

## Introduction to the Major

**Global environmental studies explores the complex relationship between humans and the environment, and how we can make a difference in the world.**

As a GES major at Clark, you will work with nationally and internationally renowned faculty to study how economic, cultural, and political processes transform the environment, and in turn are shaped by it. Join a vibrant community united by a desire to address today's environmental challenges, and build the skills needed to make a difference. Explore the relationship between society and environment from different perspectives, from biology and economics to psychology and visual arts.

### Highlights

In the multidisciplinary GES major, you learn in the classroom, the local community, and the world. Courses often feature fieldwork, community partnerships with organizations like Mass Audubon, and citizen science projects.



**"The GES program has transformed my understanding of how integrated humans are with the environment. It isn't the only pristine reserves, but also in our backyards and homes."**

- Amritha Pai '24



### What can I do with my major?

#### **JOBS & EMPLOYERS**

Practice opportunities might include environmental law with a major nongovernmental organization, environmental art in a science center, climate justice campaigns, pollution research, or alternative technology design.

Graduates work in policy, programs, data analytics, and more for organizations including the Urban Green Council, Wellesley College, and Energy and Resource Solutions.

#### **GRADUATE PROGRAMS**

Alumni have pursued advanced study in landscape architecture, environmental science and policy, and GIS at Harvard, Clark, and other top schools.

### **Foundational Courses**

**The GES program's core courses are divided into 4 types**

- **State of the Earth:** What are the contemporary relations between society and environment?
- **Natural Science:** What are the earth's physical, chemical and biological processes that shape the landscapes of the planet?
- **Politics and Economy:** How does the economy impact the environment?
- **Culture:** How do we understand the environment?

# YOUR CLARK EXPERIENCE



**Discover and Demonstrate your Purpose**



**Cultivate Your Communities**



**Engage Locally & Globally**



**Develop your Professional Identity**

## Year 1



### **Explore the GES Major**

Stop by Jefferson Academic Center to learn more about the program. Consult the program faculty and staff to understand degree requirements and core and specialization courses.



### **Learn about campus resources**

Visit the Goddard library, the Writing Center, and the Career Connections Center (CCC) to learn about the resources available to you.



### **Get involved**

Attend a meeting of CUGA, the student-run Clark Undergraduate Geography Association. Visit the Office of Community Engagement and Volunteering to learn about opportunities to make connections and build skills.

Check out activities through Clark's Outing Club and other groups. Consider courses that feature fieldwork and off-campus field trips.

## Year 2



### **Dig in and declare your major**

Start thinking about which specialization area aligns best with your interests and goals. Work with staff to select a GES adviser and declare your major.



### **Build your skills**

Consider courses in skills and methods including GIS, Visualization and Film, Research Design, Communication, and Qualitative or Quantitative Analysis.



### **Go beyond the classroom**

Attend internship and career fairs. Log on to Handshake to search for opportunities. Learn about HERO, a paid undergraduate summer program at Clark focused on environmental research.

Explore funding sources for research and creative projects. Check out the CCC's Opportunity Funding page.

## Year 3



### **Serve in student associations**

Consider running for a CUGA leadership position. Serve as undergraduate student representative for Geography Department meetings.



### **Grow your networks**

Join a professional association. Attend a regional or national conference. Present your original research or internship work at ClarkFEST or an academic conference.



### **Plan for senior year and beyond**

Talk with your adviser about whether to pursue an honors thesis next year.

Learn about Clark's Accelerated Degree Program (ADP) and see if it fits with your goals. Explore with your GES faculty or advisor the prospect of an honors thesis in your senior year

## Year 4



### **Strengthen your networks**

Attend Practicing Geography Week and use ClarkCONNECT to engage with alumni and learn about potential opportunities.



### **Share your knowledge and give back**

Work as a Peer Learning Assistant (PLA). Lead a discussion section for an introductory course. Present at ClarkFEST and support your fellow student researchers.



### **What's next?**

Talk with your advisers about your plans. Identify faculty who know you well and will serve as references or write letters of recommendation. Update your professional profiles including LinkedIn. Schedule a mock job interview through the CCC to get feedback.