The Earth and Environmental Science (E & ES) Department strives to teach undergraduate students to (1) think critically, both qualitatively and quantitatively, (2) develop problem-solving skills (e.g., most of E & ES undergraduate courses have lab sections and are not strictly lecture-based, providing hands-on experience with problems), (3) integrate different types of observations with theory, and (4) be able to communicate their ideas in writing.

The department incorporates the following five strong interacting graduate programs in association with an integrated undergraduate major in Earth Science featuring options in:

- Environmental Science
- Geochemistry/Geology
- Geophysics
- Hydrology

The department also administers a cross-department undergraduate degree in Environmental Science.