GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, AND SUSTAINABILITY

College of Arts and Sciences
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Corey M. Johnson, Department Head
Dan Royall, Associate Department Head
Jay Lennartson, Director of Undergraduate Studies
Rick Bunch, Graduate Program Director
Aaron S. Allen, Director of Environment and Sustainability Program

Mission Statement

The mission of the Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability is to advance understanding of the interconnected natural and human worlds through our interdisciplinary research, teaching, and service. GES is a student-centered department with a commitment to rigorous classroom instruction and providing opportunities for field-based inquiry. Our faculty are leaders in their fields who translate their expertise into cutting-edge applied and theoretical teaching and research in our undergraduate, masters and doctoral programs. We prepare students for a wide range of careers and advanced research fields including sustainability, physical geography, urban planning, Geographic Information Science (GISc), and environmental fields.

GES believes that our work can and should contribute to a more just, equitable, and sustainable world. We affirm UNC Greensboro’s commitment to equal opportunity in education and employment for all persons and actively seek to increase representation from historically underrepresented groups. We acknowledge that fields of study represented in GES historically have struggled to attract students and faculty from diverse backgrounds and that the current makeup of GES does not mirror the diversity of UNC Greensboro. We therefore seek to create spaces that are welcoming of diversity in many forms, including race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, geographic origin, immigration status, socioeconomic background, political beliefs, veteran status, disability, family status, and age.

About

The Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability offers curricula with three principal objectives: to promote the understanding of the locational dimensions of human behavior in their environmental context; to offer courses of study through which concepts and methods are applied to understanding economic, environmental, and social problems at the local, regional, and global scales; and to promote sustainability through the interconnected lenses of social equity, the environment, economy, and aesthetics. Thus, the Department contributes an important dimension to the university student’s liberal education and provides practical training in important contemporary areas of concern as well as the background appropriate for certain vocations.

Graduates of geography programs have found careers in business and industry, in urban and regional planning agencies, in departments of federal and state governments, and in teaching. Job titles include city or regional planner, cartographer, demographer, resource analyst, land or economic developer, location analyst, and teacher. Many graduates find that an undergraduate degree in geography is an excellent foundation for advanced graduate work or professional training in planning, business, or law.

Graduates of environmental and sustainability programs go on to careers in non-profits, government, and the private sector as well as to graduate studies in a variety of disciplines. Career paths are numerous and include advocacy, agriculture, business, design, education, enforcement, journalism, law, nature and land protection, organizing for social and environmental justice, tourism and recreation, etc. Our students come from diverse backgrounds, participate regularly in internships and study abroad, and benefit from personalized advising.

Special facilities of the department include fully equipped laboratories in computer cartography, geographic information systems, remote sensing, and physical geography. The Department has led annual credit-bearing field courses since the early 1980s.

Graduate Programs

The Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability offers a M.A. in Applied Geography, a M.S. in Environment and Sustainability, a Ph.D. in Geography, a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Climate Justice, a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Conservation, Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Environmental Humanities, a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Global and Regional Studies Geography, and a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Sustainability. The department also offers a a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Urban and Economic Development jointly with the Department of Political Science; for more information, see the program page (https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/political-science/urban-economic-development-pbc/). The programs focus on the application of theory and methods in geography toward the understanding of problems related to economic development, environmental quality, population change, and social well-being in urban, rural, regional, and international contexts.

Environment and Sustainability Program

Aaron S. Allen, Director and Honors Program Liaison

The Environment & Sustainability Program is an interdisciplinary program that fosters understanding of the relationships between human societies and the natural, physical, and biological settings in which life on Earth exists. Our graduate degree (M.S.), two undergraduate majors (B.A.), and two minors all integrate perspectives of the natural sciences, social sciences, and arts and humanities.

The program degrees build on the unique definition of sustainability at UNC Greensboro (http://sustainability.uncg.edu), where “Academics, operations, and outreach are conducted with careful attention to the enduring interconnectedness of social equity, the environment, the economy, and aesthetics.” Our degrees require electives in each of those four areas: natural sciences, equity and society, development and economics, and ethics and aesthetics.

Students work with diverse faculty and staff from across campus and community (1) to learn how to gather and integrate information about environmental and sustainability problems from multiple disciplines, (2) to think critically about the causes of environmental and sustainability problems, (3) to propose effective solutions and evaluate their strengths and weaknesses, and (4) to communicate their ideas clearly. Our students come from a variety of backgrounds and are eligible for internships and study abroad, and all receive expert advising from program faculty. Graduates will be well prepared for roles as educated citizens who are especially well informed about the environment and for numerous career opportunities in the arts, sciences, and professions.
paths that require a broad range of knowledge about environmental and sustainability issues.

**Professor**
Rick L. Bunch
Keith G. Debbage
Corey Michael Johnson
Paul A. Knapp
Jeffrey C. Patton
Dan Royall
Selima Sultana

**Associate Professor**
Zhi-Jun Liu
Sarah J Praskievicz

**Academic Professional Associate Professor**
James A. Nelson

**Assistant Professor**
Wenliang Li
John G. Stehlin

**Academic Professional Assistant Professor**
Plaxedes Chitiyo

**Senior Lecturer**
Mary Bee Hall-Brown
G.Jay Lennartson

**Lecturer**
Shanna N Eller
Shaleen A Miller

G Graduate-level faculty

**Jointly-Appointed Faculty**
Aaron S. Allen, Associate Professor (jointly appointed with the School of Music) and Director of Environment and Sustainability Program

- Geography, B.S. ([catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/geography-environment-sustainability/geography-bs/](https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/geography-environment-sustainability/geography-bs/))
- Climate Justice Undergraduate Minor ([catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/geography-environment-sustainability/climate-justice-minor/](https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/geography-environment-sustainability/climate-justice-minor/))
- Sustainability Undergraduate Minor ([catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/geography-environment-sustainability/sustainability-minor/](https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/geography-environment-sustainability/sustainability-minor/))
- Geography Second Academic Concentration ([catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/geography-environment-sustainability/geography-second-academic-concentration/](https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/geography-environment-sustainability/geography-second-academic-concentration/))
- Applied Geography, M.A. ([catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/geography-environment-sustainability/applied-geography-ma/](https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/geography-environment-sustainability/applied-geography-ma/))
- Geography, Ph.D. ([catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/geography-environment-sustainability/geography-phd/](https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/geography-environment-sustainability/geography-phd/))