Equity and justice play an integral role in environmental affairs. When we recognize the ways in which social and biophysical factors are interconnected, we tap our potential to boost sustainability—and human rights.

At SNRE, Environmental Justice students and researchers are examining how and why inequalities arise and are maintained around the world. Through this revolutionary lens, we are tackling global issues such as climate change, renewable resources, environmental workforce dynamics, environmental health, sustainability, agriculture, food security, forest dynamics, energy issues, hazard exposure, community revitalization, open space, conflict mediation, and more.

Our Environmental Justice faculty is at the forefront the field’s teaching, research, scholarship, and activism. SNRE was the first school to launch an Environmental Justice program that offered undergraduate and graduate degree specializations, and our campus is now home to one of the largest clusters of the field’s faculty and students nationwide.

“I chose to study Environmental Justice at SNRE because it gives me the opportunity to work at the intersection of my interests in critical race theory, food justice, ethobotany of the African diaspora, and the environment. I also appreciate the flexibility that SNRE has provided to create my own path of study.”

— Whitney Smith, Environmental Justice student track leader
CURRICULUM

As an Environmental Justice student in SNRE, you will develop a broad understanding of the historical and contemporary factors that shape environmental policymaking and the emergence of environmental justice movements around the world, including the mechanisms that give rise to class, gender, racial, and other types of disparities. You also will investigate the causes and consequences of inequitable distributions of environmental benefits and hazards.

SNRE's program is truly interdisciplinary, blending coursework from U-M's schools of Public Health, Public Policy, and Urban Planning, and encouraging electives in law, sociology, and political science. Topics of study include pollution, exposure to hazardous waste, poverty, urban affairs, spatial analyses, climate change, biodiversity conservation, common-pool resources, food security, social movement dynamics, water policy, public health, overconsumption, conscientious consumerism, institutional design, and business and environment.

Course sampling:

- Food and Fuel: Research Questions at the Base of the Economy
- Race, Space, and Disparate Environmental Impacts
- Political Ecology, Environmental Security, and Conflict
- Climate Change Adaptation
- International Environmental Policy
- Negotiation Skills in Environmental Dispute Resolution
- Public Opinion and the Environment

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CAREERS

As an Environmental Justice graduate, you can leverage your knowledge and skills to pursue a career in education, research, policy development and management, consulting, grant writing, advocacy, journalism, and more.

TOP 10 EMPLOYERS

- Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
- Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice
- Environmental Resource Management
- The Nature Conservancy
- Sierra Club
- Surdna Foundation
- Ten Thousand Villages
- Tetra Tech
- Transformative Action Institute
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

FACULTY

Arun Agrawal
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