



Why UST

UST's unique Environmental Science and Studies program prepares students for work in governmental and nongovernmental organizations, consulting and engineering firms, private industry and nonprofit institutions, as well as for advanced studies in graduate school or law school.

Students graduating from this interdisciplinary program develop a variety of skills and knowledge including:

- A holistic, interdisciplinary foundation in environmental stewardship grounded in the Catholic intellectual tradition
- Knowledge and appreciation of creation and the complexity of environmental issues facing the human family
- Practical skills in the laboratory and the field
- Expertise suitable for employment in areas such as consulting, energy, sustainability, environmental quality, conservation, ecological restoration, waste management, urban or parks planning, and others
- Capacity for critical thinking
- Superior written and verbal skills
- High ethical standards

Choose UST

For information on admission to the University of St. Thomas, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 713-525-3500 or visit our website at www.stthom.edu/admissions.

If you are interested in learning more about Environmental Science & Studies, contact:

Sr. Damien Marie Savino, FSE, Ph.D., Chair
savinod@stthom.edu
 713-525-3894

www.stthom.edu/environmental

The University

The University of St. Thomas is truly a Shining Star in the heart of Houston.

- **The Newman Guide to Choosing a Catholic College:** Among 22 U.S. Catholic colleges and universities recommended by the Cardinal Newman Society, and among 28 such institutions worldwide
- **Range of choices:** Degree programs focused on business, sciences, liberal arts and education at the undergraduate and graduate levels
- **Specialty areas:** High acceptance rate in medical and dental schools for Pre-Med and Pre-Dental students
- **Personal instruction:** Average class size of 17
- **Personal approach:** Faculty know students by name
- **Nationally ranked:** Ranked 34th among universities offering master's degrees in the Western region by the *U.S. News & World Report* 2013 edition of "America's Best Colleges"
- **Nationally ranked:** Ranked by *The Princeton Review* as Best in the West in its Best Colleges: Region by Region online profile found at www.princetonreview.com
- **Study abroad:** The University of St. Thomas periodically ranks among the top 20% of U.S. universities whose students study abroad
- **Catholic tradition:** Houston's only Catholic university, founded by the Basilian Fathers in 1947



UNIVERSITY
 ST. THOMAS

Educating Leaders of Faith and Character

3800 Montrose Blvd.
 Houston, TX 77006
www.stthom.edu

The University of St. Thomas is a private institution committed to the liberal arts and to the religious, ethical and intellectual tradition of Catholic higher education.

Environmental Science & Studies



UNIVERSITY
 ST. THOMAS

Educating Leaders of Faith and Character



Educating Environmental Leaders for Tomorrow Today

Environmental Science and Studies

“The external deserts in the world are growing, because the internal deserts have become so vast.”

Pope Benedict XVI

The Environmental Science & Studies program at the University of St. Thomas is unique among environmental degree programs in the United States. While many universities offer programs that study the environment from the perspective of policy and science, UST goes a step further to explore environmental issues in light of the Catholic intellectual tradition and the moral imperative to care for the earth, especially as advanced by Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI and now Pope Francis. At the same time, it equips students with the technical skills needed to pursue graduate studies or become entry-level environmental professionals.

Since its inception, the department has offered degrees in both environmental science and studies. Environmental science is the interdisciplinary study of human interactions with the environment and includes studies in biology, chemistry, geology and physics. Environmental studies looks at the cultural and societal issues regarding our interaction with the physical and biological environment. Coursework for these degrees is complementary and helps students develop a holistic understanding of the complex nature of environmental problems.

The program also focuses on urban issues, with opportunities for hands-on field experiences and community service. The University’s location in Houston near Buffalo Bayou, Japhet Creek Linear Park, the Houston Arboretum, the Ship Channel and the Gulf of Mexico presents unique opportunities for environmental training and field work.

B.S. Degree Plans – Environmental Science

Majors:

- Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science
 - Earth Systems track
 - Teacher Preparation track which includes the option for a five-year Master of Education
 - Analytical track which includes a chemistry minor

B.A. Degree Plans – Environmental Studies

Majors:

- Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies
 - Natural Resources track
 - Sustainable Cities track

Joint Majors with Environmental Studies

- Catholic Studies
- Communication
- International Studies
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Five-year Master of Education

Minors

Environmental Science
Environmental Studies

Requirements

A complete list of requirements for ESS degree plans can be found on the UST website: www.stthom.edu/environmental.

“The ESS Teacher Prep track focuses on environmental science, while at the same time offering a strong interdisciplinary education in the sciences. This will help prepare me to teach any science in the secondary level more thoroughly to future students.

Hopefully, by my interdisciplinary approach to theology and the environment, I will be able to approach issues on the environment and religion from a new perspective, one that respects all aspects of life – not just human, not just animal, not just plant life – but a true holistic approach in whatever field I am called to work in.”

Marcus Walden, sophomore
Environmental Science and Theology double major

ESS courses include:

- Theology of Creation
- Authentic Development and Sustainability
- Introduction to the Earth Environment or Physical Geology
- Introduction to Watershed Science
- Introduction to the Human Environment
- Oceanographic and Atmospheric Science

- Coastal Ecology
- Energy for the Future
- Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Field Studies in Ecology and Environmental Science
- Environmental Policy and Law
- Internship or Research Thesis in Environmental Science and Studies
- Capstone Seminar in Environmental Science and Studies

Student Activities

Environmentally Concerned Organization of Students: ECOS is a student organization actively involved in environmental projects on campus and in the Houston metropolitan area. Throughout the year, ECOS hosts various field and service activities and organizes annual Earth Day activities.

Campus Recycling: UST has a growing student-run recycling program.

Projects and field excursions: Buffalo Bayou, Japhet Creek Linear Park, Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, the Port of Galveston, Texas State Parks, and other field studies in the United States and abroad.

“I’m studying the Natural Resources track, which has a variety of aspects – science, people, ethics and theology. I’ve learned so many things like how to use GIS, a computer program to make maps, analyze different environmental views and how to design my own field study.

I also participated in research this summer and it was an invaluable experience. I learned how to work in real lab settings, design procedures, take samples and present in front of large groups.”

Jennifer Osorio, junior
Environmental Studies major

