



Bioenvironmental Engineering: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Training Environmental Engineers at Rutgers University

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It is becoming increasingly apparent that environmental problems have become extremely complex, involving inter- and multidisciplinary expertise. Furthermore, the nature of environmental episodes requires practitioners who are flexible in designing appropriate solution approaches. As a result, there is a high demand for environmental engineering graduates in the professional sector as well as graduate schools. At Rutgers University, we have designed and are now delivering an undergraduate curriculum that melds a strong background in basic and applied sciences with a rigorous sequence of design oriented engineering courses, all focused on producing graduates who view the environment in a holistic sense, rather than a narrow, medium oriented manner. Since the implementation of the program in 2004 student numbers have doubled and half of the students graduate with honors. The undergraduate program is complemented by the new Environmental Engineering option of the Graduate Program in Environmental Sciences. The undergraduate program and the graduate option are served by a highly committed faculty of seven full-time members and one part-time member.