

ECO-JUSTICE CONCENTRATION

MASTER OF ARTS PROGRAM | BEGINNING FALL TERM 2022

Preparing faith leaders and academics for work in environmental care and justice

How can faith leaders and theological academics address the pressing issues facing our planet? As looming ecological crises threaten the earth and the ability for future generations to thrive, United is answering the call to care for creation with a new concentration in Eco-Justice.

Through the lens of a religiously-formed and scientifically-informed framework, United's Eco-Justice curriculum will uniquely prepare students to be changemakers and leaders in the areas of environmental ethics, ecological justice, and eco-theology.

"United has a long history of engaging cutting edge social issues, and this new concentration will put United on the map as one of the thought leaders in the area of eco-justice," said Dr. Demian Wheeler, associate professor of philosophical theology and religious studies. "Graduates of this program will be equipped with theological, spiritual, and ethical resources for addressing the daunting planetary crises of our age and fostering deep reverence for the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part."

INSPIRED BY STUDENTS

"This new concentration was inspired in large part by our current students' interest in and passion for caring for our planet and for all of creation, particularly at a moment of looming ecological crisis," said United's Dean Dr. Kyle Roberts. "Our planetary home is sacred and a divine gift, upon which we all depend; we are responsible for taking care of that gift, not just for our sake but for our children and theirs. My hope is this degree will prepare many leaders to do just that."

COURSEWORK

Academic training for the Eco-Justice concentration will include specialized coursework in eco-justice, eco-theologies, and applied issues in eco-justice; founded on core courses in theology, ethics, and religious texts; and finalized with a thesis. Students will be prepared to enter doctoral programs, to work in leadership positions in justice- and change-oriented organizations, or, in conjunction with a master of divinity degree, to serve as ministers or chaplains with eco-justice as a central component of their ministry.