



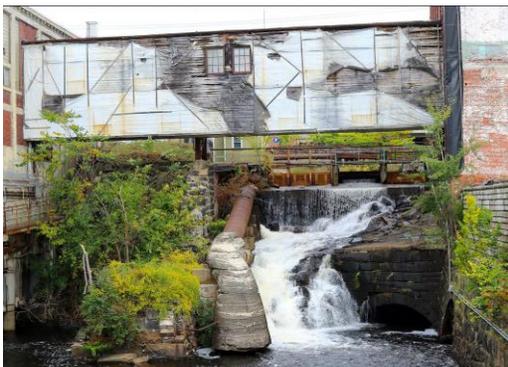
Environmental Studies at Bates College – connecting to place, people, environmental legacies and possible futures in central Maine

The ES Major at Bates

- core courses in natural sciences, social sciences, humanities
- a “concentration” that provides depth and focus
- a required 200-hour internship
- a “capstone” community-based course
- a senior independent writing project, either a thesis or course in public writing
- largest interdisciplinary major at the College, 4th/5th largest overall with approx. 40 majors/year
- 3 tenured faculty, 1 non-tenure track line, 6 contributing faculty on committee – courses taught by faculty across the College
- institutional commitments to learning in and with the community through the Harward Center

The Community Context:

- Lewiston & Auburn on the Androscoggin River - in late 1960’s one of the country’s most polluted waterways, heavily industrialized
- population of approx. 60,000
- community of immigrants: Franco-Canadian, eastern European, new Mainers now predominantly arriving from African countries
- learning lab for post-industrial challenges, connections to agriculture and green space, cultural diversity & senses of place, evolving meanings of “environment” and how community decisions get made



Lewiston Canal System & Mills, student photo



Information portal with links to watershed organizations and “capstone” projects
<http://androscoggin.bates.edu/home/community-projects>
See also “From the Field” at <http://www.bates.edu/environment/photos/>

ES Program Goals for our students

To consider how the natural and built environments shape and are shaped by multiple socio-cultural and political factors.

To think across and beyond existing disciplinary boundaries, mindful of the diverse forms of knowledge and experience that arise from human interactions with the world around them.

To live responsibly and appreciate the environmental and cultural histories of the places they inhabit.

To cultivate compassion, curiosity, collaboration, and hope.

To nurture knowledge, respect, and love for the natural and human communities of central Maine, the place where they spend four formative years of their lives.

Natural Sciences and civic learning

Classroom projects and collaborations

- analysis of data on water quality at Lake Auburn (L-A drinking water)
- mapping invasive species & developing educational materials for a local land trust
- evaluation of soil impact of lead paint in downtown (poorest census tract in Maine)
- classroom swap with cultural studies courses to expand perspectives on “hot-button” topics like fracking and climate change

Capstone projects

- Informational materials for local citizens in advance of FERC dam relicensing
- Preparation of survey materials to gauge effectiveness of municipal storm-water run-off program
- Research and evaluation of options & relevant regulation for rail-to-trail development in neighboring town
- Evaluation of viability of converting old textile mill into computer server/greenhouse

Community collaborators

local water district, land trusts, Complete Streets committee, Healthy Neighborhood, community farms, Museum L-A, Somali Bantu farmers