

# ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, 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 interdisciplinary minor in Environmental Studies gives students a broad-based introduction to the natural environment and human interactions with it. Students gain awareness and understanding of environmental issues from the perspectives of several disciplines in:

- relevant natural sciences (ecology, biology, geology, and/or environmental chemistry, for instance),
- the social sciences (environmental economics and/or public policy), and
- the arts and humanities (environmental history, ethics, and/or literature).

Core courses in environmental studies, emphasizing applied and experiential learning, serve to integrate and synthesize knowledge from the natural sciences, social sciences, and arts and humanities. The goal of the program is "ecological literacy." Students completing the minor gain sufficient awareness and understanding of environmental issues to put environmental problems in a variety of contexts and to apply pertinent skills and knowledge (from studies in both their major and the minor) in addressing those problems. The minor helps prepare students for employment in the private sector or with government agencies and environmental advocacy groups, or for postgraduate study in environmental science, public policy, the humanities, or law.

## What is Environmental Studies?

Environmental Studies provides a broadly-based liberal arts background for the study of environmental issues, blending the principles of the natural sciences with the intellectual traditions of the humanities and the social sciences. Emphasis is placed on experiential learning, ecological literacy, and problem-solving with a goal towards purposeful action.

## Program Requirements

Requirement	Credits
Requirements for the Minor	18

### 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 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/59-00-minors-and-certificates/>). In addition, at least six credits of the minor must be unique from the prescribed courses required by a student's major(s).

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Prescribed Courses</b>		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
ENVST 100		3
<b>Additional Courses</b>		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		

ENVST 200	Research Methods in Environmental Studies	3
	or ENVST 400W Senior Seminar in Environmental Studies	
Select 3 credits of the following:		3
BIOL 110	Biology: Basic Concepts and Biodiversity	
BIOL 220W	Biology: Populations and Communities	
CHEM 20	Environmental Chemistry	
CHEM 21	Environmental Chemistry Laboratory	
ECON 429	Public Finance and Fiscal Policy	
ENGL 180	Literature and the Natural World	
GEOSC 20	Planet Earth	
GEOG 115	Landforms of the World	
HIST 453	American Environmental History	
PHIL 403	Seminar in Environmental Ethics	
STAT 250	Introduction to Biostatistics	

### Supporting Courses and Related Areas

*Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better*

Select 9 credits (at least 6 credits at the 400-level) in consultation with an academic adviser, 3 credits in each area listed below: <sup>1</sup> 9

#### a. Natural Sciences

BIOL 240W	Biology: Function and Development of Organisms	
BIOL 417	Invertebrate Zoology	
BIOL 427	Evolution	
BIOL 435	Ecology of Lakes and Streams	
BIOL 446	Physiological Ecology	
BIOL 450		
ENVST 497	Special Topics in Environmental Studies	
FOR 308	Forest Ecology	
FOR/WFS 430	Conservation Biology	
GEOSC 303	Introduction to Environmental Geology	
GEOSC 340	Geomorphology	
WFS 408	Mammalogy	

#### b. Social Sciences

ANTH 40	Biocultural Evolution	
ANTH 146	Indigenous North America	
ANTH 152	Hunters and Gatherers	
ANTH 456		
ENVST 497	Special Topics in Environmental Studies	
GEOG 423Y		
GEOG 430	Human Use of Environment	
PLSC 444	Government and the Economy	
PLSC 490	Policy Making and Evaluation	
STS 47	Wilderness, Technology, and Society	

#### c. Arts and Humanities <sup>2</sup>

ENGL 404	Mapping Identity, Difference, and Place	
ENGL 412	Advanced Fiction Writing	
ENGL 415	Advanced Nonfiction Writing	
ENGL 416	Science Writing	
ENGL 421	Advanced Expository Writing	
ENGL 430	The American Renaissance	
ENVST 497	Special Topics in Environmental Studies	
HIST/STS 151		
HIST/STS 428	The Darwinian Revolution	

<sup>1</sup> Other courses may be substituted with program approval.

<sup>2</sup> When topic appropriate and with program approval:

- ENGL 400
- ENGL 401
- ENGL 483
- HIST 200
- HIST 497

## 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 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/>)

### Altoona

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<https://altoona.psu.edu/academics/bachelors-degrees/environmental-studies> (<https://altoona.psu.edu/academics/bachelors-degrees/environmental-studies/>)