ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY GEOGRAPHY, CERTIFICATE

Requirements for an undergraduate certificate may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the certificate.

Program Description
The 12-credit Certificate in Environment and Society Geography will engage students with issues, knowledge, and diverse forms of learning, analysis, and exposition related to the interactions of human societies and environments. This certificate is based on the twin foundations of human-environment interactions and nature-society relations. Its purpose is to train students to use frameworks such as political ecology and environmental geography to provide the tools and concepts of change and sustainability necessary to analyze human-environment systems, environmental problems, and remediation across local-to-global scales, and the political economy of resource use and management.

Learning objectives: Identify, describe, and analyze human-environment systems and processes across the globe; recognize how humans depend on, alter, and manage their environment in various places; and think critically about addressing complex human-environment challenges.

What is Environment and Society Geography?
Environment and society geography is a rapidly growing area of academia and policy organizations. This certificate specifically addresses how geographers approach questions concerning human-environment relations, systems, and processes. Students who enroll in this certificate program will engage frameworks such as political ecology, environmental geography, and sustainability studies and will be asked to analyze human-environment systems, environmental problems, and remediation across local-to-global scales, and the political economy of resource use and management. Focus areas cover such topics as nature conservation and economic development; water and energy resources; environments, health, and urban-rural dynamics; environment-society interactions involving agriculture, nutrition, and well-being; and sustainability.

You Might Like This Program If...
You are interested in the uniquely integrative tradition of environment-society interactions, one of the four cornerstones of contemporary geography. • You want to obtain the tools needed to address the combined environmental and social issues that are related to sustainability, globalization, climate change, and urban and industrial growth.

Program Requirements
To earn an undergraduate certificate in Environment and Society Geography, a minimum of 12 credits is required.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 230</td>
<td>Geographic Perspectives on Environment, Society and Sustainability</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 333N</td>
<td>Political Ecology</td>
<td>9</td>
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Non-Course Requirements
Per University policy, all credit courses for a certificate require a grade of ‘C’ or higher, and at least two-thirds (2/3) of the credits used to complete a certificate must be earned at Penn State. If student is completing multiple certificates in Geography, no more than one (1) course may double-count for each.

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 need 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
Jodi Vender
Undergraduate Advising Coordinator
305 Walker Building
University Park, PA 16802
814-863-5730
advising@geog.psu.edu

Career Paths
Students earning the Environment and Society Geography certificate learn a wide range of research and analytical skills that are highly valued by employers. Students who are trained at the intersection of the environment and society find jobs in all levels of government, nonprofit organizations, and in industry. This is one of several geography-related certificates that students can use to tailor their educational experience in preparation for the job market. In addition to Environment and Society Geography, the Department of Geography offers certificates in Geospatial Big Data Analytics; Geographic Information Systems; Human Geography; Landscape Ecology; Justice, Ethics, Diversity in Space; and Physical Geography.

Careers
Students earning the certificate in Environment and Society Geography are well positioned to find employment with diverse organizations spanning business, government, and nonprofit sectors. Such

MORE INFORMATION (http://www.geog.psu.edu)

**Opportunities for Graduate Studies**

A certificate in the dynamic intersections of the environment with society is useful for students who are interested in pursuing graduate degrees in the environmental and social sciences. Alumni enter graduate and professional studies in a variety of programs, including (but not limited to) geography, planning, international development, urban studies, sustainability, environmental sciences, ecology, public policy, emergency management, and law. They sometimes begin graduate or professional programs directly after finishing undergraduate studies, but often get several years' work experience before returning to school, either full or part-time.

MORE INFORMATION (http://www.geog.psu.edu)

**Professional Resources**

- American Association of Geographers (AAG) (http://www.aag.org)
- American Geographic Society (AGS) (http://americangeo.org)
- National Geographic Society (NGS) (https://www.nationalgeographic.com)
- International Geographic Union (IGU) (http://iswg.org)

**Contact**

University Park
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
302 Walker Building
University Park, PA 16802
814-865-3433
geography@psu.edu

http://www.geog.psu.edu