“This minor brings together science, policy and philosophy into a comprehensive perspective on our social, political and environmental problems of today. As a student of math and sciences at a liberal arts college, I found the environmental studies minor to be academically fulfilling and a holistic step in my college career.”

— Cara Lauria ‘15

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES

What do cricket frogs in the Francis Marion forest have to do with climate change? How do property rights affect economic policy? And what effect do antibacterial products have on soil and marsh sediments? These questions and others fall within the realm of environmental and sustainability studies – an area that enhances our understanding of how political, social, cultural and economic activities relate to the physical world.

At the College of Charleston, this program can help you make sense of important issues that confront society, and that knowledge can give you an edge in the professional world or graduate school. By combining courses in the natural sciences (geology, physics, biology and chemistry) with those in the social sciences (anthropology, psychology, political science, sociology and philosophy) – as well as studies in economics, art history and math – this program offers insight into the inter-relatedness of events and an appreciation for environmental issues on a local, national and international scale.

The opportunities for hands-on research are unlimited. Our students have:

›› investigated the affects of coastal erosion on the wildlife habitat of nearby barrier islands.
›› undertaken energy audits of the College’s entire campus.
›› studied the ecological benefits of small-scale refinements in mass-transit systems.

The faculty who teach our courses represent a cross section of expertise, spanning areas as diverse as ethnobotany, natural disasters, environmental justice and the documentation of cultural landscapes.

In this program, internships are key. Our students have interned with:

›› the City of Charleston’s planning department (to develop its 180-page sustainability plan).
›› an environmental engineering firm (learning the basic operations).
›› a local municipal water works (helping to assess water quality).