

Environmental Studies (BA/BS)

The environmental studies major provides students with opportunities to work alongside world-class scholars and researchers, develop concrete skills and analytical abilities, and gain hands-on experience solving environmental issues. The environmental studies major emphasizes an interdisciplinary approach to environmental topics that combines the natural sciences, social sciences, policy studies, sustainable design, and the humanities. The curriculum includes environmentally-related courses taught by more than 100 participating faculty from 30 campus programs and departments.

The environmental studies major is flexible, allowing you to tailor coursework with a focal point of your choice to meet specific educational and career goals. We prioritize practical learning experiences where you will link theory to practice and build transferable skills through internships, research, and community involvement. Our Environmental Leadership Program and a robust internship program offer capstone experiences for undergraduate students that provide training in teamwork, time management, communication, and problem solving skills that are increasingly valued in all careers.

Program's Admission Requirements

Please visit the program's website (<https://cas.uoregon.edu/envs/apply>).

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Articulate the contributions from the social sciences, natural sciences, and humanities in understanding environmental issues.
- Articulate major root causes of environmental problems and avenues for addressing them.
- Discuss several key concepts within the field of environmental studies (e.g. sustainability, environmental justice, climate change, humans varied ways of understanding and representing nature, the relationship between nature and culture), drawing on interdisciplinary perspectives.
- Demonstrate critical thinking and communication skills, including the ability to: a) Critically analyze environmental information, data and problems; b) Interpret a variety of environmental writings; c) Synthesize diverse information sources; d) Communicate effectively through written and oral communication.

Environmental Studies Major Requirements

The Environmental Studies major is customizable, allowing students to tailor their coursework to meet specific education and career goals. Students can concentrate on focal areas of their choosing and select from a variety of courses across disciplines, which provides students with a robust, well-rounded educational experience.

The major requires a minimum of 92 credits including 56 upper-division credits.

Except for ENVS 401-409, all courses applied to the major must be graded, and a C- or better must be earned in all graded courses. As many as four upper-division courses may be used to fulfill the

requirements of another major. This limit only applies to courses with the same primary subject code as the second major.

Major requirements sheets containing detailed information about specific courses are available on the Environmental Studies website (<https://socialsciences.uoregon.edu/envs>), in the Environmental Studies office, or by visiting an advisor (<https://cas.uoregon.edu/advising/access-advising>) in Tykeson Hall.

Check prerequisites for all upper-division courses. Environmental Studies majors are not exempt from the required prerequisites.

Code	Title	Credits
Area 1. Lower-Division ENVS Core		
ENVS 201	Introduction to Environmental Studies: Social Sciences	4
ENVS 202	Introduction to Environmental Studies: Natural Sciences	4
ENVS 203	Introduction to Environmental Studies: Humanities	4
Area 2. Lower-Division Math and Science		
MATH 111Z	Precalculus I: Functions ¹	4
Statistics course		4
STAT 243Z	Elementary Statistics I	
MATH 425	Statistical Methods I	
ERTH 418	Earth and Environmental Data Analysis	
GEOG 495	Geographic Data Analysis	
Approved introductory sequence in natural science		12
Course from different natural science sequence or from the list of approved science courses		4
Area 3A. Upper-Division Natural Science		
Two upper-division natural science courses from the major requirements sheet		8
Area 3B. Upper-Division Soc Sci, Policy, Humanities, and Design		
Social science foundation course		4
Policy foundation course		4
Humanities foundation course		4
Design foundation course		4
Six additional courses: three from one of the above areas; three from another		24
Area 4. Environmental Issues		
ENVS 411	Environmental Issues: [Topic]	4
or ENVS 425	Environmental Education Theory and Practice	
or ENVS 427	Environmental and Ecological Monitoring	
Area 5. Practical Learning Experience		
All ENVS majors must complete 4 upper-division credits that provide career or graduate school readiness skills.		4
ENVS 403	Thesis	
ENVS 404	Internship: [Topic]	
ENVS 429	Environmental Leadership: [Topic]	
OGWI 488	Overseas Studies: GlobalWorks Institute Internship (Internship)	
Total Credits		92

¹ Recommended course; however, a university-level mathematics course that counts toward the bachelor of science mathematics requirement fulfills the requirement.

Approved Courses

Code	Title	Credits
Introductory Sequence in Natural Science		
Life Sciences		
BI 221Z & BI 222Z & BI 223Z	Principles of Biology: Cells and Principles of Biology: Organisms and Principles of Biology: Ecology and Evolution	
or CH 150Z	Preparatory Chemistry and Principles of Biology: Cells	
& BI 221Z & BI 223Z	and Principles of Biology: Ecology and Evolution	
or CH 221Z	General Chemistry I and Principles of Biology: Cells	
& BI 221Z & BI 223Z	and Principles of Biology: Ecology and Evolution	
Chemistry		
CH 221Z & CH 222Z & CH 223Z	General Chemistry I and General Chemistry II and General Chemistry III	
Earth Sciences		
ERTH 101 or ERTH 201	Exploring Planet Earth Dynamic Planet Earth	
ERTH 102 or ERTH 202	Exploring Earth's Environment Earth's Surface and Environment	
ERTH 103 or ERTH 203	Exploring Earth History History of Life	
Physical Sciences		
CH 150Z & PHYS 161 & PHYS 162	Preparatory Chemistry and Physics of Energy and Environment and Solar and Other Renewable Energies	
or PHYS 201	General Physics and General Physics	
& PHYS 202 & PHYS 203	and General Physics	
Non-Sequence Science Courses		
ANTH 110	Introduction to Traditional Ecological Knowledge	
ANTH 170	Introduction to Human Origins	
ANTH 270	Introduction to Biological Anthropology ¹	
BI 130	Introduction to Ecology ¹	
BI 150	Ocean Planet ¹	
CH 113	Sustainability and the Science Behind It	
GEOG 141	The Natural Environment	
ERTH 213	Geology of National Parks	

¹ These courses cannot be used with the Life Science sequence.

Upper-Division Natural Science Courses

Code	Title	Credits
ANTH 341	Food Origins	4
ANTH 344	Oregon Archaeology	4
ANTH 361	Human Evolution	4
ANTH 362	Human Biological Variation	4
ANTH 369	Human Growth and Development	4
ANTH 463	Primate Behavior	4
ANTH 467	Paleoecology and Human Evolution	4
ANTH 472	Primate Conservation Biology	4
ANTH 487	Bioanthropology Methods	4
BI 307	Forest Biology	4
BI 357	Marine Biology	4
BI 359	Plant Biology	4
BI 370	General Ecology	4
BI 380	Evolution	4
BI 390	Animal Behavior	4
BI 432	Mycology	5
BI 442	Systematic Botany	5
BI 448	Field Botany	4
BI 451	Invertebrate Zoology	1-10
BI 454	Estuarine Biology	5
BI 455	Marine Birds and Mammals	1-6
BI 457	Marine Biology: [Topic]	1-8
BI 458	Biological Oceanography	5
BI 471	Population Ecology	4
BI 472	Community Ecology	4
BI 474	Marine Ecology ¹	1-8
CH 331	Organic Chemistry I	4
CH 335	Organic Chemistry II	4
CH 336	Organic Chemistry III	4
CH 341	Majors Track Organic Chemistry I	4
CH 342	Majors Track Organic Chemistry II	4
CH 343	Majors Track Organic Chemistry III	4
ENVS 465	Wetland Ecology and Management	4
ENVS 477	Soil Science	4
ERTH 304	The Fossil Record ²	4
ERTH 305	Dinosaurs ²	4
ERTH 306	Volcanoes and Earthquakes ²	4
ERTH 307	Oceanography ²	4
ERTH 308	Geology of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest ²	4
ERTH 310	Earth Resources and the Environment	4
ERTH 311	Earth Materials	5
ERTH 315	Earth Physics	4
ERTH 316	Introduction to Hydrogeology	4
ERTH 319	Field Studies Oregon Geology	4
ERTH 331	Mineralogy	5
ERTH 332	Introduction to Petrology	5
ERTH 334	Sedimentology and Stratigraphy	4
ERTH 353	Geologic Hazards	4
ERTH 434	Vertebrate Paleontology	4

ERTH 436	Paleoecology and Functional Morphology	4
ERTH 441	Hillslope Geomorphology	4
ERTH 451	Hydrogeology	4
ERTH 454	Fluid Dynamics	4
ERTH 455	Mechanical Earth	4
ERTH 468	Introduction to Seismology	4
ERTH 473	Isotope Geochemistry	4
ERTH 474	Soil and Environmental Chemistry	4
GEOG 321	Climatology	4
GEOG 322	Geomorphology	4
GEOG 323	Biogeography	4
GEOG 360	Watershed Science and Policy	4
GEOG 361	Global Environmental Change	4
GEOG 421	Advanced Climatology: [Topic]	4
GEOG 423	Advanced Biogeography: [Topic]	4
GEOG 425	Hydrology and Water Resources	4
GEOG 427	Fluvial Geomorphology	4
GEOG 430	Long-Term Environmental Change	4
GEOG 433	Fire and Natural Disturbances	4
GEOG 481	GIScience I	4
GEOG 482	GIScience II	4
GEOG 485	Remote Sensing I	4
GEOG 486	Remote Sensing II	4
GEOG 489	Mapping with Drones	4
GEOG 491	Advanced Geographic Information Systems	4
GEOG 495	Geographic Data Analysis	4

¹ If 8 credits, then counts as 2 courses.

² Only one course of EARTH 30X will apply.

Upper-Division Social Science, Policy, Humanities, and Design Courses

Code	Title	Credits
Social Science - Foundation Courses		
ENVS 435	Environmental Justice	4
ENVS 450	Political Ecology	4
ENVS 455	Sustainability	4
ES 354	Environmental Racism	4
GEOG 341	Population and Environment	4
SOC 416	Issues in Environmental Sociology: [Topic]	4
Social Science - Elective Courses		
ANTH 320	Native North Americans	4
ES 350	Native Americans and the Environment	4
GEOG 342	Geography of Globalization	4
GEOG 442	Urban Geography	4
GEOG 465	Environment and Development	4
GEOG 468	Contemporary Food Systems	4
GLBL 420	Global Community Development	4
GLBL 421	Gender and International Development	4
SOC 304	Community, Environment, and Society	4
WGS 331	Science, Technology, and Gender	4
WGS 432	Gender, Environment, and Development	4

Policy - Foundation Courses		
ENVS 335	Allocating Scarce Environmental Resources	4
PPPM 443	Natural Resource Policy	4
PPPM 444	Environmental Policy	4
PS 367	Politics, Science, and Climate Change	4
PS 477	International Environmental Politics	4
Policy - Elective Courses		
EC 330	Urban and Regional Economic Problems	4
EC 333	Resource and Environmental Economic Issues	4
EC 434	Environmental Economics	4
LAW 310	Environmental Regulation	4
PPPM 331	Environmental Management	4
PPPM 340	Climate Change Policy	4
PPPM 370	Global Sustainable Development and Policy	4
PPPM 418	Introduction to Public Law	4
PPPM 438	Transportation Issues in Planning: [Topic]	4
PPPM 442	Sustainable Urban Development	4
PPPM 446	Socioeconomic Development Planning	4
PPPM 480	Nonprofit Management	4
Humanities - Foundation Courses		
ARH 368	Arts and Visual Cultures of Climate Change	4
ENG 469	Literature and the Environment: [Topic]	4
ENVS 345	Environmental Ethics	4
ENVS 430	Nature in Popular Culture	4
HIST 378	American Environmental History to 1890	4
HIST 379	American Environmental History 1890 to Present	4
HIST 473	American Environmental History: [Topic]	4
PHIL 340	Environmental Philosophy	4
Humanities - Elective Courses		
ENG 325	Literature of the Northwest	4
FLR 320	Car Cultures	4
GER 357	Nature, Culture, and the Environment	4
JPN 473	Japanese Environmental Cinema	4
PHIL 309	Global Justice	4
PHIL 339	Introduction to Philosophy of Science	4
PHIL 345	Place in the Cosmos	4
Design - Foundation Courses		
ARCH 431	Community Design	3
ARCH 435	Principles of Urban Design	4
ARCH/ENVS 494M	Passive Heating	4
ENVS 459	Water, Public Health, and the Environment	4
ENVS 467	Sustainable Agriculture	4
MGMT 422	Sustainable Business Strategy and Implementation	4
PPPM 442	Sustainable Urban Development	4
PPPM 445	Green Cities	4
Design - Elective Courses		
LA 326	Plants: Fall	4

LA 328	Spring Plants	4
LA 337	Landscape Field Work: [Topic]	1-4
LA 390	Urban Farm	2-4
LA 429	Civic Agriculture	4
LA 441	Principles of Applied Ecology	2-6
MGMT 443	Life Cycle Assessment	4
MKTG 468	Marketing, Sustainability, and Ethics	4

Four-Year Degree Plan

The degree plan shown is only a sample of how students may complete their degrees in four years. There are alternative ways. Students should consult their advisor to determine the best path for them.

Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies (Policy and Social Science Focus)

Course	Title	Credits Milestones
First Year		
Fall		
ENVS 201	Introduction to Environmental Studies: Social Sciences	4
WR 121Z	Composition I	4
First term of 1st-year second-language sequence		4
Core-education course		4
Credits		16
Winter		
ENVS 202	Introduction to Environmental Studies: Natural Sciences	4
WR 122Z	Composition II	4
Second term of 1st-year second-language sequence		4
Core-education course		4
Credits		16
Spring		
ENVS 203	Introduction to Environmental Studies: Humanities	4
Third term of 1st-year second-language sequence		4
MATH 111Z	Precalculus I: Functions	4
Core-education course that also satisfies global perspective cultural literacy requirement		4
Credits		16
Second Year		
Fall		
First term of 2nd-year second-language sequence		4
ERTH 201	Dynamic Planet Earth	4
SOC 312	Statistical Analysis in Sociology	4
Core-education course		4
Credits		16
Winter		
Second term of 2nd-year second-language sequence		4
ERTH 202	Earth's Surface and Environment	4
Core-education course		4
Core-education course that also satisfies US: DIA cultural literacy requirement		4
Credits		16

Spring		
Third term of 2nd-year second-language sequence		4
ERTH 203	History of Life	4
Core-education courses		8
Credits		16
Third Year		
Fall		
ANTH 170	Introduction to Human Origins	4
GEOG 341	Population and Environment	4
PS 477	International Environmental Politics	4
Core-education course		4
Credits		16
Winter		
GEOG 321	Climatology	4
LA 440	Introduction to Landscape Planning Analysis	4
PHIL 340	Environmental Philosophy	4
Course that satisfies minor requirements		4
Credits		16
Spring		
ES 350	Native Americans and the Environment	4
ERTH 304	The Fossil Record	4
Course that satisfies minor requirements		4
Credits		12
Fourth Year		
Fall		
GLBL 425	Global Food Security	4
Course that satisfies minor requirements		4
Credits		8
Winter		
ENVS 411	Environmental Issues: [Topic]	4
GLBL 446	Development and Social Change in Latin America	4
Course that satisfies minor requirements		4
Credits		12
Spring		
EC 330	Urban and Regional Economic Problems	4
ENVS 404	Internship: [Topic]	4
Course that satisfies minor requirements		4
Credits		12
Total Credits		172

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies (Humanities and Sustainable Design Focus)

Course	Title	Credits Milestones
First Year		
Fall		
ENVS 201	Introduction to Environmental Studies: Social Sciences	4
WR 121Z	Composition I	4

Core-education course in arts and letters	4
Cultural literacy course in global perspective	4
Credits	16
Winter	
ENVS 202 Introduction to Environmental Studies: Natural Sciences	4
WR 122Z Composition II	4
Core-education course in social science	4
Core-education course in arts and letters	4
Credits	16
Spring	
ENVS 203 Introduction to Environmental Studies: Humanities	4
MATH 111Z Precalculus I: Functions	4
Cultural literacy course in US: DIA	4
Core-education course in arts and letters	4
Credits	16
Second Year	
Fall	
CH 150Z Preparatory Chemistry	4
MATH 112Z Precalculus II: Trigonometry	4
GEOG 141 The Natural Environment	4
Core-education course in social science	4
Credits	16
Winter	
BI 221Z Principles of Biology: Cells	5
Core-education course in arts and letters	4
STAT 243Z Elementary Statistics I	4
Elective course	4
Credits	17
Spring	
BI 223Z Principles of Biology: Ecology and Evolution	5
GEOG 341 Population and Environment	4
PS 367 Politics, Science, and Climate Change	4
Elective course	4
Credits	17
Third Year	
Fall	
ENVS 345 Environmental Ethics	4
PPPM 445 Green Cities	4
BI 357 Marine Biology	4
Elective course	4
Credits	16
Winter	
ENG 325 Literature of the Northwest	4
LA 390 Urban Farm	4
BI 307 Forest Biology	4
Elective course	4
Credits	16

Spring	
HIST 378 American Environmental History to 1890	4
ENVS 467 Sustainable Agriculture	4
Elective courses	8
Credits	16
Fourth Year	
Fall	
ENVS 411 Environmental Issues: [Topic]	4
PHIL 309 Global Justice	4
Elective course	4
Credits	12
Winter	
ARCH 435 Principles of Urban Design	4
Elective courses	8
Credits	12
Spring	
ENVS 404 Internship: [Topic]	4
Elective courses	8
Credits	12
Total Credits	182