MCLA

GROW
YOUR
PASSION

Environmental Studies at MCLA
You already understand the challenges we face safeguarding the future of the planet for people and nature—will you be part of the solution?
Are you looking to be part of a tight-knit community of students and professors with a passion for environmental conservation?

—DR. DANIEL SHUSTACK
PROFESSOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
YOU CAN...

PICK A CONCENTRATION
in Environmental Sustainability or Environmental Science

LEARN IN SMALL CLASSES
about ecology, sustainability, biology, chemistry, natural history, earth science, and environmental policy

COMPLETE AN INTERNSHIP OR INDEPENDENT RESEARCH
(along with 100% of our students)

TAKE HANDS-ON FIELD COURSES EVERY SEMESTER

COLLABORATE WITH OTHER SUPPORTIVE STUDENTS AND FACULTY MENTORS

PURSUE YOUR OWN INTERESTS
through elective courses, research and internships

LIVE IN THE HEART OF THE BERKSHIRE MOUNTAINS
in Western Massachusetts

START TACKLING REAL-WORLD PROBLEMS
your first semester of college—there are no prerequisites to getting involved with research and internships at MCLA

“I CHOSE THIS MAJOR BECAUSE OF MY LOVE FOR NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT. OUR WORLD IS UNDER A GREAT DEAL OF STRESS AS IT TRIES TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE, AND IT IS OUR JOB TO PROVIDE THE BEST CARE WE CAN FOR FLORA AND FAUNA.”

— MAXIE RYAN ’20
MAJOR: ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
“I COUNT MY GREATEST PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS TO BE THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL SUCCESSES THAT MCLA STUDENTS HAVE ACHIEVED: FINDING AND ELIMINATING SOURCES OF WATER POLLUTION, REDUCING WASTE ON CAMPUS, STRENGTHENING OUR LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM, AND HELPING TO CREATE A MORE SUSTAINABLE DOWNTOWN NORTH ADAMS. I AM ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MORE STUDENTS TO TACKLE THESE CHALLENGES WITH ME.”

—DR. ELENA TRAISTER
PROFESSOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

MCLA students play a central role on the Campus Sustainability Committee. THE CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE IDENTIFIES OPPORTUNITIES AND COORDINATES ACTION TO:

- Reduce Waste
- Track and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Increase the resilience of our food system
- Improve water and land management
- Increase awareness of these issues on campus
MCLA IS LOCATED IN THE HEART OF THE BERKSHIRES, SURROUNDED BY 10,000 ACRES OF SOME OF THE MOST PRISTINE FORESTS IN NEW ENGLAND.

On any given day, our students may be:

- Sampling fish at Clarksburg State Park
- Exploring old growth forests in Mohawk Trail State Forest
- Visiting the boreal forests on Mt. Greylock
- Mist netting songbirds on the flood plains of the Hoosic River
- Using trail cameras to sample deer and bears in forests protected by land trusts
- Snowshoeing into Eugene D. Moran Wildlife Management Area to look for overwintering birds

MCLA has been designated a “Bee-Friendly Campus” by Bee City USA

MCLA ENERGY USE PER SQUARE FOOT HAS BEEN REDUCED BY 31% SINCE 2004
As a National Geographic Top 10 Worldwide Destination, we are home to some of the nation's most notable cultural landmarks.

**CLUBS**

The Wildlife Society
The Outing Club
Among 50+ clubs and sports teams

**STUDY AWAY/ABROAD**

- Visit unique ecosystems in the high-elevation forests of the Adirondacks or the subtropical Everglades on courses that travel with Environmental Studies Faculty
- Join other MCLA faculty on courses that travel to South Africa, Peru, China, Colombia, Japan, Mexico, and other international destinations
- Spend a semester studying in other parts of the U.S., including Alaska and Montana
- Follow in the footsteps of other Environmental Studies students who have spent a semester abroad in locations such as Kenya, Tanzania, Belize, Canada, Scotland, Australia, and the Czech Republic, among others

**DISCOVERIES EVERYWHERE**

**THINGS TO DO/PLACES TO SEE**

MCLA Forest
Appalachian Trail
Windsor Lake
Mount Greylock, the tallest mountain in Massachusetts
World-class trout fishing
Whitewater rafting
Downhill and Nordic skiing
Ropes courses and other outdoor adventure outfitters

“IF YOU WANT TO BE A PART OF A PROGRAM WITH PEOPLE WHO SHARE YOUR INTERESTS, WHO WORK TOGETHER AND LAUGH TOGETHER PRETTY MUCH CONSTANTLY, THE MCLA ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PROGRAM IS FOR YOU.”
—RACHEL DURGIN ’18

“I ENJOY OFFERING COURSES IN THE EARTH SCIENCES BECAUSE THEY RAISE AWARENESS OF THE ENVIRONMENT’S PHYSICAL FOUNDATION.”
—DR. DON HYERS
PROFESSOR OF EARTH SCIENCE
I WANT TO BE SOMEONE THAT FACILITATES THE EXPOSURE BETWEEN PEOPLE AND NATURE IN A POSITIVE AND HEALTHY WAY.”

—JARET GONZALEZ ’19

GREEN LIVING SEMINARS
Green Living Seminars are organized around a topic in sustainability and bring expert speakers to present to students and the public each week during the spring.

In this course and others, students work on service-learning projects, directly applying their knowledge to addressing pressing environmental issues.
TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY FOR FINANCIAL AID, START HERE: MCLA.EDU/FINAID
FIND OUT ABOUT OUR SCHOLARSHIPS HERE: MCLA.EDU/VALUE/SCHOLARSHIPS
MCLA FASFA CODE: 002187