The fate of our planet depends on a new generation of highly skilled conservation ecologists. As an SNRE student in this interdisciplinary field of study, you will become a change-driven scientist capable of developing novel approaches to the sustainable management of wildlands, protected areas, and aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

The Earth’s oceans, lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands are increasingly focal points for global concerns about usage, pollution, and depletion. In addition, biodiversity loss has been identified as one of the great challenges of our time. The potential demise of one-fourth or more of the Earth’s species before the end of this century represents an irreversible loss of nature and may significantly undermine the sustainable use of nature’s services.

Conservation ecologists are working to reverse the environmental damage done by the rapid encroachment of human populations and economies, and build a long-term plan to sustain our precious natural resources.

“I chose the Conservation Ecology field of study because I feel that any kind of environmental work I plan to do should come from a place of strong ecological knowledge. This track is helping me build a baseline understanding of the processes at the root of all environmental policy, management, conservation, education, and advocacy.”

—Daniel Buonaiuto, Conservation Ecology student track leader
CURRICULUM

In SNRE’s Conservation Ecology classes, labs, and fieldwork, you will study local, regional, national, and international environmental issues ranging from urban settings to wilderness areas. You may focus your coursework around a specific topic or blend classes and experiences to create a truly interdisciplinary experience. You will learn the fundamental concepts and techniques necessary for the study of ecosystems, as well as how to apply them to solve complex problems, preparing you to become both a scientist and practitioner in the field.

Course sampling:
- Fluvial Ecosystems
- Geology of the Great Lakes
- Coastal Hydraulics
- Forest Ecology
- Ecological Risk Assessment
- Psychology of Environmental Stewardship
- Field Skills in Wildlife Behavior

CAREERS

Graduates of SNRE’s Conservation Ecology field of study are well prepared to work in research, management, restoration, consulting, and education within government, nonprofits, environmental consulting agencies, and private corporations. Specific positions include fisheries biologists, limnologists, ecologists, remote-sensing specialists, wetlands ecologists, and natural resource managers, just name a few.

TOP 10 EMPLOYERS
- Environmental Consulting and Technology
- Environmental Resources Management
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- National Park Service
- National Wildlife Federation
- The Nature Conservancy
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Geological Survey
- World Wildlife Fund

FACULTY

Sara Alderstein
Dima Beletsky
Kathleen Bergen
Jennifer Blesh
Dan Brown
Allen Burton
Bradley Cardinale
Bill Currie
James Diana
Paul Drevnick
Johannes Foufopoulos
Bob Grese
Ines Ibáñez
Tom Johengen
Bobbi S. Low
Ivette Perfecto
Catherine Riseng
Don Scavia
Mike Wiley
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