Environmental Soil Science, Minor

Requirements for a minor may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the minor. Students may not change from a campus that offers their major to a campus that does not offer their major for the purpose of completing a minor.

Program Description

The Environmental Soil Science minor enables students to acquire scientific and field-related skills in preparation for environmental careers. Students learn to understand and apply soils and land use information in a wide variety of professional settings. The Environmental Soil Science minor will prepare students for jobs as professional soil scientists or for graduate studies in Soil Science and other interdisciplinary environmental sciences.

What is Environmental Soil Science?

Soil is a critical component of terrestrial ecosystems, enabling plant growth and production of food, feed, and fiber for Earth’s human population. It also provides critical ecosystem services including water quantity and quality, carbon and nutrient cycling and retention, and habitat. Soil science is the systematic study of soil formation, distribution, and mapping; soil physical, chemical, and biological properties, processes and functions; and soil management, use, and restoration.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You are interested in sustainable production of food, feed, and fiber for Earth’s rapidly increasing population.
- You are concerned about degradation of water quality and restoration of aquatic habitats.
- You are interested in restoration of soils that have been degraded by processes such as erosion, desertification, or salinization.
- You are concerned about management and preservation of natural areas and wildlife habitats.

Program Requirements

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<th>Requirement</th>
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<td>Requirements for the Minor</td>
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Requirements for the Minor

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the minor, as specified by Senate Policy 59-10 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/59-00-minors-and-certificates/#59-10).

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<td>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOILS 101</td>
<td>Introductory Soil Science</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOILS 102</td>
<td>Introductory Soil Science Laboratory</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOILS 403</td>
<td>Soil Morphology Practicum</td>
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<td>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</td>
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In consultation with an Environmental Soil Science adviser, select 12-13 credits from the following (including at least 6 credits at the 400-level):

- ASM 327 Soil and Water Resource Management
- CE 335 Engineering Mechanics of Soils
- ERM 433 Transformation of Pollutants in Soils
- ERM 440 Chemistry of the Environment: Air, Water, and Soil
- FOR 475 Principles of Forest Soils Management
- TURF 434 Turfgrass Edaphology
- TURF 435 Turfgrass Nutrition

Academic Advising

The objectives of the university’s academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee’s unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy)

University Park

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Career Paths

The Environmental Soil Science minor can help prepare students for jobs as professional soil scientists or for graduate studies in soil science and other interdisciplinary environmental sciences.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES WITH A MINOR IN ENVIRONMENTAL SOIL SCIENCE (https://www.soils.org)

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES (http://ecosystems.psu.edu/graduateprograms/soil-science)

Contact

University Park

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