

**Program and degree types:** Environmental Studies – major and minor

**Faculty contact:** David Silver, Program Director, [dmsilver@usfca.edu](mailto:dmsilver@usfca.edu)

**Mission:** *The Environmental Studies Program is interdisciplinary in nature, reflects the current state of the field, recognizes the relationship between human behavior and nature in ecological issues, and responds to the Jesuit call to promote environmental justice and ethical stewardship of the natural world.*

**PLOs for the ENVA major:**

1. Integrate perspectives of multiple disciplines to understand the complexities of human-environment interactions
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the range of environmental issues and the roles of humans and institutions in responding to them
3. Analyze critically and develop socio-culturally appropriate strategies to resolve environmental problems
4. Connect environmental problems to issues of social justice through study and community engagement
5. Apply scientific principles to develop solutions for environmental problems

**PLOs for the ENVA major:**

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the roles of humans and institutions in creating and responding to environmental issues;
2. Apply scientific principles to environmental problems; and
3. Connect environmental problems to issues of social justice.

**Assessment:**

Due to a lapse of communication between Program Directors, Covid, and having to formulate essentially two Self Studies within two years, we did not perform an assessment for the 2020-21 year. On behalf of the Environmental Studies Program, I apologize profusely. We take assessment seriously and grow significantly through assessment. We simply dropped the ball.

When David Silver's sabbatical for fall 2020 was approved, Steve Zavestoski took over as ENVA Program Director. Professor Zavestoski did a masterful job navigating our program and curriculum through all of the Covid-related disruptions, not an easy task considering the highly applied and field study-heavy classes we offer. Unfortunately, data was not collected in spring to allow us to assess a PLO. I discovered this when I

returned as ENVA Program Director in fall 2021. At the same time, I discovered that our Academic Program Review, or APR, would be restarted after it was suspended in spring 2019 due to Covid. As a department, we decided to focus our attention on a revised Self Study which we turned in during fall 2021.

That is a long way of saying we simply did not perform assessment on one of our PLOs and we apologize. We did, however, conduct or begin to conduct informal program assessment in three ways.

1. Through our revised Self Study, we continued to reflect upon and discuss vital issues like our curriculum, our fusion of analytical and applied classes, and our integration (sometimes limited) of issues of race, gender, and sexuality within our classes and curriculum.
2. Through Program-wide discussion and sustained encouragement from Program Director Silver, the majority of ENVA full- and part-time faculty have taken or are currently taking the McCarthy Center's Community-Engaged Learning Teaching (CELT) Fellows Program which has allowed them to re-imagine and re-design their existing classes to include more engagement with community partners and organizations. This has allowed us to have deep and wide-ranging discussions about how we both individually and collectively teach our community-engaged learning classes, which has led to productive conversations related to our PLO 4 (Connect environmental problems to issues of social justice through study and community engagement), which was assessed in 2019.
3. Finally, we agreed to spend 2021-22 assessing PLO 5: Apply scientific principles to develop solutions for environmental problems. This is both important and timely since our recent curriculum revisions pared back our science and math requirements by 8 units. We will assess this PLO with help and input from our Environmental Science colleagues.

**Assessment schedule:**

2017 – Assessed PLO 2: Demonstrate an understanding of the range of environmental issues and the roles of humans and institutions in responding to them.

2019 – Assessed PLO 4: Connect environmental problems to issues of social justice through study and community engagement.

2020 – Alternative Assessment focusing mostly on remote learning techniques and strategies due to Covid.

2022 – We will assess PLO 5: Apply scientific principles to develop solutions for environmental problems.