

SUSTAINABILITY *and* ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

“The SENS program gave me the opportunity to pursue a degree I was passionate about, while fostering the practical application of sustainable solutions through the work program and SENS House life. [My major] incorporated the sustainability trifecta of human welfare, environmental integrity, and economic interests.”

Annette, Sustainability and Environmental Studies Major



ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

Graduates receive a minor in Sustainability and Environmental Studies (SENS), often alongside majors such as Technology and Applied Design, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Art, or Peace and Social Justice. Independent majors are possible for students interested in interdisciplinary fields such as Environmental Health or Urban Planning.

OPPORTUNITIES & INTERNSHIPS

- Initiatives of the department take place both inside and outside of what are traditionally viewed as purely academic spaces.
- The SENS House Complex is a unique learning laboratory located within the Berea College Ecovillage. The Complex includes an ecologically designed residence (SENS House), an aquaponics facility, the Natural Building Shelter, edible landscapes, and a permaculture food forest.
- Students in the SENS work program operate and maintain these facilities and play a keyrole in their use for teaching and outreach.

- Other College assets, including the College farm and gardens, the College Farm Store, and the 8,000 acres of College forest where several reservoirs, ponds, and streams, serve as ecological laboratories for SENS classes, internships, and projects.
- Internships and other experiential learning opportunities move students out of the classroom and into the real world of complex problems and solutions. The landscapes and human communities of Appalachia offer endless opportunities for student engagement in efforts to increase community resilience, help to transition the local economy, and lead environmental justice efforts.

CAREERS & OUTCOMES

With their unique focus on campus work and communal work experiences, SENS majors often find employment in a diverse range of fields and occupations including:

- Sustainable Farming
- Environmental Justice campaigning and implementation
- Green Building
- Landscape Architecture



WHY IS A LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION VALUABLE?

A liberal arts education at Berea College, combined with our work study program, equips students with highly employable skills like communication, problem-solving, and teamwork. Beyond offering a degree program, we help our students develop social responsibility and prepare them to successfully navigate diversity, change, and the complex demands of a modern work place.



80

percentage of employers who want colleges to emphasize critical thinking, analytic reasoning, and oral and written communication.

#1

Berea College's ranking as "Best Liberal Arts College" by Washington Monthly Magazine, 2018.

75

percentage of employers who believe successful college graduates should have both liberal arts training and experience in the field.

90

percentage of Berea students who credit liberal arts and work study for developing their communication, critical thinking, & problem-solving skills.



"People with a liberal arts education are able to think and view the world from several different perspectives . . . This ability to understand and adapt is very valuable in today's workplace."

Edward B. Rust Jr.
Chairman and CEO, State Farm Insurance Companies