Environmental Policy and Planning, B.S.

Learning Outcomes

Students who earn a degree in environmental policy and planning will be able to:

• critically analyze complex environmental problems to identify how they result from interactions among the physical environment and human societies, economies, and political systems;
• identify ways in which humans impact and are impacted by the environment;
• identify key stakeholders and sources of information in the natural and social sciences to consider in developing solutions to environmental problems;
• explain the role of policy and planning in addressing environmental issues locally, regionally, and globally;
• work collaboratively in interdisciplinary teams to design approaches to managing environmental problems; and
• identify and implement key tools and methods for environmental planning and policy making.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Science with a major in environmental policy and planning requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 53-56 s.h. of work for the major. Credit required for the major depends on a student’s choice of track. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core. Transfer students must complete at least 21 s.h. of work in residence at the University of Iowa.

The major in environmental policy and planning concentrates on the social science and policy dimensions of environmental problems, which often are caused by people and may have significant economic effects. Environmental issues are embedded in a complex mesh of economics, politics, culture, history, and behavior. Planners and policy makers must understand the human dimensions of these factors in order to solve environmental problems.

The environmental policy and planning major is interdisciplinary; it draws courses from geographical and sustainability sciences, anthropology, economics, political science, history, and other disciplines. Work for the major includes introductory courses, methods courses, intermediate courses, and one of two tracks: the planning track or the policy track.

Students who earn a second major in anthropology, geography, political science, or history must complete a minimum of 12 s.h. of course work in the second major that they do not also count toward the major in environmental policy and planning. The 12 s.h. of courses must be offered by the second major’s administrative home: anthropology (prefix ANTH), geographical and sustainability sciences (prefix GEOG), or political science (prefix POLI). This requirement applies whether students earn the same degree (B.A. or B.S.) with both majors or earn a B.A. with one major and a B.S. with the other. However, honors students in environmental policy and planning may count their honors thesis credit toward this 12 s.h. requirement.

Students may not use a course to satisfy more than one requirement of the major.

The B.S. with a major in environmental policy and planning requires the following course work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introductory Courses</td>
<td>16-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Intermediate Courses</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Methods Courses</td>
<td>13-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Capstone Course/Research Project</td>
<td>3-4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Track Courses</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>53-56</td>
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Introductory Courses

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>These courses (10 s.h.):</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON:1100</td>
<td>Principles of Microeconomics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG:1070</td>
<td>Contemporary Environmental Issues</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG:2013/ BUS:2013/ URP:2013</td>
<td>Introduction to Sustainability</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHS:1080/ ENVS:1085</td>
<td>Introduction to Environmental Science</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG:1020</td>
<td>The Global Environment</td>
<td>3</td>
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Intermediate Courses

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH:3103</td>
<td>Environment and Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH:4130/ RELS:4730</td>
<td>Religion and Environmental Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG:3400</td>
<td>Iowa Environmental Policy in Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAIS:3276/ RELS:3976</td>
<td>American Indian Environmentalism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:1400</td>
<td>Introduction to Comparative Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:3111</td>
<td>American Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

Methods Courses

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>These courses:</td>
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</table>
Capstone Course/Research Project

Students complete a capstone course or a research project. Capstone or research project courses are typically taken by students during their senior year. Students who choose GEOG:4995 Honors Thesis, POLI:4601 Honors Senior Thesis, or ANTH:4996 Honors Research must make arrangements with a faculty advisor.

Code | Title | Hours
--- | --- | ---
GEOG:4030 | Senior Project Seminar | 3
GEOG:4995 | Honors Thesis | arr.
Poli:4601 | Honors Senior Thesis | 3
Or, students may take both of these:
ANTH:4995 | Honors Research Seminar | 2
ANTH:4996 | Honors Research | 2

Policy Track

The policy track requires 12 s.h. Some of these courses have prerequisites; students must complete all of a course's prerequisites before they may register for the course.

Code | Title | Hours
--- | --- | ---
POLI:2417 | Comparative Environmental Policy | 3
ANTH:3237/ MUSM:3237 | Politics of the Archaeological Past | 3
ANTH:3240 | Cultural Resources Management Archaeology: Practice and Practicabilities | 3
GEOG:3331 | Human Dimensions of Climate | 3
GEOG:3400 | Iowa Environmental Policy in Practice | 3
GEOG:3750 | Environmental Quality: Science, Technology, and Policy | 3
HIST:3230 | American Environmental History | 3
POLI:3100 | American State Politics | 3
POLI:3102 | The U.S. Congress | 3
POLI:3110 | Local Politics | 3
POLI:3111 | American Public Policy | 3
POLI:3117 | Bureaucratic Politics and Public Administration | 3
POLI:3118 | Interest Groups | 3
POLI:3122 | Public Choice | 3
POLI:3123 | State Politics in Iowa (section EX) | 3
POLI:3126 | Environmental Policy | 3
POLI:3204/ SOC:3525 | Public Opinion | 3
POLI:3408 | Chinese Politics and Society | 3
POLI:3424 | Global Development | 3
Honors

Honors in the Major

Students have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Honors students in the program must maintain a cumulative UI g.p.a. of at least 3.33 and a g.p.a. of at least 3.33 in all work for the major. They must be admitted to the major's honors program by the first semester of their senior year or earlier.

Honors students pursue study beyond the typical undergraduate level. They work under the direction of a faculty member to conduct original research and then prepare and present an honors thesis based on their research. The thesis is reviewed by a committee of at least three faculty members. Students earn credit for the thesis by registering for GEOG:4995 Honors Thesis or POLI:4601 Honors Senior Thesis, or ANTH:4995 Honors Research Seminar and ANTH:4996 Honors Research.

University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program; visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the University’s honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the environmental policy and planning major.

Academic Plans

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the University’s Four-Year Graduation Plan. Courses in the major are those required to complete the major; they may be offered by departments other than the major department.

Before the third semester begins: one introductory course in the major

Before the fifth semester begins: five courses in the major

Before the seventh semester begins: eight courses in the major and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree

Before the eighth semester begins: 12 courses in the major

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining course work in the major, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate

Career Advancement

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.