Environmental Studies

Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Environmental Studies

Program Chair
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Environmental Studies Program
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Jennifer Maguire, Social Work
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Rosemary Sherriff, Geography
Anthony Silvaggio, Sociology
Jessica Urban, Critical Race, Gender & Sexuality Studies
Noah Zerbe, Politics

The Program
Do you love the natural world but also love thinking about culture, people, politics, media, economics, history, literature, art, and identity? Do you want to save the planet and also make the world a more equitable place for all its inhabitants? Do you want to develop a wide range of skills to address the world’s most pressing environmental and social dilemmas? Consider an interdisciplinary Environmental Studies degree at HSU.

Environmental studies provides students with tools for understanding the complex relationships between human communities and both “natural” and built environments. The program cultivates critical analysis of environmental problems using tools from a variety of disciplines, helps students analyze environmental messages and communicate them effectively, and enables them to act as informed citizens and professionals. This requires knowledge of earth systems science as well as human systems, informed by careful reflection upon ethical concerns and societal values. Students tailor their focus in the degree by choosing a suite of applied courses in one of the “emphasis area” options: Ecology and Conservation Science, Geospatial Analysis, Media Production, Community Organizing, or Appropriate Technology.

Students completing this program will be able to:
- demonstrate understanding of how environmental challenges involve multiple perspectives and social contexts, and recognize the role of power and privilege in shaping them
- demonstrate literacy with earth systems
- use humanistic, creative, and social scientific approaches to understand environmental challenges
- understand how different research methods lead to diverse environmental knowledges
- critically evaluate normative claims about and representations of the environment.

Requirements for the Major
For a description of degree requirements to be fulfilled in addition to those listed below for the major, please see “The Bachelor’s Degree” section of the catalog, pp. 67-82.

Complete all courses in the major with a C- or better.

A total of 55–62 units are required for the major:

Lower Division Core (14 units)
ENST 120 (1) Introductory Seminar to Environmental Studies
ENST 195 (3) Topics in Nature/Culture
ENST 295 (4) Power/Privilege & Environment [DG-d]
GEOG 106 (3) Physical Geography

Select one of the following:
ESM 230 ‡ (3) Environmental Methods
GSP 101/GSP 101L (2/1) Geospatial Concepts and Lab

Upper Division Core (17 units)
ECON 423 (3) Environmental & Natural Resources Economics
ENST 395 (4) Environmental Studies Research & Analysis
ENST 490 (4) Environmental Studies Capstone Experience, or
ENST 490S (4) Environmental Studies Capstone Experience with Service Learning

‡ Course requires a prerequisite that is not required elsewhere in the major:

NAS 331 (3) Indigenous Natural Resource Management Practices, or
NAS 332 (3) Environmental Justice
PSCI 306 (3) Environmental Politics

Arts and Humanities (6–8 units)
Select 6-8 units from the following:

ART 395 (3) Topics in Art: Art & Place
ENGL 311 (4) Environmental Writing
ESM 309B (3) Environmental Communication
GEOG 311 (3) Geographic Research & Writing
PHIL 302 (3) Environmental Ethics
PS 361 (3) Environment & Religion
WS 340 (3-4) Ecofeminism
ENST 480 (1-4) Special Topics

Earth Systems Science (3–4 units)
Select one of the following:

GEOG 301 (3) International Environmental Issues & Globalization
GEOG 365/PSCI 365 (4) Political Ecology
NAS 366 (4) Tribal Water Rights
PSCI 373 (4) Politics of Sustainability
SOC 320 (4) Environmental Sociology
SOC 370 (3) Environmental Inequality & Globalization

Social Sciences (6–8 units)
Select two of the following:

ECON 309 (3) Economics of Sustainable Society
GEOG 301 (3) International Environmental Issues & Globalization
GEOG 365/PSCI 365 (4) Political Ecology
NAS 366 (4) Tribal Water Rights
PSCI 373 (4) Politics of Sustainability
SOC 320 (4) Environmental Sociology
SOC 370 (3) Environmental Inequality & Globalization

Emphases — Choose one (9–11 units)

The emphasis areas are designed to provide students with skills that complement the core Environmental Studies curriculum. Emphases are not listed on your diploma or transcripts, but you can highlight this additional skill-set on your resume and elsewhere.

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Appropriate Technology Emphasis [10 units]
Take all of the following:
ENST 123 (1) CCAT Practicum (Take twice with different topics for a total of 2 units.)
SOIL 104 (3) Intro to Sustainable Agriculture
ENGR 305 (3) Appropriate Technology
ENGR 308 (3) Technology & the Environment

Community Organizing Emphasis [10-11 units]
COMM 315 (4) Communication & Social Advocacy
COMM 416 (3) Social Advocacy Theory & Practice
CRGS 313/EDUC 313 (3) Community Activism, or
SOC 475 (4) Community Organizing

Ecology & Conservation Science Emphasis [9-11 units]
BIOL 105 (4) Principles of Biology, or
BOT 105 (4) General Botany, or
WLDF 210 (3) Intro to Wildlife Conservation, or
ZOOL 110 (4) Introductory Zoology
BIOL 330 (4) Principles of Ecology, or
WLDF 301 (3) Principles of Wildlife Management
WLDF 460 (3) Conservation Biology

Geospatial Analysis Emphasis [9-10 units]
GSP 101/GSP 101L (2/1) Geospatial Concepts & Lab [optional course in core]
Take two of the following:
GSP 216† (3) Introduction to Remote Sensing
GSP 270† (3) Geographic Information Science [GIS], or
GSP 280† (3) Special Topics in GSP [when offered as GIS for the Social Sciences]
GSP 316† (4) Cartography
or both of
GSP 270† (3) Geographic Information Science [GIS], or
GSP 280† (3) Special Topics in GSP [when offered as GIS for the Social Sciences]
GSP 370† (3) Intermediate Geographic Information Science [GIS]

Media Production Emphasis [10 units]
Take six units from the following:
ART 108 (3) Graphic Design I
ART 251 (3) Photography I
JMC 120 (3) Beginning Reporting
JMC 125 (3) Intro to Journalism Tools
JMC 156 (3) Video Production
Take at least three units from the following:
ENGL 460 (4) Literary Editing & Publishing (Toyon)
FILM 360 (4) Science, Environment & Natural History Digital Production
FILM 362 (4) Social Change Digital Production
JMC 325 (2) Magazine Production Workshop
JMC 327 (2) Multimedia News Workshop
JMC 336 (3) Advanced Video Production
JMC 490 (1) Seminar in Journalism [Topic: El Leñador]

† See course description for prerequisites.