

Summer Experiences

Environmental Studies Institute

Please note this a sample schedule only and all activities are subject to change.

Schedule

- Morning Session (9:00am-12:00pm)
- Lunch/Independent Study (12:00-2:00pm)
- Academic Support Groups (12:30-1:00pm)—Mondays only
- Afternoon Session (2:00-4:30pm)
- Evenings/Weekends—Social events, weekend outings, and college readiness seminars

Morning Session: You will engage with some of the most influential academic publications and resources that examine our planetary environment and how to sustain ecosystems and their services for human health and wellbeing. These are seminal pieces that have shaped academic research agendas, informed policy makers, and influenced the way global leaders think about the world today. You will receive lectures, participate in classroom discussion, and take part in classroom activities, such as scientific literature critiques, small group discussions, case studies, and “what you can do” explorations, to build a deeper understanding of the mechanisms at work and practical experience in their application through problem solving, critical thinking, team building, and communication skills. You will have daily reading and homework assignments that will help you prepare for class discussion.

Afternoon Sessions: You will continue to build your knowledge outside the classroom as you engage with outside discussants through guest lectures, field trips, and small group activities.

Reflection Essay

This institute is designed to give students exposure to a variety of environment related topics. Students will choose an institute activity, such as a lecture, field trip, or lab, and write one 250-300 word double-spaced essay. In the essay, students will reflect on why they believe this activity had relevance to the development of their knowledge of the environment.

Four essays will be chosen to be published in our pre-college publication “Reflections: A Collection of Student Essays” which is made available online and distributed to the WashU community.

Final Project

Throughout the two weeks, you will work together in teams to research, analyze, and develop a case study proposal to address a pressing local, regional, and/or global issue in environmental sustainability. Groups will prepare both a powerpoint presentation and written proposal. Classroom experiences will tie in with the team projects to reinforce learning. Along the way, you will practice communication, organization, strategy, and negotiation skills as you work together to come up with solutions.

Attendance

Timeliness and earnest engagement in all sessions is imperative to the general success of the institute and of your performance. Take care to attend each session on time every time. Program assistants will take attendance at all sessions. You are required to attend every session unless otherwise approved.

Participation in Class Activities

Students are expected to actively participate in discussion, ask questions, and contribute during active learning sessions. While it is sometimes difficult to speak in class, your comments are valued as contributions to the collective understanding of course materials; actively participating will reinforce your grasp of the concepts, correct misunderstandings, and inspire deeper thought.

Professionalism

Please remember to treat everyone with patience and respect. Acknowledge and respect diversity and difference of opinion. Give your classmates the benefit of the doubt and express your concerns in a respectful way. Respect also

includes using technology appropriately and considerately. Our classroom is a cellphone and internet free environment. Individual permission may be given for using word-processing programs in class. Please respect the rights of others to learn.

Academic Integrity

As a member of our academic community you are bound by honor regarding your academic work. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, submitting work of another person or work previously used as your own, or tampering with the academic work of others. **Plagiarism will not be tolerated.** To view the policy visit: studentconduct.wustl.edu/academic-integrity/policies-and-procedures/.

Student Performance Evaluation

Students are evaluated based on attendance, participation in class activities, interaction with peers, professionalism, quality of work produced, asking for assistance when needed, as well as their ability to adhere to academic integrity standards and program policies. At the end of the program, students who have met the expectations of the program will receive a certificate of completion and a completed performance evaluation. This is a noncredit program. Grades are not issued.

Disability Resources

Washington University is committed to providing accommodations and/or services to students with documented disabilities. Students who are seeking support for a disability or a suspected disability should contact the Summer Experiences office at summerexperiences@wustl.edu.

Schedule of Lecture Topics and Activities

Date	Morning Session Topics	Afternoon Session
Day 1	Global Calls for Sustainable Actions	Field Trip: St. Louis Zoo Water conservation tour
Day 2	Environmental Studies: Past, Present, and Future	Venus Fly Trap Lab with Center for Engineering Mechanobiology
Day 3	Environmental Systems: Thresholds, Conservation, and Restoration	Geographic Information Systems Lab
Day 4	Economics, Globalization, and Consumerism	Field Trip: National Great Rivers Research & Education Center Tour and enviroscape activity
Day 5	Pollution Solutions	Field Trip: Missouri Botanical Gardens Tour of gardens and discussion of conservation efforts
Day 6	Water, Water Everywhere	Global climate change debate and WashU sustainability initiatives with WashU Office of Sustainability and Undergraduate Environmental Studies Program
Day 7	Climate, Food, and Energy	Guest Lecture on LEED certification and sustainable building practices
Day 8	Sustainable Urban Systems and Urban Agroecology	Field Trip: Tyson Research Center Tour of facility and discussion of current research projects
Day 9	Institute Wrap-up: How to Take Action	Final Project Presentations