The Environmental Sciences, Policy and Management (ESPM) major is designed to address the needs posed by the complexity of environmental and renewable resource issues that are faced on a state, national, and global level. This interdisciplinary, environmental major will prepare you to solve environmental problems from an integrated knowledge base. You’ll learn about global environmental challenges and possible solutions. Your studies will open the door to forward-thinking career paths that make a real difference in the world.

The mission of the ESPM major is to:

- improve the basis for environmental decision-making by integrating physical, biological, and social sciences with policy analysis and management;
- educate the next generation of environmental professionals and leaders;
- foster innovative approaches for the education of environmental professionals;
- facilitate science/social science/policy linkages within and beyond the University.

You’ll complete a set of common "integrated core" courses that focus on problem-solving using environmental sciences, policy, ethics, management models, and communication theory. Not only will you learn through your classroom experiences, but you’ll also get the chance to do fieldwork.

Tracks within the ESPM major include:

- Conservation and Resource Management
• Environmental Education and Communication
• Environmental Science
• Policy, Planning, Law and Society

Student Experiences

There are more than 900+ student groups that you can get involved in at the University of Minnesota. Specifically, our CFANS student groups are designed to help you gain real-world experience and meet fellow students who share your interests.

Some groups that are popular with students in this major include:

• Environmental Student Association
• Voices for Environmental Judgement
• Outdoor Club

Study Abroad Options

More than 250 study abroad programs in 70 countries are available to University of Minnesota students. Study abroad can offer a global perspective on your studies in agriculture. Learn more about CFANS study abroad options.

“Participating in study abroad helps you develop a global perspective on environmental issues, prepares you to envision scientific solutions to environmental problems throughout the world, and provides opportunities for future international work. It will help you become a true global citizen.”

—Len Ferrington, Professor, Department of Entomology, Instructor, Environmental Sciences, Policy, and Management
You might also explore

Agricultural Education
Agricultural and Food Business Management
Soil Science Minor
Sustainable Agriculture Minor
Sustainable Systems Management
Sustainability Studies Minor

Associated Careers

Arborists, Energy Conservationists, Environmental Lawyers, Environmental Planners, Environmental Scientists, Hydrologists, Legal Assistants, Naturalists, Policy Analysts, Public Educators, Research Technicians, Sustainability Consultants