



Our program prepares students to use what they learn in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities to explore human interactions with the environment. In the humanities concentration our courses ask: “What does it mean to be a human being on this planet? How do different concepts of ‘environment’ shape our lives and belonging?” This major cultivates sincere self-reflection and environmental imagination within a rigorous history of ideas and a broad philosophical context. We prepare you to lead a meaningful life with and for others and to work for a more just and sustainable world.

This is the place.

New Orleans is the perfect place to engage in a broad humanistic exploration of how we live in and shape our environment. Our city and region is one of the most culturally diverse and creative in the world and is becoming a center for new ideas and new approaches to sustainable living. As ecological and environmental challenges touch all of us at local, regional, and global levels, this is a great opportunity to explore and become a participant.

The Loyno community offers many opportunities for student involvement in our environments, both manmade and natural. Our city is home to many newly established organizations that focus on environmental sustainability. Loyno proudly supports several student environmental organizations including Loyola Association of Students for Sustainability, Loyola University Community Action Program, Loyola Natural History Club, and Environmental Law Society.

Courses

The courses listed below represent the curriculum offered within this discipline. This humanities environmental studies program requires supplemental curriculum from the College of Arts & Sciences to qualify for that concentration. Here’s a sample of what you can expect to learn and do:

Foundations in Environmental Studies

Students engage in major questions of environmental studies through readings, class discussions, interaction with faculty and others working in the field, field observation, and through their own inquiry. Required for all environmental science and environmental studies majors.

Environmental Ethics

This course examines our moral responsibilities to the beings in the natural world. Among the topics discussed are environmental justice, biodiversity loss, animal welfare, wilderness preservation, world population, global climate change, toxins and pollution, duties to future generations, and the meaning of sustainability.

Christianity and the Environment

Students develop an understanding of the universe and of the Earth as divine manifestations. The course focuses particularly on the Creation-affirming tradition within Christianity and on this view’s capacity to inform contemporary scientific perspectives and interpretations with an appreciation for and articulation of their sacred dimensions.