ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Program of Study

In the early twenty-first century, environmental challenges—including deforestation, climate change, pollution, water resources, habitat loss, and the food and energy needs of a growing population—are among the most pressing issues facing the world. Many environmental processes operate at a global scale and create natural and human consequences that cannot be addressed solely from within a single area or discipline. At the same time, local and historical conditions are always at issue in addressing environmental processes, problems, and possibilities. The study of critical environmental issues requires both area specific knowledge and knowledge that crosses traditional academic and geographic boundaries. The Environmental Studies program allows students to address these issues through focused interdisciplinary coursework and research.

The undergraduate major is housed in the Social Sciences Collegiate Division and emphasizes interdisciplinary approaches to environmental topics, incorporating models and methods from the humanities and social and natural sciences. The program is designed to be complementary to the Environmental Sciences BA/BS program, although students in Environmental Studies will complete basic course work in both the natural sciences and quantitative analyses as a foundation for studying environmental questions.

Students who are majoring in Environmental Studies are expected to build a foundation for studying environmental questions by completing basic course work both in the natural sciences and in quantitative analyses. The program draws on the existing strengths and interests of College faculty in a variety of disciplines and divisions. The curriculum is organized around required elements that include:

1. a common introductory sequence
2. course work in two broadly conceived thematic tracks
3. a thesis
4. an internship or field studies component

The two thematic tracks are (1) Environmental Economics and Policy, and (2) Socio-natural Systems and Frameworks. Although students will design a program of study that will emphasize one of the tracks, course work from each will be included.

The major in Environmental Studies is coordinated by the Program on the Global Environment, which is housed in the Center for International Studies.

Students in other fields of study may also complete a minor in Environmental Studies. Information follows the description of the major.

NOTE: The BS in Environmental Science that is offered by the Department of Geophysical Sciences may be more appropriate for students who intend to pursue postgraduate studies or professional careers in the natural sciences. Students who
matriculated before July 2006 and have questions about Environmental Studies courses that they have already taken should contact the program director of Environmental Studies, Mark Lycett (702.6040, mlycett@uchicago.edu), to devise their program of study.

**SUMMARY OF PROGRAM**

Students who are majoring in Environmental Studies must take thirteen courses according to the following guidelines.

**Environmental Studies Core Sequence**

Students are required to take the two-course core sequence in Environmental Studies:


ENST 21201 Human Impact on the Environment and ENST 21301 Making the Natural World: Foundations of Human Ecology are required of students who are majoring in Environmental Studies and may be taken in any order.

One course provides an overview of fundamental issues in environmental studies while the other stresses contemporary concerns and policy applications. Each course is oriented toward one of the basic thematic tracks. Students are strongly encouraged to complete the sequence in their second year.

**Thematic Tracks**

Students must take four courses in their area of emphasis and two courses in their supporting track for a total of six courses.

**A. Environmental Economics and Policy Track:** This concentration emphasizes issues such as environmental law, development, globalization, and policy studies. This track has a more applied focus and is inclined more toward present-day issues and strategies in the context of politics, law, and economics. A detailed course list can be found at pge.uchicago.edu/undergraduate/tracks.

**B. Socio-natural Systems and Frameworks Track:** This concentration emphasizes environmental history; landscape studies; human ecology and demography; and environmental ethics, philosophy, and representation. Included in this track are courses on cultural and historical constructions of the natural and the human; this track emphasizes intellectual frameworks as well as the use of substantive information from the social sciences, sciences, and humanities. A detailed course list can be found at pge.uchicago.edu/undergraduate/tracks.

Most courses taken beyond the general education requirement that have significant environmental content may be counted in one of the two thematic tracks for the Environmental Studies major or minor. Approved courses for each of these tracks and for the Environmental Sciences course work requirement are selected quarterly by the faculty. No course may be counted for more than one requirement. For the complete list of approved courses, consult the program adviser or visit pge.uchicago.edu.
Quantitative Analysis
One course must be taken to demonstrate competence in quantitative analysis. Students may choose to take either STAT 22000 Statistical Methods and Applications or an equivalent.

Environmental Sciences
Students must take three courses in environmental sciences. This supporting course work must be chosen from an approved list. A detailed course list can be found at pge.uchicago.edu/undergraduate/tracks.

BA Thesis
Students are required to take one course that emphasizes research design and skills and the writing process. Students are expected to develop significant independent research projects in close consultation with their preceptor and faculty adviser. In consultation with Environmental Studies preceptors, students prepare a topic page that is due eighth week of Spring Quarter in their third year.

Students are required to secure a faculty adviser and a second reader. The thesis adviser and second reader may be chosen from among the faculty teaching in Environmental Studies and related fields. Where appropriate, outside scholars, scientists, or policy experts may be added as additional readers with the approval of the program director. The second reader may also be an Environmental Studies preceptor.

In Autumn Quarter of their fourth year, students register for ENST 29801 BA Colloquium I, which is designed to teach research skills and more generally to aid the research and writing process. The final version of the BA thesis is due by the second Friday of the quarter in which the student plans to graduate.

This program may accept a BA paper or project used to satisfy the same requirement in another major if certain conditions are met and with the consent of the other program director. Approval from both program directors is required. Students should consult with the directors by the earliest BA proposal deadline (or by the end of their third year, when neither program publishes a deadline). A consent form, to be signed by the directors, is available from the College adviser. It must be completed and returned to the College adviser by the end of Autumn Quarter of the student’s year of graduation.

Internship or Field Studies Program
In addition to course work, students will be required to participate in an approved internship or field studies program with significant links to their program of study. More details can be found at pge.uchicago.edu/undergraduates/internships.

Summary of Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENST 21201</td>
<td>Human Impact on the Environment</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENST 21301</td>
<td>Making the Natural World: Foundations of Human Ecology</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Four courses in the thematic track of emphasis</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Two courses in the supporting thematic track 200
STAT 22000  Statistical Methods and Applications (or equivalent) 100
Three courses in the environmental sciences chosen from an approved list 300
ENST 29801  BA Colloquium I 100

Total Units 1300

Advising

Application for admission to the Environmental Studies program should be made to the program preceptor, who explains requirements and arranges a preliminary program of study. Admission to the major or minor is complete when a program of study has been approved by the program director. This program of study, which the student formulates in consultation with both the program preceptor and the program director, should be in place by a student’s third year.

Environmental Studies majors and minors must submit the Intent to Graduate form no later than the second week of the quarter in which they intend to graduate. The form is available online and must be submitted electronically. See pge.uchicago.edu/undergraduates/requirements/#forms for more information.

Grading

Students who are majoring in Environmental Studies must receive quality grades in all thirteen courses taken to meet the requirements of the program. Students may apply a maximum of two course credits for supervised individual reading or research to meet the requirements of the program.

Honors

Eligibility for honors requires an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher, a GPA of 3.5 or higher in the courses taken to meet the requirements of the program, and a BA thesis that is judged to be superior by the faculty and preceptor readers.

MINOR PROGRAM IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Students who are not Environmental Studies majors may complete a minor in Environmental Studies. Such a minor requires that six courses be taken according to the following guidelines:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENST 21201</td>
<td>Human Impact on the Environment</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENST 21301</td>
<td>Making the Natural World: Foundations of Human Ecology</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Four courses in one of the two thematic tracks chosen in consultation with the program director</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Units 600

Students who elect the minor program in Environmental Studies should meet with the program director before the end of Spring Quarter of their third year to declare their intention to complete the minor and select appropriate courses. The approval of the program director for the minor program should be submitted to a student’s College adviser by the deadline above on a form obtained from the adviser.
Courses in the minor (1) may not be double counted with the student’s major(s) or with other minors and (2) may not be counted toward general education requirements. Courses in the minor must be taken for quality grades, and at least half of the requirements for the minor must be met by registering for courses bearing University of Chicago course numbers.