# Undergraduate Degree Program

## Environmental Studies - BS

### Mission Statement
The mission of the department is to prepare students to work in professions with an environmental focus. The Bachelor of Science degree emphasizes the natural and physical science aspects of environmental assessment and analysis. Environmental Studies is an interdisciplinary program, and faculty represent disciplines from natural, physical and social sciences.

### Student Learning Outcomes

**FIU Environmental Studies - BS graduates should be able to achieve the following:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content/Discipline Knowledge Skills</th>
<th>Direct Measures</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduates will demonstrate competency in the subject knowledge of Environmental Studies.</td>
<td><strong>Procedure:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A three member faculty panel will assess ALL research papers by seniors written in our senior capstone course using the attached rubric (5 point rating scale) describing 4 indicators of subject knowledge.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Indicators: (mean of 3 needed to show proficiency)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Identifies key issues in Environmental Studies</td>
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<td>- Addresses causes and effects</td>
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<td>- Demonstrates interdisciplinary understanding</td>
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<td>- Knowledge of research methods</td>
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<td>A mean score for each student will be obtained from the faculty ratings.</td>
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</table>

**Sampling:**

ALL research papers by seniors written in our senior capstone course.
**Minimum Criteria for Success:**
Graduates will obtain an average minimum score of 12 on the subject knowledge rubric.

**Technology Integration:**
Graduates will demonstrate competency in using technology to present ideas by using PowerPoint and other multimedia tools.

**Procedure:**
All majors will present a seminar on an undergraduate research paper to peers and professors in the Senior Seminar. A three to four member faculty panel will use the rubric describing technology skills to score (5 point maximum). Scores are averaged.

**Sampling:**
All students

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Critical Thinking Skills</strong></th>
<th><strong>Direct Measures</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduates will demonstrate competency in critical thinking.</td>
<td>A three member faculty panel will assess ALL research papers by seniors written in our senior capstone course using the attached rubric (5 point rating scale) describing 4 indicators of critical thinking skills.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Indicators: (mean of 3 needed to show proficiency)**
- Identifies & summarizes the problem/question
- Analyzes & examines
- Assesses the influence of context
- Constructs & interprets

A mean score for each student will be obtained from the faculty ratings.

**Sampling:**
**Communication Skills**

Graduates will demonstrate effective written communication skills.

**Direct Measures**

**Procedure:**
A three member faculty panel will assess ALL research papers by seniors written in our senior capstone course using the attached rubric (5 point rating scale) describing 4 indicators of written communication skills.

Indicators: (mean of 3 needed to show proficiency)
- Content and development
- Organization
- Language
- Conventions

A mean score for each student will be obtained from the faculty ratings.

**Sampling:**
ALL research papers by seniors written in our senior capstone course.

**Minimum Criteria for Success:**
Graduates will obtain an average minimum score of 12 on the written communication rubric.

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Graduates will demonstrate effective oral communication skills.

**Procedure:**
A three member faculty panel will assess ALL research paper presentations by seniors given in our senior capstone course using the attached rubric (5 point rating scale) describing 4 indicators of oral communication skills.

Indicators: (mean of 3 needed to show proficiency)
- Subject knowledge
- Organization
- Connection to audience
- Delivery/Use of Technology

A mean score for each student will be obtained from the faculty ratings.

**Sampling:**
ALL research paper presentations by seniors given in our senior capstone course.

**Minimum Criteria for Success:**
Graduates will attain an average minimum of 12 points on the oral communication rubric.