



The College at
BROCKPORT
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Combined Degrees

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and Biology/ Master of Science in Environmental Science and Biology

The Combined Bachelor of Science/Master of Science Program in Environmental Science and Biology is a challenging program that seeks to engage the brightest, most capable students and enables them to complete the two degrees in five years. Through a curriculum with a common core and a focused concentration, environmental science students develop conceptual knowledge and technical skills to use the disciplines of biology, ecology, chemistry, and the earth sciences to understand and solve environmental problems. Throughout the program, students have a variety of opportunities to conduct research.

At the undergraduate level, students complete most requirements for a bachelors degree in Environmental Science. Students interested in the Combined Degree Program, must apply for admission to the program by November 14 (during the first semester of the junior year). Students may choose from concentrations including aquatic ecology/biology, terrestrial ecology/biology, combined aquatic and terrestrial ecology/biology, wetland ecology, environmental chemical analysis, and earth science. At the graduate level, students complete a thesis. Graduates go on to doctoral study or finding professional employment in their field of study.

Why Earn a Master's Degree at Brockport?

- Experience personalized attention while working with award-winning faculty scholars.
- Study at an affordable, nationally recognized university.
- Prepare for professional careers that tap your intellect and creativity—these careers often require advanced academic degrees.
- Qualify for higher paying jobs—people with master's degrees typically earn \$10,000 more per year than those with bachelor's degrees alone.

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Washington State Department of Natural Resources
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- County Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Pennsylvania Department of Fish and Game
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- The Nature Conservancy

Internships and Graduate Assistantships

Graduate internships may be arranged with numerous government agencies and private organizations, including the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and The Nature Conservancy. Many faculty are able to provide assistantships through grant-supported research.

Career Opportunities

While the combined BS/MS program in Environmental Science and Biology is new, graduates of the traditional Master of Science in Environmental Science and Biology have gone on to exciting careers with organizations nationwide, including:

Student Testimonials

Attending The College at Brockport gave me the experience, exposure, and skills I needed to become successful in environmental research. The faculty was supportive and involved in many of the facets of my college experience, and my time spent outside of the lecture halls was at least as valuable as that spent within. I would recommend The College at Brockport to any prospective students interested in an affordable, high quality, real world education. ~ Gregory Lampman '97

After many years of working with computers, I needed to change my career. I was accepted into the program in January 2008. The courses I attended for the next two years were great, and challenging. Each professor was knowledgeable about their topics and made the environmental

problems we face in the world real, and helped me understand that there is no single solution, but possibly many small ones. The other students, both undergraduate and graduate, enlivened the times between classes through conversations and friendship. I am proud to have attended The College at Brockport and to have earned my Master of Science in Environmental Science and Biology. The friends I have made and the knowledge gained will be with me for the rest of my life. ~Rhonda Hudgins '10

Program Requirements

Students pursuing the BS/MS degree are required to complete a minimum of 138 semester hours. Of these 138 credits, a minimum of 30 credits are at the graduate level and a minimum of 108 credits are at the undergraduate level. Undergraduate requirements include all core courses needed for the Environmental Science major, as well as all General Education requirements. Graduate requirements include all courses required for the traditional MS in Environmental Science and Biology, as well as an oral comprehensive exam and completion of a thesis.

Graduate students in the combined program are supervised by a faculty member in the Department of Environmental Science and Biology, or by an “associate” faculty member from the Departments of Earth Sciences or Chemistry. The thesis advisor monitors the student’s academic progress and is responsible for directing the student’s academic program, including the plan of study, thesis proposal, oral comprehensive examination, thesis project, and thesis defense. Whether or not the applicant can be accepted into the combined program will depend on his or her credentials and intended area of specialization, and the ability of a faculty member to accept a new graduate advisee. Before a student is admitted to the program, a faculty member must be willing to serve as the student’s thesis advisor.

Admission Requirements

Admission into the combined BS/MS program in Environmental Science and Biology is highly competitive and is based on previous academic performance, letters of recommendation, and work experience. Applicants must have a 3.4 GPA. Ultimately, whether or not the applicant can be accepted will depend on his or her credentials, intended area of specialization, and the ability of a faculty member to accept a new graduate advisee.

A student the Master of Science portion of the combined program will be supervised by a faculty member in the Department of Environmental Science and Biology, or by an “associate” faculty member from the Departments of the Earth Sciences or Chemistry. The advisor is responsible for monitoring and directing the student’s graduate academic program: Thesis Proposal, Oral Comprehensive Examination, Thesis Project and Thesis Defense.

How to Apply

Before applying to the combined program, students must have met the college admissions criteria and been admitted to the undergraduate program at the college. Students should apply for admission to the combined degree program by November 14 of their junior year (defined as at least 75 credits and the undergraduate core curriculum completed by end of the second semester the junior year). Admission to the combined program is selective, restricted to students with exceptional records, and subject to the availability of a faculty member able to serve as a thesis advisor. Students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.4 or better through the end of the first semester of their junior year to be considered for the program. Transfer students may be considered for the BS/MS program after taking 15 credits of course work at The College at Brockport. Qualified applicants will be interviewed by the Graduate Committee of the Department of Environmental Science and Biology, which will decide on admission to the program in the period between the end of the fall term and beginning of the following spring term. Entry into the program also requires an application that includes but is not limited to a statement of objectives for graduate study, including the applicant’s main area of interest within environmental science, and the names of potential faculty advisors; a writing sample of at least three pages demonstrating the applicant’s technical writing skills; and two letters of recommendation. Achievement of the minimum standards for admission does not guarantee acceptance.

Please visit www.brockport.edu/graduate for further information on admission and program requirements.

Program Information

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Graduate Admission Information

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