Nurturing the Individual

The innovative educational model at the center of this program allows for a truly individualized learning experience. Project-based, interdisciplinary courses challenge the students to learn through doing and to cross traditional disciplinary boundaries to solve multifaceted environmental issues. Instructors take the role of facilitators or guides, and students are given substantial autonomy over the content and outcome of their projects. Discernment and reflection, so important to Ignatian pedagogy, are also central to this program. Students discern their personal learning goals before embarking upon a project and reflect upon the experience after its conclusion. This process of discernment aids students in becoming more perceptive, self-guided, conscientious individuals.

The Energy Technology Program recognizes that each student has unique strengths and weaknesses, and the curriculum encourages development in both areas. Risk-taking and creativity are emphasized, and students are encouraged to be bold in the way they approach and attempt to solve problems. These students will have the professional and personal skills to positively impact the world.

Environmental Stewardship

Stewardship of the environment has become central to the mission of Creighton University and the wider Jesuit community. The Energy Technology Program has allowed the university to become more sustainable, with 120 kW of renewable energy generated on site, including the largest solar photovoltaic array in Nebraska. Not only have these technologies reduced Creighton's environmental footprint, but they have also become the foundation for a hands-on educational platform, allowing students to work and conduct research on professional systems. To date, we have installed solar photovoltaic and solar thermal panels, wind turbines, and a ground source heat pump. The presence of these technologies at Creighton exposes everyone in the community to them and concretely conveys Creighton's commitment to environmental responsibility.

Faculty, students, and guests collaborate to design the Energy Technology curriculum

Students present their projects: A modular solar-powered light made on the programs’ 3D printers (left) and a gutter system to help remove melting snow from the solar panels (right)

Students work together on the solar technology systems at Creighton

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