

# Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science

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The Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science is designed for students interested in an interdisciplinary scientific perspective on environmental and sustainability issues, analysis, and management. The degree program provides the broad foundation in physical, life, and social sciences needed for a career or graduate study in environmental science and related fields such as climate change, ecology, and conservation. Students who complete the program successfully will be able to assess environmental issues critically from multiple perspectives; to perform field, laboratory, and computer analyses; and to conduct original research. The program is designed to prepare graduates for careers in local, state, and federal government laboratories and nonprofit agencies, environmental consulting firms, environmental education and outreach agencies, and universities and other research settings. The degree is offered by the Jackson School of Geosciences with a major in geological sciences, by the College of Liberal Arts with a major in geographical sciences, and by the College of Natural Sciences with a major in biological sciences. The degree programs share common prescribed work, but each major has its own specific requirements. Students may earn only one Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science degree from the University.

The Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science curriculum consists of 126 semester hours of coursework. All students must complete the University's [Core Curriculum](#). The specific degree requirements consist of prescribed work, major requirements, and electives. In some cases, a course that is required for the degree may also be counted toward the core curriculum.

A course in one prescribed work area may not also be used to fulfill the requirements of another prescribed work area; the only exception to this rule is that a course that fulfills one requirement may also be used to fulfill a flag requirement, unless otherwise specified.

In the process of fulfilling the core curriculum and other degree requirements, all students are expected to complete courses with content in the following Skills and Experience flags:

- a. Writing: three flagged courses beyond Rhetoric and Writing 306 or its equivalent; students in the College of Natural Sciences and the Jackson School of Geosciences must complete only two flagged writing courses. For students in the College of Natural Sciences and the College of Liberal Arts, at least one writing flag must be from an upper-division course.
- b. Quantitative reasoning: one flagged course
- c. Global cultures: one flagged course
- d. Cultural diversity in the United States: one flagged course
- e. Ethics: one flagged course
- f. Independent inquiry: one flagged course

## Prescribed Work Common to All Environmental Science Majors

- a. Mathematics: Mathematics 408C, or 408N and 408S, or 408K and 408L
- b. Chemistry: Chemistry 301 or CH 301H; 302 or CH 302H; and 204
- c. Physics: Physics 317K and 117M. Physics 303K and 103M, or Physics 301 and 101L

- d. Biological sciences: Biology 311C and 311D, or 315H
- e. Ecology:
  - i. Biology 373 or Marine Science 320. Marine Science 320 may not be used to satisfy both requirement 5a and requirement 10c. Environmental Science majors in the College of Natural Sciences must choose Biology 373
  - ii. Biology 373L or Marine Science 120L. Environmental science majors in the College of Natural Sciences must choose Biology 373L
- f. Geological sciences: Geological Sciences 401 or 303 or Geography 410C; Geological Sciences 346C, and an approved geological sciences course in sustainability
- g. Geography: Geography 335N
- h. Field experience and research methods: Environmental Science 311 and 121
  - i. Capstone Research Experience: one of the following pairs:
    - i. Environmental Science 271 and 371 or Environmental Science 171 and 471
    - ii. Environmental Science 172C and 472D or Environmental Science 272C and 372D
    - iii. Environmental Science 271 or Marine Science 370, and one of the following: Chemistry 320M, Geography 460G, 368C, 462K, Geological Sciences 327G, Mathematics 408D, 408M, Statistics and Data Sciences 321 or 320E . Note: Geography 460G, 462K, and Geological Sciences 327G may not be used to satisfy both requirement 9c and 10b. Statistics and Data Sciences 321 and 320E may not be used in this requirement by students in the College of Natural Sciences. Biology 377 may substitute for Environmental Science 271 with prior approval of the faculty advisor. Tutorial Course 660HA and 660HB may substitute for Environmental Science 271 and 371 with prior approval of the faculty advisor. Geological Sciences 172H, 173H, and 379H may substitute for Environmental Science 271 and 371 with prior approval of the faculty advisor. Natural Sciences 323 and 371 may substitute for Environmental Science 271 and 371 with prior approval of the faculty advisor.
- j. Environmental and sustainability themes: One course in each of the following thematic areas:
  - a. Environmental and sustainability policy, ethics, and history: Geography 323K, 331K, 334, 336C, 339K, 340D, 342C, 344K, 356C, History 350R (Topic 7), Journalism 346F, Marine Science 367K, or Philosophy 325D. Biology 337, Geography 356, 356T, or Sociology 321K may be counted with prior approval of the faculty advisor.
  - b. Geographic information systems: Geography 460G, 462K, Geological Sciences 327G
  - c. Climates and oceans: Biology 456L, Geography 333K, Geological Sciences 338J, 347D, 347G, 377P, Marine Science 320, 440, 354Q, 354T, 356. Marine Science 320 may not be used to satisfy both requirement 5 and requirement 10. Biology 337, 437, Geography 356, 356T, Geological Sciences 371C, 371T, Marine Science 352 or 353 may count with prior approval of the faculty advisor.
  - d. Environmental economics, sustainability, and business: Economics 304K, 330T. Advanced Placement credit for Economics 304L may be used to satisfy this requirement.
- k. Environmental Science 141 and 151

## Additional Prescribed Work

- a. *Writing and Literature*: English 316L, 316M, 316N, or 316P, and three courses beyond Rhetoric and Writing 306 or the equivalent that carry a writing flag. One of these courses must be upper-division. Courses that carry a writing flag are identified in the [Course Schedule](#). They may be used simultaneously to fulfill other requirements, unless otherwise specified.
- b. *Foreign language/culture*: One of the following foreign language/culture choices:
  - a. Second-semester-level proficiency, or the equivalent, in a foreign language.
  - b. First-semester-level proficiency, or the equivalent, in a foreign language and a three-semester-hour course in the culture of the same language area.
  - c. Two three-semester-hour courses in one foreign culture area chosen from a list of approved courses available in the Student Division or from the undergraduate advisor.  
Courses taken to attain a certain level of proficiency in a foreign language are not electives and cannot be taken on the pass/fail basis.
- c. *Social science*: Three semester credit hours in a social science field, in addition to the course taken to satisfy the Social and Behavioral Science requirement of the Core Curriculum.

A list of approved courses is available each semester in the Student Division and on the [College of Liberal Arts website](#).

- d. *Cultural expression, human experience, and thought*: Three semester hours of approved coursework. The course must be in a field of study taught in the College of Liberal Arts. A course counted toward any requirement of the core curriculum may not also be counted toward this requirement.

A list of approved courses is available each semester in the Student Division and on the [College of Liberal Arts website](#).

## Major Requirements

The following 30 semester hours of coursework are required; these hours must include at least 18 hours of upper-division coursework.

- a. Geography 401C
- b. Twenty-six additional hours of coursework in geography, selected from Geography 301K, 404E, 410C, 333C, 333K, 334K, 334L, 335C, 335K, 335N, 338C, 339, 346, 356 (approved topics), 356T (approved topics), 357, 460G, 462K, 464K, 366C, 366K, 367K, 368C, 470C, and 476T (approved topics)
- c. A grade point average of at least 2.00 in the 30 hours of geography coursework required for the major

## Electives

In addition to the core curriculum, prescribed work, additional prescribed work, and major requirements, the student must complete enough elective coursework to provide the 126 semester hours required for the degree. These 126 hours may include no more than 12 hours of conference courses and internship courses combined as described in [Conference Courses and Internship Courses](#); 12 hours of Bible courses; nine hours of designated coursework in air force science, military science, or naval science, except for students enrolled in the Military

Leadership minor; 16 hours completed on the pass/fail basis; 39 hours in any one field of study offered in the College of Liberal Arts or the College of Natural Sciences, unless major requirements state otherwise; and 36 hours in courses offered in any other single college or school of the University. Mathematics courses at the level of college algebra may not count toward elective hours.