaborative work, problem-oriented service learning and civic engagement, place-based learning, internships, off-campus studies, and other field experiences.

Our [faculty](#) is a talented, wide-ranging group of scholars who come together from all the divisions of the college. You may find them out in the [Cowling Arboretum](#) studying how herbivores affect the prairie plant community; in our GIS lab studying how urbanization in Ethiopia is affecting land cover change; or in the library writing about the ways that nature and culture have commingled in the mining of minerals across North America. And you'll often find them working collaboratively with students on these research projects.

Students in our program take a rich array of [courses](#), ranging from science courses such as Global Change Biology and Geospatial Analysis, to social science and humanities courses such as the Economics of Natural Resources and the Environment, American Environmental History, and Environmental Justice. We strongly encourage [off-campus study](#) as well; recent programs include Agricultural Sustainability in the US and China, Wilderness Field Studies at the Grand Canyon, and Conservation and Development in Tanzania and Ethiopia. In addition, the program provides support for our students to do exciting summer internships: saving sea turtles in the Tartarugas, working at think tanks like the Environmental Law Institute, or helping rural communities in Peru to save traditional farming practices, to name just a few.

Our majors are interesting, engaged, and adventurous. Recent graduates have gone on to study water management in China and sustainable agriculture in Greece; organize grassroots environmental activism; work in our national and state parks; and enter graduate programs in law, environmental policy, biology, and resource management. Environmental studies is an excellent major for students interested in careers in public policy, law, education, business consulting, land management, journalism, and a variety of other fields. We hope you're excited about joining us! If you have any questions about the Environmental Studies Program, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,



Aaron Swoboda

Director, Environmental Studies Program

