



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
WHITEWATER

ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES- ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to prepare students to engage with a complex, dynamic, and interdependent world by:

- Providing them with in-depth knowledge about human cultures and the physical world;
- Fostering intellectual and practical skills that enable analysis of spatial patterns and processes, evidenced-based problem solving, and effective oral and written communication; and
- Encouraging a sense of social responsibility through the examination of real-world cases.

Faculty are committed to preparing students for employment opportunities in the private and public sectors, the pursuit of graduate degrees, and to develop meaningful relationships to their university, professional, and local communities. We meet these goals through classroom lecture and discussion, collaborative assignments, undergraduate research, internships, field courses, and travel abroad.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Student learning outcomes (SLOs) are statements of what a student will know or be able to do when they have completed a program. They represent the knowledge and skills a program has determined are most important for students to gain from that program. The most useful SLOs are specific and measurable so the program can accurately assess the degree to which students have achieved each outcome, and they align with college and institution mission and values. Data on achievement of SLOs is used to make improvements in the program and increase student success.

Students who graduate from UW-Whitewater with a degree in Environmental Sciences-Environmental Resource Management will meet the following student learning outcomes:

- Have knowledge of significant current and historical environmental issues at the regional, national, and global scales, and be able to describe the origins, drivers, and implications of each from both scientific and social perspectives;

- Be proficient at a broad range of skills and techniques needed to collect, analyze, and disseminate information related to contemporary environmental problems. Students will be able to demonstrate an advanced understanding of research techniques in their chosen field;
- Be properly prepared for success in the 21st Century following the LEAP Essential Learning Outcomes (AAC&U, 2011):
 - Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World
 - Intellectual and Practical Skills
 - Personal and Social Responsibility
 - Integrative and Applied Learning;
- Recognize the vulnerability of natural resources to human activity and the need to nurture and manage them in a way that provides opportunity for sustainable development without compromising their long-term abundance and renewability;
- Understand major environmental governance theories and approaches to solving environmental problems including technical solutions, market approaches, regulation, and behavior modification. In addition, they will be able to demonstrate basic knowledge of the organizations that address environmental issues at various scales; and
- Gain a basic understanding of environmental law in the United States and have the ability to recognize the objectives of the law, identify responsible parties and their legal obligations under the law, and evaluate the actions of these parties against their responsibilities.