Orientations

This concentration is the only science teacher education graduate program in the country that is housed in an environmental studies school. Our programs emphasize the exploration of compelling classroom and community-based problems and aim to create playful, active, and excellent learning environments. In Doing What Scientists Do students and teachers grow their understanding of what it means to create and develop practical and enduring engagement with the subject matter of science. Science content draws on faculty and resources from the Environmental Studies while pedagogical expertise builds on collaborations with the School of Education.

This program’s orientation continues to be grounded in Critical Exploration i.e., the groundbreaking educational work of Prof. Eleanor Duckworth and colleagues (see Harvard Ed. post, Critical Explorers, Critical Exploration Press, The Having of Wonderful Ideas, In Search of Wonderful Ideas). Features include: phenomena & subject matter as primary sources of authority, a Freirian approach to pedagogy and the democratization of students’ ideas, valuing the learner’s experiences and insights, teaching as research, and creative, hands-on, minds-on, experiential, and inquiry-based education.