

Environmental Studies MAJOR (62-68 credits)

The Rhode Island College Environmental Studies Program takes an interdisciplinary approach, focusing on how humans interact with their environment and the essential and reciprocal relationship between humans and the natural world while exploring how to move towards a more sustainable future for human and natural systems. Drawing on courses offered in the Biology, Mathematics and the Physical Sciences students learn scientific principles that enable us to make accurate observations, document change, and to understand the dynamics of Earth system processes. In courses drawn from the Humanities, Social Sciences and Arts students learn about human behavior, cultural variation, and the function of our social, political, and economic institutions as they relate to the natural world.

Learning Outcomes

Students completing the degree in Environmental Studies will be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of fundamental physical and biological principles that govern natural processes.
- demonstrate an understanding of fundamental concepts from the social sciences and the humanities underlying environmental thought and governance.
- integrate and apply perspectives from across the natural sciences, social sciences, and the humanities in the context of complex environmental problems.
- communicate integrated perspectives on complex environmental problems in the form of written and oral argument to both professional and lay audiences.
- design and conduct independent research that contributes to environmental thought and/or problem solving.

MAJOR

(48-68 credits)

1. Foundational courses: (48 credits)

A. Environmental Studies

(1 courses, 4 credits)

Goal: define environmental studies and examine the environment from an interdisciplinary approach.

ENST 200: Environmental Studies (*Writing in the Discipline*)

B. Statistics

(1 course, 4 credits)

Goals: Students will be introduced to the applications and methods of mathematical analyses.

BIOL 240 Biostatistics (pre: Completion college math competency & grade of C or better in BIOL 100, BIOL 108 or BIOL 112)

MATH 240: Statistical Methods I (pre: 3 units college prep math or MATH 120)

C. Professional Writing

(1 course, 4 credits)

Goals: Building on the foundational skills in writing developed in FYW, students will continue focus on technical writing, taking concepts from the sciences and making them accessible to non-specialized audience.

Select one.

COMM 201 Writing for the News (pre: FYW)

COMM 242 Message, Media, Meaning (pre: FYW)

ENG 231: Writing for Digital and Multimedia Environments (pre: FYW)

ENG 232: Writing for the Public Sphere (pre: FYW)

D. The Natural Environment

(3 courses, 12 credits)

Goals: In these courses students build a foundation for understanding of the natural environment. Students learn how the scientific method generates knowledge and they learn how to apply the methods of scientific research to understand the physical world.

Select one from each section

1. BIO 100: Fundamental Concepts of Biology NS
2. CHEM 105: General, Organic, and Biochemistry I NS
3. PSCI 212: Introduction to Geology NS
PSCI 214: Introduction to Meteorology
PSCI 217: Introduction to Oceanography NS

E. The Cultural Environment

(2 courses, 7-8 credits)

Goals: Students will learn how the environment shapes and is shaped by humans. These courses expose students to the diversity of behavioral adaptations humans have developed to the environment through space and time

Select one from each section

1. ANTH 101: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology SB
ANTH 102: Introduction to Archaeology
SOC 200: Society and Social Behavior
2. HIST 258: Environmental History (Gen Ed HIST or consent of chair)

F. The Human-Environment Interface**(4 courses, 15-16 credits)**

Goals: Students will be exposed to the responsibility humans must have to and for the environment, both locally and globally, both in the present and for the future.

Select one from each section

1. POL 202: American Government SB
POL 203: Global Politics SB
2. PHIL 325: Environmental Ethics (pre: 30 college credits)
3. ECON 200 Introduction to Economics
ECON 214: Microeconomics (pre: college math)
GEOG 301: Natural Resource Management (pre: 100 or 200 GEOG)
4. ANTH 214: Amazonia
COMM 240: Mass Media and Society
GEOG 100: Introduction to Environmental Geography
GEOG 201: Mapping Our Changing World
SOC 204: Urban Sociology
SUST 200: Introduction to Sustainability

2. Depth Courses**(4 courses, 12-16 credits)**

Goals: Students will explore in greater depth and the content areas A-F.

Select four, no more than 2 courses from any single department/program

ANTH 301/ ENST 301 Ethnobotany
ANTH 307: Human Evol, Ecol, and Beh
ANTH 325: South American Indians
ANTH 334: Technol, Culture and Society
ANTH 338: Urban Anthropology
ANTH 343: Environmental Anthropology
ANTH 347 Environmental Justice
ECON 331 Topics in Global Economics
ECON 337 Econ of Climate Change & Sust
ENG 315: Literature, Env & Ecocriticism
GEOG 202: GIS I
GEOG 206: Disaster Management
GEOG 301: Natural Resource Management
GEOG 307: Coastal Geography
GEOG 338: People, Houses, Neighborhoods
HIST 357: Public History
INGO 300/POL345: INGO Studies
INGO 301: Applied Developmental Studies
PHIL 320: Philosophy of Science
POL 300: Methods in Political Science
POL 301: Foundations of Public Admin
POL 341: Politics of Developing Nations
POL 342: Politics of Global Econ Change
POL 355: Policy Formation Process
PSCI 340: Field Methods in Geology
SOC 302: Social Research Methods
SOC 404: Social Research Methods II
XXX 350: Topics from departments

3. Capstone (Writing in the Discipline)**(4 credits)**

Goals: Taken during the senior year, students will bring together the interdisciplinary content taken in Sections A-G.

Select one (Seminar, Internship, or Field Course)

1. ENST 461: Environmental Studies Seminar (pre: senior standing)
2. ENST 462: Internship in Environmental Studies
POL 327: Internship in State Government
POL 328: Field Experiences in the Public Sector
INGO 303 & 304: Pre-Internship and Internship in INGO

GEOG 463: Internship in Geography

3. ANTH 482: Anthropology Field Course: Archaeology

ANTH 483: Anthropology Field Course: Biological Anthropology

Total Credits:

Foundational

46-48 credits

A.	Environmental Studies	4
B.	Statistics	4
C.	Professional Writing	4
D.	The Natural Environment	12
E.	The Cultural Environment	7-8
F.	The Human-Environment Interface	15 -16

46-48

Depth: 12-16 credits

Capstone: 4 credits

Total: 62 – 68 credits

Gen Ed: 12-16 credits

Gen Ed credits: AQSR possible: 4 credits

Gen Ed credits: SB, NS, Math, H: 12 credits

Gen Ed credits not included: FYS, FYW, Conn, A, L, Foreign Language

Total (subtracting Gen Ed): 46 – 56 credits

MINOR (20 credits)

Environmental Studies (1 courses, 4 credits)

ENST 200: Environmental Studies

The Natural Environment (1 course, 4 credits)

Select one **course**

BIO 100: Fund Concepts of Biology

CHEM 105: Gen, Organic, & Biochem I

PSCI 212: Introduction to Geology

PSCI 217: Introduction to Oceanography

The Human Environment (1 course, 4 credits)

Select one course that cannot count towards your major.

ANTH 101: Intro to Cultural Anthropology

ANTH 102: Intro to Archaeology

ANTH 214: Amazonia

COMM 240: Mass Media and Society

ECON 214: Microeconomics

GEOG 100: Intro to Environmental Geography

GEOG 201: Mapping Our Changing World

GEOG 301: Natural Resource Management

HIST 258: Environ History

PHIL 325: Environmental Ethics

POL 202: American Government

POL 203: Global Politics

SOC 200: Society and Social Behavior

SOC 204: Urban Sociology

SUST 200: Introduction to Sustainability

2. Depth Courses (2 courses, 8 credits)

Select 2 courses

ANTH 301/ ENST 301 Ethnobotany

ANTH 307: Human Evol, Ecol, and Beh

ANTH 325: South American Indians

ANTH 334: Technol, Culture and Society

ANTH 338: Urban Anthropology

ANTH 343: Environmental Anthropology

ANTH 347 Environmental Justice

ECON 331 Topics in Global Economics

ECON 337 Econ of Climate Change & Sust

ENG 315: Literature, Env & Ecocriticism

GEOG 202: GIS I

GEOG 206: Disaster Management

GEOG 301: Natural Resource Management

GEOG 307: Coastal Geography

GEOG 338: People, Houses, Neighborhoods

HIST 357: Public History

INGO 300/POL345: INGO Studies

INGO 301: Applied Developmental Studies

PHIL 320: Philosophy of Science

POL 300: Methods in Political Science

POL 301: Foundations of Public Admin

POL 341: Politics of Developing Nations

POL 342: Politics of Global Econ Change

POL 355: Policy Formation Process

PSCI 340: Field Methods in Geology

SOC 302: Social Research Methods

SOC 404: Social Research Methods IXXXX 350

Appropriate topics from different departments

*GEOG 301 may not be taken for both Foundational and Depth credit.