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

<table>
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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 (https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/59-00-minors-and-certificates/#59-10). In addition, at least six credits of the minor must be unique from the prescribed courses required by a student’s major(s).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENVST 100</td>
<td>Research Methods in Environmental Studies or ENVST 400W Senior Seminar in Environmental Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 110</td>
<td>Biology: Basic Concepts and Biodiversity</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 220W</td>
<td>Biology: Populations and Communities</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 20</td>
<td>Environmental Chemistry</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>CHEM 21</td>
<td>Environmental Chemistry Laboratory</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON 429</td>
<td>Public Finance and Fiscal Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 180</td>
<td>Literature and the Natural World</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOC 20</td>
<td>Planet Earth</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 115</td>
<td>Landforms of the World</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 453</td>
<td>American Environmental History</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 403</td>
<td>Seminar in Environmental Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 250</td>
<td>Introduction to Biostatistics</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
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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. 1

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
- 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
- GEG 423Y
- GEG 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 2

- 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
Other courses may be substituted with program approval.

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

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