CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT, AND SOCIETY

Bachelor of Arts

CLARK UNIVERSITY

Introduction to the Major

Build a sustainable and just future.

How do climate policies shape economies? What can data reveal about environmental justice? How can societies adapt to a changing planet? As a climate, environment, and society major, you'll explore key questions through an interdisciplinary curriculum designed for action. You'll build a strong foundation in earth's biophysical and societal systems, sharpen your ability to interpret complex data, and develop technical skills like Geographic Information Science (GIS) and data visualization.

Highlights

Learn from professors whose research — often in partnership with organizations like NASA, the National Science Foundation, Oxfam America, and the Wildlife Conservation Society — inform international debates on topics such as socioeconomic development, landscape transformation, climate change, and urbanization.

"We recognize climate and global change as the most defining challenge of our time — a human problem requiring human solutions that are just, equitable, and sustainable."

- Lou Leonard, Dean of the School of Climate, Environment, and Society

What can I do with my major?

JOBS & EMPLOYERS

Climate, environment, and society encourages critically informed, while also engaging practical work with social, ecological, and political intent. Professional opportunities might include environmental law with a major nongovernmental organization, environmental art in a science center, climate justice campaigns, pollution research, corporate social responsibility programs, or sustainable technology design.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

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

Foundational Courses

To complete the major, you'll take courses distributed across six components:

- CES 101: Introduction to Climate, Environment, and Society
- Three introductory core courses
- One quantitative literacy course
- Two skills courses
- Four elective courses
- A capstone with flexibility to complete an internship, an upper-level course, directed study, an honors project, or research experience

Find out more at clarku.edu/programs/major/climate-environment-and-society-ba/

YOUR CLARK EXPERIENCE

Discover and Demonstrate your Purpose

Cultivate Your Communities

Engage Locally & Globally

Develop your Professional Identity

Year 1

Explore the CES Major

Explore the School of Climate, Environment, and Society. Consult the program faculty and staff to understand degree requirements and core courses. Explore courses such as GEOG156 - Getting to Zero: Clean Energy for a Climate-Safe Future or EN105 - Understanding the Water-Energy- Food Nexus.

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

Visit community engagement fairs to learn about opportunities to make connections and build skills. Consider courses that feature fieldwork and off-campus field trips such as Problems of Practice courses.

Year 2

Dig in and declare your major

Start thinking about which specialization area aligns best with your interests and goals. Work with CES faculty to declare your major.

Build your resume

Start crafting your resume with resources from the Career Connections Center. Upload to Handshake for review and feedback. Create a LinkedIn profile and start building your network.

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

Year 3

Expand your horizons

Explore community-engaged research and practice opportunities. Work with your peers, faculty, and the community to explore issues like rainforest biodiversity, AI in climate science or the warming Arctic.

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 your future plans and goals. Make sure you are on track to complete major requirements. Learn about Clark's 4+1 Accelerated Master's Degree and see if it fits with your goals.

Year 4

Pull it all together

Your capstone project draws on all your knowledge and experience at Clark. Advocate for a cause or share your passions through a research experience, an internship, an upper-level course, directed study, or an honors project.

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.