# Environmental Policy and Planning, BA

The Environmental Policy and Planning major at Iowa empowers students to address pressing environmental challenges through policy or planning pathways. Students drawn to this major are focused on learning about the environment through a human-centered lens.

Students explore solutions for land use, water access, and climate change, gaining practical skills and real-world experience. The program's unique interdisciplinary approach fosters a deep understanding of environmental policy and planning tools, preparing students to make a difference in shaping a sustainable future.

## Learning Outcomes

Graduates will:

- recognize the connections and relationships between human and environmental activities and outcomes across space and time;
- identify key stakeholders and sources of information in the natural and social sciences to consider in developing solutions to environmental problems;
- be able to explain the role of policy and planning in addressing environmental issues locally, regionally, and globally;
- be capable of working collaboratively in interdisciplinary teams to design approaches to managing environmental problems; and
- understand and be able to implement key tools and methods for environmental planning and policy making.

## Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in environmental policy and planning requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 55 s.h. of work for the major. Students must maintain a grade-point average of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They must also complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core. Transfer students must complete a minimum of 15 s.h. of School of Earth, Environment, and Sustainability coursework in the major.

In planning coursework, students should be guided by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences maximum hours rule: students earning a BA may apply a maximum of 56 s.h. earned in one department to the minimum 120 s.h. required for graduation, whether or not the coursework is accepted toward requirements for the major; students who earn more than 56 s.h. from one department may use the additional semester hours to satisfy requirements for the major (if the department accepts them), and the grades they earn become part of their grade-point average, but they cannot apply the additional semester hours to the minimum 120 s.h. required for graduation.

Students who are earning two majors from the same department (e.g., a BA in environmental policy and planning and a BA in earth and environmental sciences), two degrees from the same department (e.g., a BA in environmental policy and planning and a BS in geographical and sustainability sciences), or a major and a minor from the same department (e.g., a BA in environmental policy and planning and a minor in earth and environmental sciences) may apply more than 56 s.h. from their home department toward their degree, but they must earn at least 56 s.h. of credit in courses outside their home department in order to graduate.

The BA with a major in environmental policy and planning requires the following coursework.

| Requirements | Hours |
|---|---|
| Shared Courses | 43-45 |
| Track Courses | 12 |

## Shared Courses

| Course # | Title | Hours |
|---|---|---|
| **Introductory Courses** | | |
| All of these: | | |
| SEES:1035 | Our Digital Earth | 3 |
| SEES:1070 | Contemporary Environmental Issues | 3 |
| SEES:1085 | Fundamentals of Environmental Science | 4 |
| SEES:2010 | Interdisciplinary Environmental Seminar | 1 |
| SEES:2013/ BUS:2013/ URP:2013 | Introduction to Sustainability | 3 |
| SEES:2050 | Foundations of GIS | 4 |
| ANTH:2261 | Human Impacts on the Environment | 3 |
| ECON:1100 | Principles of Microeconomics | 4 |
| **Intermediate Courses** | | |
| This course: | | |
| POLI:3111 | American Public Policy | 3 |
| One of these: | | |
| AMST:1290/ GHS:1290/ HIST:1290/ NAIS:1290 | Native American Foods and Foodways | 3 |
| ANTH:3103 | Environment and Culture | 3 |
| One of these: | | |
| SEES:2950 | Environmental Conservation | 4 |
| SEES:3350 | Urban Ecology | 3 |
| **Methods Courses** | | |
| One of these: | | |
| PSQF:4143/ STAT:4143 | Introduction to Statistical Methods | 3 |
| STAT:1020/ PSQF:1020 | Elementary Statistics and Inference | 3 |
| STAT:1030 | Statistics for Business | 4 |
| STAT:2010 | Statistical Methods and Computing | 3 |
| STAT:2020 | Probability and Statistics for the Engineering and Physical Sciences | 3 |
| STAT:3510/ IGPI:3510 | Biostatistics | 3 |
| **Communications Courses** | | |
| One of these: | | |
| CNW:3664/ ENGL:3764 | Writing About Science | 3 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| JMC:1800 | Environmental Communication | 3 |
| JMC:3185 | Topics in Understanding Media | 3 |
| **Research and Experiential Learning** | | |
| At least one of these (for a total of 3 hours): | | 3 |
| SEES:3400 | Iowa Environmental Policy in Practice | 3 |
| SEES:3992 | Undergraduate Research (or Iowa Community Integrated Geography Organization (ICIGO)) | 1-3 |
| SEES:4995 | Honors Thesis | arr. |
| CCP:1201 | Academic Internship | 1-3 |

# Tracks

Students must complete one of two tracks: planning or policy. Each track consists of two required courses and at least 6 s.h. in elective courses. Students may not use any course to satisfy more than one requirement.

## Planning Track

| Course # | Title | Hours |
|---|---|---|
| Both of these: | | |
| SEES:3920/ URP:3001 | Planning Livable Cities | 3 |
| SEES:4750/ URP:4750 | Environmental Impact Analysis | 3 |
| At least 6 s.h. from these: | | |
| SEES:2930 | Water Resources | 3 |
| SEES:3250/ CPH:3400 | Health, Work, and the Environment | 3 |
| SEES:3315 | Ecosystem Ecology | 4 |
| SEES:3350 | Urban Ecology | 3 |
| SEES:3400 | Iowa Environmental Policy in Practice | 3 |
| SEES:3520/ IGPI:3520 | GIS for Environmental Applications | 3 |
| SEES:3540/ IGPI:3540 | Geographic Visualization | 3 |
| SEES:3760/ GHS:3760 | Hazards and Society | 3 |
| SEES:3780/ GHS:3780/ HIST:3240/ POLI:3431 | U.S. Energy Policy in Global Context | 3 |
| SEES:3800 | Environmental Policy | 3 |
| SEES:4770/ AFAM:4770/ GHS:4770 | Environmental Justice | 3 |
| ECON:3625/ URP:3135 | Environmental and Natural Resource Economics | 3 |
| HIST:3128 | Global Environmental History: Nature and Power in the Modern World | 3 |
| HIST:3230 | American Environmental History | 3 |
| URP:3134/ ECON:3640 | Regional and Urban Economics | 3 |
| URP:3350/ ECON:3750/ SEES:3940 | Transportation Economics | 3 |

## Policy Track

| Course # | Title | Hours |
|---|---|---|
| Both of these: | | |
| SEES:3800 | Environmental Policy | 3 |
| ECON:3625/ URP:3135 | Environmental and Natural Resource Economics | 3 |
| At least 6 s.h. from these: | | |
| SEES:3250/ CPH:3400 | Health, Work, and the Environment | 3 |
| SEES:3400 | Iowa Environmental Policy in Practice | 3 |
| SEES:3520/ IGPI:3520 | GIS for Environmental Applications | 3 |
| SEES:3540/ IGPI:3540 | Geographic Visualization | 3 |
| SEES:3760/ GHS:3760 | Hazards and Society | 3 |
| SEES:3780/ GHS:3780/ HIST:3240/ POLI:3431 | U.S. Energy Policy in Global Context | 3 |
| SEES:3920/ URP:3001 | Planning Livable Cities | 3 |
| SEES:4750/ URP:4750 | Environmental Impact Analysis | 3 |
| SEES:4770/ AFAM:4770/ GHS:4770 | Environmental Justice | 3 |
| HIST:3128 | Global Environmental History: Nature and Power in the Modern World | 3 |
| HIST:3230 | American Environmental History | 3 |
| PBAF:3117/ POLI:3117 | Bureaucratic Politics and Public Administration | 3 |
| POLI:2417 | Comparative Environmental Policy | 3 |
| POLI:3100 | American State Politics | 3 |
| POLI:3102 | The U.S. Congress | 3 |
| POLI:3110 | Local Politics | 3 |
| POLI:3118 | Interest Groups | 3 |
| POLI:3424 | Global Development | 3 |
| POLI:3430/ NAIS:3430 | Environmental Politics and Indigeneity | 3 |
| POLI:3432/ NAIS:3432 | Agriculture Politics and Policy | 3 |

# Honors

Graduating with departmental honors and graduating with university honors are two opportunities available to high-achieving undergraduate students, each with specific and distinct requirements. Some students pursue both options while others pursue one or the other.

## Honors in the Major

Within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, each major develops its own requirements to achieve honors in the major.

In order to graduate with honors in the major, students in the School of Earth, Environment, and Sustainability (SEES) 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 a written honors thesis based on their work.

Potential honors students must complete an honors thesis contract with their advisor and obtain approval from the department's undergraduate committee by the first semester of their senior year or earlier. They are also required to register for SEES:4995 Honors Thesis as they work to complete their thesis, where they must earn a grade of B or higher. Additionally, SEES honors students must maintain a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.33 in all University of Iowa and SEES coursework.

# 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

# Sample Plans of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

## Environmental Policy and Planning, BA

- Planning Track
- Policy Track

### Planning Track

| Course | Title | Hours |
|---|---|---|
| **Academic Career** | | |
| **Any Semester** | | |
| GE CLAS Core: Sustainability [a] | | |
| | **Hours** | **0** |
| **First Year** | | |
| **Fall** | | |
| SEES:1070 | Contemporary Environmental Issues [b] | 3 |
| SEES:1085 | Fundamentals of Environmental Science [b] | 4 |
| RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200 | Rhetoric: Writing and Communication or Interpreting Literature | 3 - 4 |
| CSI:1600 | Success at Iowa | 1 |
| GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course [c] | | 4 - 5 |
| | **Hours** | **15-17** |
| **Spring** | | |
| ANTH:2261 | Human Impacts on the Environment [b] | 3 |
| SEES:1035 | Our Digital Earth [b] | 3 |
| RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200 | Rhetoric: Writing and Communication or Interpreting Literature | 3 - 4 |
| GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course [c] | | 4 - 5 |
| Elective course [d] | | 2 |
| | **Hours** | **15-17** |
| **Second Year** | | |
| **Fall** | | |
| ECON:1100 | Principles of Microeconomics [b] | 4 |
| SEES:2010 | Interdisciplinary Environmental Seminar | 1 |
| SEES:2013 | Introduction to Sustainability [b] | 3 |
| GE CLAS Core: Understanding Cultural Perspectives [e] | | 3 |
| GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency or elective course [c] | | 4 - 5 |
| | **Hours** | **15-16** |
| **Spring** | | |
| JMC:1800 | Environmental Communication [b, f] | 3 |
| SEES:2050 | Foundations of GIS | 4 |
| GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab [e] | | 3 |
| GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course [c] | | 4 - 5 |
| Elective course [d] | | 2 |
| | **Hours** | **16-17** |
| **Third Year** | | |
| **Fall** | | |
| ANTH:3103 | Environment and Culture [g] | 3 |
| SEES:3920 | Planning Livable Cities | 3 |
| STAT:1020 | Elementary Statistics and Inference [b, h] | 3 |
| GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives [e] | | 3 |
| Elective course [d] | | 3 |
| | **Hours** | **15** |
| **Spring** | | |
| POLI:3111 | American Public Policy | 3 |
| SEES:2950 or SEES:3350 | Environmental Conservation or Urban Ecology | 3 - 4 |
| GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts [e] | | 3 |
| Elective course [d] | | 3 |
| Elective course [d] | | 3 |
| | **Hours** | **15-16** |
| **Fourth Year** | | |
| **Fall** | | |
| Major Elective: planning track elective course [i] | | 3 |
| Major Elective: planning track elective course [i] | | 3 |
| Elective course [d] | | 3 |
| Elective course [d] | | 3 |
| Elective course [d] | | 3 |
| | **Hours** | **15** |
| **Spring** | | |
| SEES:4750 | Environmental Impact Analysis | 3 |
| Major Elective: research and experiential learning course [j] | | 1 - 3 |
| Elective course [d] | | 3 |
| Elective course [d] | | 3 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Elective course [d] | | 3 |
| Elective course [d] | | 2 |
| Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall) [k] | | |
| | **Hours** | **15-17** |
| | **Total Hours** | **121-130** |

a Sustainability must be completed by choosing a course that has been approved for Sustainability AND for one of these General Education areas: Natural Sciences; Quantitative or Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Society.

b Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.

c Students who have completed four levels of a single language or two levels of two different languages in high school or college have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Students who have completed three levels of a single language may complete a fourth-level course in the same language or may choose an approved World Language and Cultural Exploration course. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course. Contact your academic advisor or CLAS Undergraduate Programs Office with questions concerning the World Languages requirement.

d Students may use elective courses to earn credit toward the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.

e GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.

f Students can opt to take either CNW:3664 or JMC:3185 instead of JMC:1800, but would also need to take an additional course to satisfy the GE CLAS Core Values and Society requirement.

g Students can opt to take AMST:1290 instead of ANTH:3103.

h Students can opt to take PSQF:4143, STAT:1030, STAT:2010, STAT:2020, or STAT:3510 instead of STAT:1020, but may also need to take an additional course to satisfy the GE CLAS Core Quantitative or Formal Reasoning requirement.

i See the General Catalog for list of approved courses.

j Choose from SEES:3400, SEES:3992, SEES:4995, CCP:1201.

k Please see Academic Calendar, on Office of the Registrar website, for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor or Degree Services.

## Policy Track

| Course | Title | Hours |
|---|---|---|
| **Academic Career** | | |
| **Any Semester** | | |
| GE CLAS Core: Sustainability [a] | | |
| | **Hours** | **0** |
| **First Year** | | |
| **Fall** | | |
| SEES:1070 | Contemporary Environmental Issues [b] | 3 |
| SEES:1085 | Fundamentals of Environmental Science [b] | 4 |
| RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200 | Rhetoric: Writing and Communication or Interpreting Literature | 3 - 4 |
| CSI:1600 | Success at Iowa | 1 |
| GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course [c] | | 4 - 5 |
| | **Hours** | **15-17** |
| **Spring** | | |
| ANTH:2261 | Human Impacts on the Environment [b] | 3 |
| SEES:1035 | Our Digital Earth [b] | 3 |
| RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200 | Rhetoric: Writing and Communication or Interpreting Literature | 3 - 4 |
| GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course [c] | | 4 - 5 |
| Elective course [d] | | 2 |
| | **Hours** | **15-17** |
| **Second Year** | | |
| **Fall** | | |
| ECON:1100 | Principles of Microeconomics [b] | 4 |
| SEES:2010 | Interdisciplinary Environmental Seminar | 1 |
| SEES:2013 | Introduction to Sustainability [b] | 3 |
| GE CLAS Core: Understanding Cultural Perspectives [e] | | 3 |
| GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency or elective course [c] | | 4 - 5 |
| | **Hours** | **15-16** |
| **Spring** | | |
| POLI:3111 | American Public Policy | 3 |
| SEES:2050 | Foundations of GIS | 4 |
| GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives [e] | | 3 |
| GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course [c] | | 4 - 5 |
| Elective course [d] | | 2 |
| | **Hours** | **16-17** |
| **Third Year** | | |
| **Fall** | | |
| ANTH:3103 | Environment and Culture [f] | 3 |
| SEES:3350 or SEES:2950 | Urban Ecology or Environmental Conservation | 4 |
| STAT:1020 | Elementary Statistics and Inference [b, g] | 3 |
| Elective course [d] | | 3 |
| Elective course [d] | | 2 |
| | **Hours** | **15** |
| **Spring** | | |
| JMC:1800 | Environmental Communication [b, h] | 3 |
| SEES:3800 | Environmental Policy | 3 |
| Elective course [d] | | 3 |
| Elective course [d] | | 3 |
| Elective course [d] | | 3 |
| | **Hours** | **15** |
| **Fourth Year** | | |
| **Fall** | | |
| ECON:3625 | Environmental and Natural Resource Economics | 3 |
| Major Elective: policy track elective course [i] | | 3 |

| | |
|---|---|
| GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab [e] | 3 |
| Elective course [d] | 3 |
| Elective course [d] | 3 |
| **Hours** | **15** |

**Spring**

| | |
|---|---|
| Major Elective: policy track elective course [i] | 3 |
| Major Elective: research and experiential learning course [j] | 1 - 3 |
| GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts [e] | 3 |
| Elective course [d] | 3 |
| Elective course [d] | 3 |
| Elective course [d] | 2 |
| Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall) [k] | |
| **Hours** | **15-17** |
| **Total Hours** | **121-129** |

a Sustainability must be completed by choosing a course that has been approved for Sustainability AND for one of these General Education areas: Natural Sciences; Quantitative or Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Society.

b Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.

c Students who have completed four levels of a single language or two levels of two different languages in high school or college have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Students who have completed three levels of a single language may complete a fourth-level course in the same language or may choose an approved World Language and Cultural Exploration course. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course. Contact your academic advisor or CLAS Undergraduate Programs Office with questions concerning the World Languages requirement.

d Students may use elective courses to earn credit toward the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.

e GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.

f Students can opt to take AMST:1290 instead of ANTH:3103.

g Students can opt to take PSQF:4143, STAT:1030, STAT:2010, STAT:2020, or STAT:3510 instead of STAT:1020, but may also need to take an additional course to satisfy the GE CLAS Core Quantitative or Formal Reasoning requirement.

h Students can opt to take either CNW:3664 or JMC:3185 instead of JMC:1800, but would also need to take an additional course to satisfy the GE CLAS Core Values and Society requirement.

i See the General Catalog for list of approved courses.

j Choose from SEES:3400, SEES:3992, SEES:4995, CCP:1201.

k Please see Academic Calendar, on Office of the Registrar website, for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor or Degree Services.