Environmental Science Department

Portrait of the Major
Thiel College’s environmental science program offers students a thorough foundation in the basic natural sciences of chemistry, biology and geology complemented with a number of courses in the social sciences and humanities that provide a political, economic and ethical context for the analysis of environmental concerns.

Curriculum Highlights
In order to be prepared to work in environmental disciplines, a thorough interdisciplinary approach is needed. Multiple approaches to learning about the Earth and how humans interact with it are needed to better understand our environment, to cope with environmental problems and to plan for environmental needs. The environmental science major satisfies these needs through a group of fundamental courses in natural and social sciences and in ethics plus a series of special interdisciplinary courses and a pre-career internship in environmental science.

Thiel also offers an environmental management cooperative program with the School of Forestry and Environmental Sciences, Duke University, Durham, N.C., leading to a master’s degree in environmental management. Your first three years are completed at Thiel followed by two years at Duke. A B.S. degree from Thiel is awarded after successful completion of the first year at Duke.

Special Features
By studying environmental science at Thiel College, you’ll be able to:
• Develop an in-depth understanding of science and its current and potential environmental applications.
• Build writing, communication and critical thinking skills—which enable effective explanation of ideas to both scientists and non-scientists.
• Study with knowledgeable individuals—at Thiel, your professors are practicing professionals in various environmental areas, including environmental law, land-use planning, hydrogeology and geographic information systems, and bring real-world experience to the classroom.
• Gain hands-on experience—through both laboratory experiments and internship opportunities.
• Receive personal attention—thanks to small class sizes and involved faculty.

Career and Graduate School Outlook
With an awareness of environmental concerns increasing, environmental scientists will be needed to study environmental quality and provide means to living less environmentally harmful lives. Thiel’s environmental science graduates have been employed in a variety of settings ranging from private consulting firms to state and federal environmental agencies. Many have chosen additional graduate level training either directly upon graduation from Thiel or later in their careers.

Contact Information
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“The classroom interaction in the Environmental Science [Department] at Thiel sets it apart. In my experience, most of my classes had 8-10 students. This allowed for a lot of one on one time between each student and professor. My adviser, Dr. Anna Reinsel, made a difference in my college life. She was always available for assistance on a homework question, a suggestion for a resume, or to help map out my class schedule. If there was anything she wasn’t sure about she would always be sure to get an answer for me.”

Darren McAninch ’12
wastewater treatment operator
Castle Cheese, Sharpsville, PA
Major: Environmental Science
Clubs and Activities: Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, Ski Club

Liz Lengyel ’14,
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Major: Environmental Science
Clubs and Activities: Environmental Club, Criminal Justice Club, Habitat for Humanity and Tomcats Inspiring Hope

“Thiel has an awesome Environmental Science Department that has been around for a long time so the professors that are teaching really know what they are talking about. The classes can be really fun and environmental science is kind of a “new” thing with all the jobs opening up so it’s really exciting to learn about new things scientists are doing in this field. Having a liberal arts education is really beneficial to me. I’ve not only learned a lot about my particular field, but I’ve also learned a little about many other fields that are offered on campus. I feel prepared to go out into the real world and not only be ready for my field, but I also feel confident that I can use the knowledge that I’ve obtained from other classes and help to solve problems in a more effective way than just specifically using knowledge from my major classes.”

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