Environmental Policy and Planning

Chair, Department of Geographical and Sustainability Sciences
• David A. Bennett

Coordinator, Environmental Policy and Planning
• Richard Tyler Priest (History)

Undergraduate major: environmental policy and planning (B.A., B.S.)

Undergraduate minor: environmental policy and planning

Faculty: http://clas.uiowa.edu/geography/people/faculty


The undergraduate programs of study in environmental policy and planning are administered by the Department of Geographical and Sustainability Sciences.

Undergraduate Programs of Study
• Major in environmental policy and planning (Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science)
• Minor in environmental policy and planning

Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in environmental policy and planning requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 40-43 s.h. of work for the major. The Bachelor of Science with a major in environmental policy and planning requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 47-49 s.h. of work for the major. Credit required for the major depends on the student's choice of track. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major. They also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences General Education Program. Transfer students must complete at least 21 s.h. of work for the major 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, 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, 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, or political science 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. Exception: 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 major in environmental policy and planning requires the following course work.

Common Requirements (B.A. and B.S.)

INTRODUCTORY COURSES (B.A. AND B.S.)

Both of these:
ECON:1100 Principles of Microeconomics 4 s.h.
GEOG:1070 Contemporary Environmental Issues 3 s.h.

One of these:
ANTH:2261 Human Impacts on the Environment 3 s.h.

One of these:
EES:1080/ENVS:1080 Introduction to Environmental Science 3-4 s.h.
GEOG:1020 The Global Environment 3 s.h.

INTERMEDIATE COURSES (B.A. AND B.S.)

This course:

One of these:
ANTH:3103 Environment and Culture 3 s.h.
ANTH:3112 Environmentalism 3 s.h.
ANTH:4130/RELS:4730 Religion and Environmental Ethics 3 s.h.

One of these:
POLL:1400 Introduction to Comparative Politics 3 s.h.
POLL:3111 American Public Policy 3 s.h.
POLL:3126 Environmental Policy 3 s.h.

METHODS COURSES (B.A.)

This course:
GEOG:1050 Foundations of GIS 3 s.h.

One of these:
METHODS COURSES (B.S.)
All of these:
GEOG:1050 Foundations of GIS 3 s.h.
GEOG:3520 GIS for Environmental Studies 3 s.h.
STAT:4143/PSQF:4143 Introduction to Statistical Methods 3 s.h.
STAT:6513/PSQF:6243 Intermediate Statistical Methods 4 s.h.

Tracks (B.A. and B.S.)
Students choose either the planning track or the policy track and complete their track's required course work.

PLANNING TRACK
The planning track requires 12 s.h.; all students complete ECON:3625 and choose three additional courses from the list below. Some of these courses have prerequisites; students must complete all of a course's prerequisites before they may register for the course or seek permission of the instructor.

This course:
ECON:3625/URP:3135 Environmental and Natural Resource Economics 3 s.h.

Three of these:
ECON:3640/URP:3134 Regional and Urban Economics 3 s.h.
GEOG:2410 Environment and Development 3 s.h.
GEOG:2930 Water Resources 3 s.h.
GEOG:3340 Ecosystem Services: Human Dependence on Natural Systems 3 s.h.
GEOG:3350 Urban Ecology 3 s.h.
GEOG:3400 Iowa Environmental Policy in Practice 3 s.h.
GEOG:3760/GHS:3760 Hazards and Society 3 s.h.
GEOG:4770 Environmental Justice 3 s.h.
URP:3001/GEOG:3920 Planning Livable Cities 3 s.h.
URP:3350/ECON:3750/GEOG:3940 Transportation Economics 3 s.h.

POLICY TRACK
The policy track requires 13 s.h.; all students complete GEOG:4750 and choose three additional courses from the list below. Some of these courses have prerequisites; students must complete all of a course's prerequisites before they may register for the course.

This course:
GEOG:4750/URP:4750 Environmental Impact Analysis 4 s.h.

Three of these:
ANTH:3237/MUSM:3237 Politics of the Archaeological Past 3 s.h.
ANTH:3240 Cultural Resources Management Archaeology: Practice and Practicalities 3 s.h.
GEOG:2331 Human Dimensions of Climate 3 s.h.
GEOG:3400 Iowa Environmental Policy in Practice 3 s.h.
GEOG:3750 Environmental Quality: Science, Technology, and Policy 3 s.h.
HIST:3230 American Environmental History 3 s.h.
OEH:3210/GEOG:3210 Health, Work, and the Environment 3 s.h.
POLI:2700 Business, Government, and Society (section EXW) 3 s.h.
POLI:3100 American State Politics 3 s.h.
POLI:3102 The U.S. Congress 3 s.h.
POLI:3110 Local Politics 3 s.h.
POLI:3111 American Public Policy 3 s.h.
POLI:3117 Public Administration and Bureaucratic Politics 3 s.h.
POLI:3118 Interest Groups 3 s.h.
POLI:3122 Public Choice 3 s.h.
POLI:3123 State Politics in Iowa (section EXW) 3 s.h.
POLI:3126 Environmental Policy 3 s.h.
POLI:3204/SOC:3525 Public Opinion 3 s.h.
POLI:3404 Public Policy Around the World 3 s.h.
POLI:3408 Chinese Politics and Society 3 s.h.

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.)

Bachelor of Arts
Before the third semester begins: one introductory course in the major
Before the fifth semester begins: four 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: 11 courses in the major
During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining course work in the major, all remaining General Education courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate

Bachelor of Science
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 General Education courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate

Honors in the Major

Students majoring in environmental policy and planning have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Honors students in the program must maintain a cumulative University of Iowa 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 in environmental policy and planning pursue study beyond the typical undergraduate level. In order to graduate with honors in the major, 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.

In addition to honors in the major, undergraduate students have a variety of 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.

Minor

The minor in environmental policy and planning requires a minimum of 18 s.h., including 12 s.h. in University of Iowa courses numbered 3000 or above. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the minor and in all UI courses for the minor. Course work in the minor may not be taken pass/nonpass. For help in selecting courses, students should contact the department secretary to request an advisor for the minor.

Students may apply a maximum of 6 s.h. toward both the minor in environmental policy and planning and any major or minor in the Departments of Anthropology, Geographical and Sustainability Sciences, or Political Science.

The minor in environmental policy and planning requires three core courses plus three courses from the student’s choice of track: the planning track or the policy track. Students may not use a course to satisfy more than one requirement of the minor.

All students complete three core courses.

This course:

GEOG:1070 Contemporary Environmental Issues 3 s.h.

One of these:

ANTH:2261 Human Impacts on the Environment 3 s.h.
ANTH:3103 Environment and Culture 3 s.h.
ANTH:3112 Environmentalisms 3 s.h.
ANTH:4130/RELS:4730 Religion and Environmental Ethics 3 s.h.

One of these:

POLI:1400 Introduction to Comparative Politics 3 s.h.
POLI:3111 American Public Policy 3 s.h.

Students also complete course work in a single track, choosing three courses from either the planning track list or the policy track list below.

Planning track:

GEOG:2410 Environment and Development 3 s.h.
GEOG:2930 Water Resources 3 s.h.
GEOG:3340 Ecosystem Services: Human Dependence on Natural Systems 3 s.h.
GEOG:3350 Urban Ecology 3 s.h.
GEOG:3400 Iowa Environmental Policy in Practice 3 s.h.
GEOG:3760 Hazards and Society 3 s.h.
GEOG:4770 Environmental Justice 3 s.h.
URP:3001/URP:3920 Planning Livable Cities 3 s.h.
URP:3134/ECON:3640 Regional and Urban Economics 3 s.h.
URP:3135/ECON:3625 Environmental and Natural Resource Economics 3 s.h.
URP:3350/ECON:3750/GEOG:3940 Transportation Economics 3 s.h.

Policy track:

ANTH:3237/MUSM:3237 Politics of the Archaeological Past 3 s.h.
ANTH:3240 Cultural Resources Management Archaeology: Practice and Practicalities 3 s.h.
GEOG:2331 Human Dimensions of Climate 3 s.h.
GEOG:3400 Iowa Environmental Policy in Practice 3 s.h.
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GEOG:4750/URP:4750 Environmental Impact Analysis 4 s.h.
HIST:3230 American Environmental History 3 s.h.
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