The Leonard and Jayne Abess Center for Ecosystem Science and Policy at the University of Miami is dedicated to the study of natural and human-driven environmental change and the development of sustainable solutions. Our mission is to foster a collaborative environment that brings together researchers, policymakers, and students from diverse disciplines to address complex environmental challenges.

Crafting Comprehensive Strategies

The mission of the Leonard and Jayne Abess Center for Ecosystem Science and Policy is to create innovative, interdisciplinary academic and outreach initiatives that bridge the gap between science and environmental policy. Our goal is to expand understanding of environmental issues through closely linked natural and social science research.

Joint Programs with the Rosenstiel School

The innovative Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science at the University of Miami is a leading institution in the field of oceanography. By partnering with the Rosenstiel School, we aim to enhance our ability to address global environmental challenges and promote sustainable practices.

Framing New Approaches to Environmental Challenges

With the support of the Abess Center, our researchers are dedicated to developing new methodologies and approaches that can help mitigate the impacts of environmental change. Through collaboration with policymakers, industry leaders, and other stakeholders, we strive to ensure that our research findings are translated into effective policy solutions.
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We connect researchers across the University of Miami and from other scientific organizations and academic institutions who bring to bear the most advanced thinking from a wide array of fields—marine and terrestrial ecology, environmental law and ethics, geography and epidemiology, climate modeling, civil engineering and policy—social psychology, behavioral and natural resource economics, and decision analysis. At the same time, we engage the next generation of environmental leaders in our innovative and undergraduate degree programs, encouraging them to engage in cutting-edge research of environmental theory, management, and decision making.

joint programs with the rosenstiel school

This innovative R.I. Dowk Marine Conservation Program offers a B.S. degree in Marine Science, Technology, Engineering, and Policy. This interdisciplinary program provides a comprehensive understanding of marine conservation by combining field-based research with coursework and laboratory work in undergraduate and high school students, and the public through hard-hat field and virtual learning experiences.

The new Exploration Science Program continues training in the technical and ethics of expedition-based scientific research with an emphasis on research and education platforms that allow Citizen Scientists, young and old, to join researchers for both professional and academic experience in ecological, oceanographic, underwater, and other research. There will be a strong emphasis on new technologies and media. Courses developing practical skills, ranging from wilderness medicine training to site assessment and logistics planning, will be conducted for one semester on a monthly basis, and complementary scientific courses will be conducted on campus for an additional semester.

Framing new approaches to environmental challenges

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Framing new approaches to environmental challenges

The Leonard and Jayne Abeles Center for Ecosystem Science and Policy was named in 2018 in honor of a generous endowment from Leonard and Jayne Abeles. In 2011, the center moved to its new home in the sugar Building on the Coral Gables campus of the University of Miami.

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