The undergraduate and graduate programs in environmental studies are interdisciplinary in nature, exposing students to the critical links between the areas of environmental life sciences, technology and policy. At the undergraduate level, students gain the necessary skills for entry-level field and research positions. Class lectures and guest speakers introduce the importance of policy-making and awareness in the environmental field, while laboratory and internship experiences provide a working knowledge of the latest in environmental technology and field practices.

The graduate programs provide two options for students to further their studies in the environmental life sciences. The Master of Science in Environmental Studies is a thesis-based program designed for those individuals interested pursuing research in the environmental field. The Master of Environmental Studies (the non-thesis program) is a terminal, two-year professional degree for individuals working in the private/public sector of the environmental field.

- Environmental Studies, Master of (M.Envs.) (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/vcu-life-sciences/center-environmental-studies/environmental-studies-menvs)
- Environmental Studies, Master of (M.Envs.), accelerated Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies (B.S.) to master’s (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/vcu-life-sciences/center-environmental-studies/environmental-studies-menvs-accelerated)
- Environmental Studies, Master of Science (M.S.) (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/vcu-life-sciences/center-environmental-studies/environmental-studies-menvs-accelerated)

ENVS 515. Tropical Field Ecology. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture and 3 laboratory hours. 4 credits. Study abroad at a tropical location. This course provides students with an immersive study of tropical ecology and conservation through a unique blend of rigorous science and community engagement. While studying abroad, students learn about tropical ecosystems by collecting data on both organisms and their habitats and by reading and discussing scientific papers. Students also engage with local conservation organizations leading efforts to protect habitats. Progress and research findings are intended to be presented in a symposium format. See the Schedule of Classes for specific regions and topics.
ENVS 602. Environmental Technology. 1-3 Hours.
This course gives students the opportunity to develop skills not available in the traditional academic setting. Students take two to four workshops offered by the Center for Environmental Studies in its Environmental Technology Training Workshop series. Students will complete an additional project related to each workshop or series of workshops for evaluation purposes.

ENVS 603. Environmental Research Methods. 3 Hours.
Prerequisite: STAT 543 or permission of instructor. Provides students with an understanding of statistical and research methods as they apply to environmental research. Students will complete projects on available data sets. This course emphasizes the application of current data analysis methodologies, including the graphical display of summary data, statistical modeling and prediction, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

ENVS 628. Environmental Policy and Administration. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course explores the relationship between environmental policy and its implementation within a democratic political system. It includes an investigation of basic concepts that underlie environmental policy and the difficulties encountered when attempting to apply them in a real-world setting. It also surveys a variety of tools and methodologies that may be useful in attempting to develop and implement environmental policy. Crosslisted as: PADM 628.

ENVS 640. River Policy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines public policy related to rivers and watersheds. Uses the James River for exploring and illustrating generic river policy issues. Crosslisted as: GVPA 640.

ENVS 650. Pesticides, Health and the Environment. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: Course work in toxicology, chemistry or permission of instructor. This course is a balanced overview of the benefits and adverse effects of pesticides in the environment and as related to human health. The class provides an interdisciplinary study of pesticide use, fate, exposure, transport and effects.

ENVS 654. Environmental Remote Sensing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: ENVS 602, or permission of the instructor. This course provides a basic and applied understanding on the use of digital remote sensor data to detect, identify and characterize earth resources. Students are required to demonstrate an understanding of the spectral attributes of soils, vegetation and water resources through various labs involving both image- and non-image-based optical spectral data. Crosslisted as: URSP 654/Biol 654.

ENVS 655. Hydrogeology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Focuses on the fundamental concepts of groundwater flow and contaminant transport with an emphasis toward environmental issues such as waste disposal, surface water hydrology, groundwater hydrology and wells, environmental impacts and hydrogeological systems. Allows students to understand and interpret the basic environmental hydrogeologic characteristics of a site and to use that knowledge to provide an informed opinion on protection and remediation.

ENVS 660. Virginia Environmental Law. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An overview of relevant Virginia environmental law and regulations in the fields of environmental planning, management and policy. Provides students with working knowledge of documentation necessary for compliance with state environmental programs.

ENVS 670. Pollution Physiology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: Course work in: ecology, toxicology or animal physiology; or permission of instructor. Courses provides an in-depth presentation of the physiology of animals in polluted habitats and examines the responses of aquatic organisms exposed to pollutants and other environmental stressors, including: thermal and salinity changes, anoxia and hypoxia, hypercapnia, chemical contamination, sedimentation and microbial contamination. The course takes a comparative approach and focuses on non-human systems. Both laboratory and field experiences are provided.

ENVS 675. Advanced Environmental Applications of GIS. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: ENVS 521 or ENVS 602. The objective of this course is to give students a greater understanding of advanced GIS topics using environmental data. Knowledge gained in this course will give students the tools required to address complex natural resources and environmental issues by providing experience in advanced spatial and geostatistical analysis and environmental modeling. Students will also be exposed to programming, open source tools and interfaces that are used to disseminate large environmental data sets.

ENVS 691. Topics in Environmental Studies. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 1-4 lecture hours. 1-4 credits. May be repeated with a different topic for a maximum of 12 credits. Provides an in-depth study of a selected environmental topic. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester and prerequisites.

ENVS 692. Independent Study. 1-3 Hours.
Variable hours. 1-3 credits per semester. May be repeated with different topics for a maximum of 6 credits. An in-depth study of a selected environmental topic.

ENVS 693. Internship in Environmental Studies. 1-3 Hours.
Each credit hour represents 60 clock hours of work. Provides students with a workplace experience in a public or private agency related to Environmental Studies.

ENVS 697. Research. 1-3 Hours.
Planning, preparation, completion, and presentation of research in environmental studies.

ENVS 698. Thesis. 1-3 Hours.
Planning, preparation, completion, and presentation of research in environmental studies.