

Minor in Environmental Studies

California Polytechnic State University
College of Science and Mathematics

The Minor in Environmental Studies is an interdisciplinary program open to students in all colleges at Cal Poly. The program seeks to provide both scientific/ technical and social/ political/ economic perspectives on the environment. The Minor in Environmental Studies will provide students an opportunity to integrate and synthesize the many strands of knowledge that bear on environmental issues. The culmination of the minor is the Area F capstone course The Global Environment, a broadly interdisciplinary examination of issues such as population, climate change, and biodiversity that impact the environment at the global scale.

There are two options for the Minor in Environmental Studies. Option A is by coursework at Cal Poly. Option B is for students who have attended Earth Semester at Biosphere 2.

Option A

Students must select courses from the subject areas listed below. The Application for the Minor in Environmental Studies shows the specific courses open to students in each college. The course list must be approved in advance by the Environmental Studies advisor for your college.

Note that many of the courses also satisfy GE requirements.

		GE	Units
Biology and ecology: Choose one.			
BIO 112	Environmental biology and conservation	B5	4
BIO 227	Wildlife conservation biology	B2	4
BIO 301	Environmental science and human ecology		4
BIO 325	General ecology		4
FNR 306	Natural resource ecology and habitat management		4
FNR 319	Natural resource ecology, theories and applications	B5	4
Earth science: Choose one.			
GEOG 250	Physical geography		4
GEOL 102	Physical geology	B3	4
PHYS 313	Introduction to atmospheric physics		3
PSC 201	Introduction to physical oceanography	B5	4
SS 202	Soil and water conservation		3
Energy and pollution: Choose one.			
BRAE 348	Energy for a sustainable society	F	4
ENVE 324	Introduction to air pollution	F	4
ENVE 330	Environmental quality control		4
ENVE 331	Introduction to environmental engineering		4
ME 321	Solar energy	F	4
PHYS 310	Physics of energy		3
PSC 320	Energy and the environment for the new millennium	F	4
Social, political, and ethical issues: Choose one.			
CRP 404	Environmental law (cross listed as FNR 404)		3
ECON 431	Environmental economics		4
HUM 303	Values and technology	C4	4
PHIL 340	Environmental ethics	C4	4
POLS 325	Contemporary global political issues		4

POLS 333	World food systems	4
RE 302	Environmental and wilderness education	4
SOC 431	Population problems	4

Environmental planning, management, and sustainability: Choose one.

AG 450	Holistic resource management	4
CRP 336	Regional and environmental planning foundations	4
EDES 406	Sustainable environments	4
FNR 202	Environmental management	3
GEOG 301	Geography of resource utilization	D5 4
GEOG 333	Human impact on the earth	4
LA 321	Concepts in environmental decision making	3

Elective: Choose one additional 300-400 level course from the above list.

Capstone Course: The Global Environment

Cross listed as AG 350/BUS 350/EDES 350/ENGR 350/HUM 350/SCM 350

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Option B

For students who have attended Earth Semester at Biosphere 2

SCM 365	Biosphere 2: Earth Systems Science	6
SCM 366	Biosphere 2: Conservation Biology	6
SCM 367	Biosphere 2: Human Role in Environmental Change	5
SCM 368	Biosphere 2: Independent Research in Environmental Science and Policy	3
SCM 369	Biosphere 2: Planetary Management Seminar and Laboratory	4
AG 350/BUS 350/EDES 350/ENGR 350/HUM 350/SCM 350	The Global Environment	4

Capstone Course: The capstone course Global Environment will usually be offered in the fall and spring quarters. It is cross-listed in all six colleges, but not all prefixes will be used each quarter. Enroll under the prefix of your college if it is listed. If not, enroll under any of the other prefixes.

Enrolling: To enroll in the minor, see the member of the Environmental Studies Committee (listed below) for your college. You will need to fill out an application form showing the courses you will use to satisfy the requirements, have the application signed, and submit the application form to the Evaluations Office. Once the application is submitted, you must follow the approved course list exactly. You will need to submit a revised application form if you later want to change the courses used to satisfy the requirements.

The Cal Poly Environmental Studies Committee

College of Business	Kate Lancaster	Bldg. 03, Room 321	6-2922
College of Agriculture	Tom Ruehr	Bldg. 52, Room C34	6-2552
College of Architecture & Environmental Design	Brook Muller	Bldg. 34, Room 220C	6-1444
College of Engineering	David Braun	Bldg. 20, Room 304	6-1464
College of Liberal Arts	Bud Evans	Bldg. 47, Room 11R	6-6147
College of Science and Mathematics	Randy Knight	Bldg. 52, Room E14	6-1663