Environmental Studies (ENS)

Interdisciplinary Major and Living Learning Center Minor in Environmental Studies

School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences (SoMAS)

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Faculty

Please see the faculty listing in the entry for the Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences major.

The Environmental Studies major, leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree, is designed to provide students with the analytical and communication skills and the broad background necessary to understand and address complex environmental issues. The major also offers the opportunity for students to carry out focused study within a specific area of interest. Environmental issues are not resolved in the scientific, technological, social, or political arenas alone. The curriculum is, therefore, interdisciplinary and integrates principles and methodologies from the social sciences, engineering, the natural sciences, and humanities. The goal is to address the complex scientific, legal, political, socioeconomic and ethical issues that define and surround environmental issues.

The major in Environmental Studies prepares the student for further education and entry-level employment in areas such as public interest science and advocacy, environmental conservation, law, journalism, management, television documentary production, ecotourism, population studies, and public service including public health.

To demonstrate depth of learning, an area of concentration is required of all students in the major. Additionally, a research course, an internship, or field study is an essential part of the curriculum to provide real-world experience in an appropriate subject area.

The Environmental Studies major is administered by the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences and is offered on two campuses—the Stony Brook main campus and at Stony Brook Southampton. Southampton students may choose to pursue one of four concentrations, whereas main campus students may pursue any of the published ten concentrations as described in Requirements for the Major. All other aspects regarding the academic requirements for the major remain the same on both campuses.

On the main campus, a Living Learning Center and a minor, with a residential component, are also available. A lounge and study area are also available within the Living Learning Center for commuter students enrolled in the major or minor. The Living Learning Center, which is part of the Science and Society College, offers special programs, such as a seminar series showcasing faculty research and selected courses in the major and minor. Students may not pursue the minor in conjunction with the major.

All students should consult with the appropriate faculty advisor based on the location in which they are studying. Students on the main campus should contact the director of undergraduate studies to design and approve an acceptable course of study before declaring the major. Students at Stony Brook Southampton should consult with the Southampton Coordinator to discuss the academic options in Southampton.

For more information about the Southampton campus, please read the Introduction to Stony Brook in this Bulletin or visit http://www.stonybrook.edu/southampton. Students may learn more about the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences by visiting http://www.somas.stonybrook.edu.

Courses Offered in Environmental Studies

See the Course Descriptions listing in this Bulletin for complete information.

ENS 119-E Physics for Environmental Studies
ENS 301-H Contemporary Environmental Issues and Policies
ENS 311-H Ecosystem Ecology and the Global Environment
ENS 312-H Population, Technology, and the Environment
ENS 333 Environmental Law
ENS 380 Stony Brook in Tanzania: Lake Victoria Environment and Human Health
ENS 395 Topics in Environmental Sciences
ENS 443 Environmental Problem Solving
ENS 447 Readings in Environmental Studies
ENS 487 Independent Research in Environmental Studies
ENS 488 Internship in Environmental Studies

Requirements for the Major in Environmental Studies (ENS)

The major in Environmental Studies leads to the Bachelor of Arts degree. No more than one course required for the major can receive a letter grade less than C. Completion of the major requires approximately 66 credits.

A. Foundation Courses (34 credits)
1. Natural Sciences
   BIO 201 Fundamentals of Biology: Organisms to Ecosystems
   BIO 204 Fundamentals of Scientific Inquiry in the Biological Sciences
   CHE 131, 133 General Chemistry and Lab (See Note 1)
   MAT 125 or MAT 131 or MAT 141 Calculus
   PHY/ENS 119 Physics for Environmental Studies (See Note 2)

2. Social Sciences
   SOC 201 Introduction to Sociology
   SOC 202 Introduction to Sociology
   SOC 203 Introduction to Sociology
   SOC 204 Introduction to Sociology
   SOC 205 Introduction to Sociology

3. Behavioral Sciences
   PSY 101 General Psychology
   PSY 102 General Psychology
   PSY 103 General Psychology
   PSY 104 General Psychology
   PSY 105 General Psychology

4. Environmental Science
   ENS 101-E Prospects for Planet Earth
   ENS 119-E Physics for Environmental Studies
   ENS 301-H Contemporary Environmental Issues and Policies
   ENS 311-H Ecosystem Ecology and the Global Environment
   ENS 312-H Population, Technology, and the Environment
   ENS 333 Environmental Law
   ENS 380 Stony Brook in Tanzania: Lake Victoria Environment and Human Health
   ENS 395 Topics in Environmental Sciences
   ENS 443 Environmental Problem Solving
   ENS 447 Readings in Environmental Studies
   ENS 487 Independent Research in Environmental Studies
   ENS 488 Internship in Environmental Studies

5. Humanities
   ART 101 Introduction to Art History
   ART 102 Introduction to Art History
   ART 103 Introduction to Art History
   ART 104 Introduction to Art History
   ART 105 Introduction to Art History

6. Other Courses
   GEO 101 Introduction to Geology
   GEO 102 Introduction to Geology
   GEO 103 Introduction to Geology
   GEO 104 Introduction to Geology
   GEO 105 Introduction to Geology

B. Environmental Studies Courses (32 credits)

C. Electives (8 credits)

Total Credits: 66
One of the following:
GEO 101 Environmental Geology
or MAR 104 Oceanography
or ATM 102 Weather and Climate
or ENS 101 Prospects for Planet Earth

2. Social Sciences
ANP 120 Introduction to Physical Anthropology
ECO 108 Introduction to Economic Analysis
POL 102 Introduction to American Government

3. Humanities
PHI 104 Moral Reasoning
or PHI 105 Politics and Society

4. Communications
Proficiency in writing, oral communication, and computer literacy will be encouraged in all students. These skills will be developed within the context of formal coursework and no additional credits are required.

5. Upper-Division Writing Requirement
All students in the major must submit two papers from any upper division course in the major to the Director of Undergraduate Programs for evaluation by the end of the junior year.

B. Core Courses (20 credits)
1. One of the following statistics courses:
   AMS 102, AMS 110, AMS 310, ECO 320, POL 201, PSY 201, or SOC 202
2. MAR 340 Environmental Problems and Solutions
3. ENS 301 Contemporary Environmental Issues and Policies
4. ENS 311/BIO 386 Ecosystem Ecology and the Global Environment
5. ENS 312 Population, Technology, and the Environment
6. One of the following (2 credits):
   ENS 443 Environmental Problem Solving
   Independent Research (See Note 3)
   Internship (See Note 4)

C. Concentration (12 credits)
All students in the major must complete an area of concentration consisting of four courses to develop depth of knowledge in a specific field of interest.
1. Archaeology
   ANT 104 Introduction to Archaeology

   ANT 357 The Agricultural Revolution
   ANT 362 Long Island Archaeology
   ANT 420 Environmental Analysis using Remote Sensing
   Other upper-division archaeology courses may be substituted with permission of the undergraduate program director

2. Atmospheric Studies
   ATM 205 Introduction to Atmospheric Science
   ATM 237 Global Atmospheric Change
   ATM 397 Air Pollution and its Control
   MAR 334 Remote Sensing in the Environment
   Other upper-division ATM courses (ATM 345, ATM 346, or ATM 348) may be substituted with permission of the undergraduate program director

3. Conservation/Physical Anthropology
   ANP 321 Primate Evolution
   ANP 330 Human Evolution
   ANP 360 Primate Conservation
   MAR 315 Conservation Biology and Marine Biodiversity

4. Ecology*
   BIO 351 and 352 Ecology and Ecology Laboratory
   BIO 353 Marine Ecology
   BIO 354 Evolution
   BIO 385 Plant Ecology
   Other upper-division ecology or marine sciences courses (e.g., MAR 320 Limnology) may be substituted for BIO 353 and BIO 354/BIO 385 with permission of the undergraduate program director.

5. Environmental Economics*
   ECO 303 Intermediate Microeconomic Theory

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ENVS/POL 333 Environmental Law
Toxicology and Public Health

M AR 393 Treatment Technology

Other upper-division courses (BIO 343, 353; MAR 391, 392, 394, 396, 397, 398, 399) may be substituted with permission of the director of undergraduate studies.

9. Public Policy*

PHI 364 Philosophy of Technology
POL 359 Public Policy Analysis
POL 364 Organizational Decision Making

ENVS/POL 333 Environmental Law

10. Waste Reduction and Management

MAR 392 Waste Management Issues
MAR 393 Treatment Technology
MAR 394 Environmental Toxicology and Public Health

ENVS/POL 333 Environmental Law

Or one additional upper-division waste reduction or environmental policy course (with permission of the undergraduate director)

* These tracks are also offered at Stony Brook Southampton. For more information on Stony Brook Southampton, see the introduction to the major.

Notes:
1. CHE 141, 143 Honors Chemistry and Lab may be substituted for CHE 131, 133
2. PHY 121/123, 122/124 or 125, 126, 127 or 131/133, 132/134 or 141, 142 may be substituted for PHY/ENS 119.
3. Two credits of any course numbered 487 or equivalent with one of the following designators: ANP, ANT, ATM, BCP, BIO, CHE, ECO, ENVS, EST, GEO, MAR, PHY, POL. In addition to other prerequisites, credit toward the major requires approval of the research topic by the Director of Undergraduate Studies of the Marine Sciences Research Center.
4. Two credits of any course numbered 488 or equivalent with one of the following designators: ANP, ANT, ATM, BCP, BIO, CHE, ECO, ENVS, EST, GEO, MAR, PHY, POL. In addition to other prerequisites, credit toward the major requires approval of the internship by the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Living Learning Center Interdisciplinary Minor in Environmental Studies

The Environmental Studies Living Learning Center, housed in the Science and Society College, offers a minor in Environmental Studies as well as activities that emphasize both scientific and social issues encompassed by the broad field of environmental studies. Through this program, motivated natural science and social science students are able to apply their other coursework specifically to the study of the environment. In addition, participation in the program adds a rewarding academic component to each student’s residential experience. The minor in Environmental Studies provides enhanced exposure to one subfield of environmental studies, the natural science of the environment.  

Requirements for the Minor in Environmental Studies (ENS)

No more than one three-credit course in the minor may be taken under the Pass/No Credit option. All upper-division courses offered for the minor must be passed with a letter grade of C or higher.

Completion of the minor requires 18 credits.

1. One introductory course chosen from the following:
   ATM/EST 102 Weather and Climate
   BIO 113 General Ecology
   BIO 201 Principles of Biology: From Organisms to Ecosystems
   GEO 101 Environmental Geology
   MAR 101 Long Island Sound: Science and Use

2. ENS 101 Prospects for Planet Earth

3. ENS 301 Contemporary Environmental Issues and Policies

4. Two advanced courses chosen from the following:
   ANP 360 Primate Conservation
   ANT 420 Environmental Analysis Using Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems
   ATM/EST 397 Air Pollution and Its Control
   BIO 351 Ecology
   BIO 352 Ecology Laboratory
   BIO/GEO 353 Marine Ecology
   CHE 310 Chemistry in Technology and the Environment
   GEO 304 Energy, Mineral Resources, and the Environment
   GEO 315 Groundwater Hydrology
   MAR 320 Limnology
   MAR 333 Coastal Oceanography
   MAR 340 Environmental Problems and Solutions

5. At least three credits of independent study or research in any department, approved by the minor coordinator or undergraduate director.

Declaration of the Minor

Students should declare the Environmental Studies minor no later than the middle of their junior year, at which time they should consult with the minor coordinator or undergraduate director and plan their course of study for fulfillment of the requirements.