



STEM DIVISION ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

— FOUR-YEAR PLAN —

ABOUT

The Environmental Science program at Southern Nazarene University is housed within the Department of Biology and is designed for students passionate about understanding and protecting the natural world. Whether you aspire to work in natural resource management, conservation, environmental consulting, or ecological research, our program provides the foundation, experience, and mentorship needed to achieve your goals.

The study of environmental science is rooted in hands-on experiences, and at SNU, that means taking your education beyond the walls of a traditional classroom. Our Environmental Science major is designed to be field-intensive, with off-campus opportunities providing the depth of experience needed for careers in environmental science.

The Quetzal Education Research Center (QERC) in Costa Rica is at the heart of this training. QERC is SNU's very own biological field station, located in a tropical montane cloud forest, and it offers an unparalleled semester-long study abroad experience where students conduct real-world ecological research in one of the world's most diverse ecosystems.

In addition, our partnership with the Au Sable Institute of Environmental Studies offers expanded course opportunities, allowing students to specialize further in areas such as Geographic Information Systems, environmental law, and ecosystem management.



DEGREE PLAN

***The courses listed are for this specific program and are in addition to the general education courses required for all students. See the reverse side or go to snu.edu/gen-ed for more information on those courses.*

YEAR 1

Organismal Biology + Lab
General Chemistry I + Lab
Cells and Systems + Lab
General Chemistry II + Lab

YEAR 2

General Ecology + Lab
Organic Chemistry I + Lab
Microbiology + Lab
Field Course I + Lab

YEAR 3

Genetics + Lab
Computer Science elective (recommended)
QERC semester (Field Courses II & III)

YEAR 4

General Physics I (recommended)
Field course IV + Lab
Origins (recommended)



GENERAL EDUCATION

General Education forms the foundation of every student's academic journey at SNU. As a Christian liberal arts university, we are committed to equipping students with the knowledge, values, and skills essential for their development as both thoughtful Christians and engaged community leaders. Our General Education curriculum is intentionally designed to be both comprehensive and flexible—allowing students to pursue their individual interests while ensuring they graduate prepared for lifelong learning, service, and growth.

The General Education program consists of approximately 51 credit hours that introduce and develop important skills such as the:

- Importance of thinking critically and solving problems
- Ability to communicate effectively
- Appreciation of human creativity
- Importance of science and technology in the 21st century
- Power of social responsibility in our community
- Awareness of global diversity
- Role of our Christian faith in daily life

Students take at least one foundational course and one upper-level windows course in each of these areas.

Central to SNU's mission is the engagement of students in transformational learning experiences designed to explore what it means to seek truth together with a Christ-centered community of scholars.

YEAR 1

- Composition I & Composition II
- Introduction to Speech
- A foundation course in Social Responsibility
- A foundation course in Science & Technology
- Christian Faith & Life

YEAR 2

- Modern World
- Aesthetics
- A foundation course in Critical Thinking & Problem Solving
- Old Testament or New Testament Literature & Life

YEAR 3

- A windows course in Social Responsibility
- A windows course in Effective Communication
- A windows course in Science & Technology
- A windows course in Critical Thinking & Problem Solving

YEAR 4

- A windows course in Global Perspectives
- A windows course in Artistic Expression
- Foundations of Christian Belief