

# Earth Science Department Mission



*The Earth Science Department prepares students for successful transfer to 4-year institutions, provides the prerequisite Earth science foundation for further study in Earth science fields, fosters critical thinking and active learning, and fulfills the needs and interests of students by having a well-rounded curriculum of lecture and laboratories.*



# Earth Science

- We introduce students to the sub-disciplines of Earth Science and to the realm of scientific thinking.... fostering scientific and environmental literacy!... important for everyone!
- Most of our students are GE students... often taking their first science course.
- We prepare students for successful transfer to 4 yr schools by fulfilling Science GE and/or completing lower division prep.
- Students gain a new lens to view the world around them.



# Earth Science Dept Degree Programs

- Environmental Science AS-T
- Environmental Science AS
- Geography AA-T
- Geography AA *(redundant...)*
- *Geology AS-T (in the works...)*
- Earth Science AS (?)

# Strengths

- Broad range of disciplines offered

- Environmental Science
- Geography
- Geology
- Meteorology
- Oceanography



- Opportunities to use remarkable local natural and human resources !



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**SAVE THE BAY**

 SAN MATEO COUNTY  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE DISTRICT

 GRASSROOTS  
ECOLOGY

# Campus Field Site for Native Grassland Restoration



# Sustainable San Mateo County 2025 Award Winner !!



**Sustainable  
San Mateo County**  
Economy. Equity. Environment.

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DONATE



**2025  
SUSTAINABILITY  
AWARDEES**

**LIGHTING THE WAY  
TO A CLEAN,  
EQUITABLE FUTURE**

**CALTRAIN**

**EL CONCILIO**

**SMCCCD**

**YOUTH: COLIN CHU**

**RUTH PETERSON AWARD  
JOHN CROWELL**

**GREEN BUILDING  
COUNTY OFFICE BLDG 3**

**HONORABLE MENTION  
BELLE HAVEN COMMUNITY CTR**

**Sustainable  
San Mateo County**  
Economy. Equity. Environment.

<https://sustainablesanmateo.org/>

April 4, 2025 Award Ceremony at CSM!

Canada College

# Sustainable San Mateo County 2025 Award Winner !

**San Mateo County Community College District (SMCCCD)** is a 2025 Sustainability Award winner for its **leadership** in **environmental stewardship, social equity** and **economic responsibility**.

Serving over 29,000 students across three colleges, SMCCCD has pioneered sustainability efforts, including transitioning to **100% clean electricity**, installing **over 90 EV chargers** and achieving a **71% waste diversion rate**.

The district fosters climate leadership through programs like **Earth Fest**, the **Sustainability Career Center** and **Zero Waste Ambassadors**. Under Chancellor Melissa Moreno's leadership, SMCCCD aims for **Zero Net Energy** by 2050 while expanding green infrastructure and housing.

By integrating sustainability into education and operations, SMCCCD empowers students and the broader community to create a more resilient, equitable future.



# Study Abroad... the ultimate field experience !



# Environmental Science in Peru !

Summer 2025



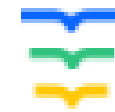
SAN MATEO COUNTY  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE DISTRICT



STUDY  
ABROAD



Cañada College



WorldStrides®

# Lima



# Puerto Maldonado and Tambopata





# Cusco and Machu Picchu



# Coastal Desert: EcoSwell Campus in Lobitos



# Environmental Science in Peru !

Summer 2025



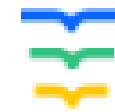
SAN MATEO COUNTY  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE DISTRICT



STUDY  
ABROAD



Cañada College



WorldStrides®

# General Challenges

- Underprepared and overextended students.
- Small department.... faculty time for:
  - Better connections with local resources.
  - Better connections with K-12.
  - Better connections with local industry to develop CTE.
  - More collaboration with other departments and programs..
  - More collaboration and communication with adjunct instructors.
  - More mentoring of majors students.
  - Facilitating research opportunities for students.
  - Planning...



# On the horizon... upcoming tasks/changes

- Common course numbering.... an opportunity !
- Course offering shift? ... climate courses, GEOG courses
- Job market for Earth Science related careers ?
  - “aggressive job posting demand” & “deep supply of regional jobs”
  - BUT ... unknown impact of fed freeze
  - Temporary!
- Need a deeper adjunct pool...



# Plans for strengthening program

- SLO and PLO update and use
- Develop, market, and manage existing degree programs
  - Environmental Science degrees (AS-T and AS) ... mainly done
  - Update (likely consolidate) GEOG degrees
  - Develop GEOL AS-T and/or update Earth Science AS degree
- Develop better collaboration with other programs to facilitate student success.
  - Easy path to Earth Science degree programs from other STEM fields... BIO, ENG
  - Collaboration with counseling, MESA, UMOJA, Middle College
  - K-12 outreach and collaboration
- Increase Lab Experiences, Field Experiences, and Student Research Opportunities
- Increase Adjunct Pool

# Looking for collaboration... with you!

- Re-invigorating GEOG discipline!
  - Huge contemporary relevance
  - Low unit lower division major prep
  - Low unit major at 4-year schools
  - UC Berkeley #1 in US
- Connections among programs... finding/developing student interest ... catching students not thriving in other majors.
- Field Trips, Field Experiences, Events, and Study Abroad !
- Sustainability = environ. sustainability, social equity, and economic sustainability

TOGETHER FOR A SUSTAINABLE  
TOMORROW

# CAÑADA EARTH FEST

**April 16 (Wed)**  
**10:00am - 2:00pm**  
**The Grove**



**Our Earth, Our Future**



**Donation Drive**



**Native Plant Giveaway**



**Museum of Tomorrow**



**Career Networking**

**Clothing Swap**

**Snacks, Games & More!**



For disability-related accommodations, please email:  
[canvpss@smccd.edu](mailto:canvpss@smccd.edu) or call (650) 306-3234.

**Canada College Earth Fest!**  
**April 16**  
**Sign up to bring your classes!**



**Earth Fest Sign up**

Questions ? Ideas ?