THE FUTURE

Students graduating with a degree in IES have access to a wide array of career paths. Governmental agencies, research firms, consulting companies, academic institutions, and private industry all need students with environmental science backgrounds, or students may choose to pursue advanced study in environmental science or environmentally-related disciplines. This program has close ties to several state and national environmental agencies which provide opportunities for internships, funding, and future employment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE DEPARTMENT OF INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AT BETHUNE-COOKMAN UNIVERSITY, CONTACT:

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The Bachelors in Integrated Environmental Science at Bethune-Cookman University

THE SCHOOL
Flexible, innovative student-centered majors that prepare you for a successful future in industry or government laboratories, for teaching or for further study in graduate or professional schools. This is what awaits you in the College of Science, Engineering and Mathematics (CSEM) at Bethune-Cookman University (BCU). Our science and mathematics programs combine a broad liberal-arts foundation with specialized courses and electives in each field. You will learn from an active faculty, including many distinguished scholars who involve their students in cutting-edge research. Your classes will be small enough to allow interaction between you and your professors, who are dedicated to helping you succeed.

BCU’s science, engineering and mathematics degree programs meet rigorous standards of quality set by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Accreditation Commission as well as major accrediting agencies and state requirements in specific program areas. Our students are prepared to succeed and their employers agree. For example, more than 95% of Integrated Environmental Science graduates enter graduate school or are employed in their field after graduation.

THE DEGREE
The Bachelor of Science in Integrated Environmental Science (IES) at BCU is an interdisciplinary program that can meet the educational goals of a wide range of students. The program focuses on field experience, local and regional issues, and collaboration with government, academic, and private practitioners. Students will explore environmental issues from a firm grounding in the natural and physical sciences, but will learn to integrate social, economic, and political aspects of environmental topics in order to develop functional approaches to address ecological and societal issues.

THE CURRICULUM
The curriculum in IES is interdisciplinary and challenging. IES is a “restricted major”, meaning that students are considered candidates for IES during their first semesters to provide time to demonstrate academic ability and complete the prerequisites for ES/ESL 241, Principles of Environmental Science. ES/ESL 241, the IES Gateway Course, is taken in the student’s sophomore year, and if both the lecture and lab are passed with a grade of “C” or better the student is considered a major in IES.

One of the hallmarks of the IES department and major is flexibility. IES is a vast and varied discipline, and there are almost as many potential careers as there are student interests! The program can be tailored somewhat to your desired career path, be it in government, industry, interpretation, private consulting, graduate school, field research, or another future goal. Your optional courses will be selected in consultation with your advisor.

A student must maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA to earn a degree in IES, passing all English, math, and CSEM courses (including IES courses) with a grade of “C” or better. An IES student who earns less than a “C” in a listed course or receives a GPA below 2.0 is given a grace period of one retake or one semester to correct the deficiency or the student is withdrawn from the program. A student may receive one grace period during their academic program in IES.

THE MINORS
For students who would like to combine a general background in environmental topics with another major, we offer an Environmental Science minor. The minor requires a minimum of 19 credit hours of study in environmentally related courses. There is also an Environmental Justice minor that you can consider. With environmental applications to be found in almost any discipline, a minor can be a good option for a student who is interested in another major but wants the ability to explore or work in environmental aspects of that major.

THE FUNDING
Scholarships, tuition waivers, and similar forms of student support are available to IES majors. These awards are competitive, require admission to the university, and are usually awarded early. In addition, funding is often available in research programs within the department. Students should contact the faculty member closest to their interests for departmental and university opportunities in research programs.