Environmental Policy and Planning, BA

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 Arts with a major in environmental policy and planning requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 49–56 s.h. of work for the major. Transfer students must complete at least 21 s.h. of work for the major in residence at the University of Iowa. 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 also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core.

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 an array of complex issues. 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 any other discipline must complete a minimum of 12 s.h. of coursework 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 (BA or BS) with both majors or earn a BA with one major and a BS 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 for the major.

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

### Introductory Courses

- **Course #**
- **Title**
- **Hours**

These courses (11 s.h.):

- ECON:1100 Principles of Microeconomics 4
- ENVS:2010/ EES:2010/ GEOG:2010 Interdisciplinary Environmental Seminar 1
- GEOG:1070 Contemporary Environmental Issues 3

One of these:

- ANTH:1046/ GEOG:1046/ GWSS:1046/ SJUS:1046 Environmental Politics in India 3
- ANTH:2261 Human Impacts on the Environment 3

One of these:

- EES:1080/ ENV:1080 Introduction to Environmental Science 3-4
- ENVS:1085/ EES:1085 Fundamentals of Environmental Science 4
- GEOG:1020 The Global Environment 3

### Intermediate Courses

- **Course #**
- **Title**
- **Hours**

One of these:

- ANTH:3103 Environment and Culture 3

Two of these:

- GEOG:3400 Iowa Environmental Policy in Practice 3
- HIST:3230 American Environmental History 3
- POLI:1400 Introduction to Comparative Politics 3
- POLI:3111 American Public Policy 3

One of these:

- CNW:2740 The Art and Craft of Writing about the Environment 3
Methods Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GEOG:2050</td>
<td>Foundations of GIS</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One of these:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT:1020/PSQF:1020</td>
<td>Elementary Statistics and Inference</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT:1030</td>
<td>Statistics for Business</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT:2010</td>
<td>Statistical Methods and Computing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT:2020</td>
<td>Probability and Statistics for the Engineering and Physical Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT:3510/IGPI:3510</td>
<td>Biostatistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT:4143/PSQF:4143</td>
<td>Introduction to Statistical Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Capstone Course/Research Project

Students complete a capstone course or research project requirement. Capstone or research project courses are typically taken by students during their senior year. Students who choose GEOG:3992 must make arrangements with a faculty advisor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One of these:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS:3010/EES:3010/GEOG:3003</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Environmental Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG:3992</td>
<td>Undergraduate Research (consult advisor)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Honors students choose from the following options.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One of these:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH:4995</td>
<td>Honors Research Seminar</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG:4995</td>
<td>Honors Thesis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:4601</td>
<td>Honors Senior Thesis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Or both of these:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST:3995</td>
<td>History Honors Research Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST:3996</td>
<td>Honors Thesis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tracking

Students choose either the planning track or the policy track and complete their track's required coursework.

Planning Track

The planning 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 or seek permission from the instructor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One of these:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON:3625/URP:3135</td>
<td>Environmental and Natural Resource Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG:3800</td>
<td>Environmental Economics and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three of these:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON:3640/URP:3134</td>
<td>Regional and Urban Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG:2410</td>
<td>Environment and Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG:2930</td>
<td>Water Resources</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG:3315</td>
<td>Ecosystem Ecology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG:3340</td>
<td>Ecosystem Services</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG:3350</td>
<td>Urban Ecology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG:3400</td>
<td>Iowa Environmental Policy in Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG:3760/AFAM:4770/GHS:4770</td>
<td>Environmental Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAIS:1290/AMST:1290/GHS:1290/HIST:1290</td>
<td>Native American Foods and Foodways (if not taken as an intermediate course)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URP:3001/GEOG:3920</td>
<td>Planning Livable Cities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URP:3350/ECON:3750/GEOG:3940</td>
<td>Transportation Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One of these:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG:4750/URP:4750</td>
<td>Environmental Impact Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:2417</td>
<td>Comparative Environmental Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three of these:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH:3237/HIST:3137/MUSM:3237</td>
<td>Politics of the Archaeological Past</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH:3240/NAIS:3240</td>
<td>Cultural Resources and Management of Archaeology and Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG:3331</td>
<td>Human Dimensions of Climate</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG:3400</td>
<td>Iowa Environmental Policy in Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST:3230</td>
<td>American Environmental History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAIS:1290/AMST:1290/GHS:1290/HIST:1290</td>
<td>Native American Foods and Foodways (if not taken as an intermediate course)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
University of Iowa Honors Program

Honors in the Major

Within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, each major develops its own requirements to achieve honors in the major. To graduate with honors in environmental policy and planning, students must maintain a cumulative University of Iowa grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.33 and a GPA of at least 3.33 in all work for the major. They must be admitted to the department'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 ANTH:4995 Honors Research Seminar, GEOG:4995 Honors Thesis or POLI:4601 Honors Senior Thesis or HIST:3995 History Honors Research Seminar and HIST:3996 Honors Thesis.

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.

Career Advancement

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

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: 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 coursework in the major, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate.

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 [p. 3]
• Policy Track [p. 4]

Planning Track

Course Title Hours
GE CLAS Core: Sustainability a

Any Semester

Academic Career

Hours

First Year

Fall
GEOG:1020 or ENVS:1085 or EES:1080 The Global Environment b or Fundamentals of Environmental Science or Introduction to Environmental Science 3 - 4
GEOG:1070 Contemporary Environmental Issues b 3
RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200 Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature 3 - 4
CSI:1600 Success at Iowa 2
Elective course c 3

Hours 14-16

Spring
ECON:1100 Principles of Microeconomics b 4
Major: statistics course \(d\)  
RHET:1030 Rhetoric \(3 - 4\)  
or ENGL:1200 or The Interpretation of Literature \(3 - 4\)  
GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion \(e\) \(3\)  
Elective course \(c\) \(3\)  
**Hours** \(16-18\)**

### Second Year

**Fall**  
ANTH:2261 Human Impacts on the Environment \(b\) \(3\)  
or ANTH:1046 or Environmental Politics in India \(3\)  
ENVS:2010 Interdisciplinary Environmental Seminar \(1\)  
GEOG:2013 Introduction to Sustainability \(3\)  
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives \(3\)  
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course \(f\) \(4 - 5\)  
**Elective course\(c\)** \(3\)  
**Hours** \(14-15\)**

### Third Year

**Fall**  
GEOG:3300 Envisioning Future Worlds: Sustainable Development and Its Alternatives or Native American Foods and Foodways or Environment and Culture \(3\)  
Major: intermediate communication course \(b\) \(3\)  
GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning \(c, i\) \(3\)  
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course \(f\) \(4 - 5\)  
Elective course \(c\) \(3\)  
**Hours** \(16-17\)**

**Spring**  
ECON:3625 Environmental and Natural Resource Economics or Environmental Economics and Policy \(3\)  
Major: intermediate political science or history or geography course \(e\) \(3\)  
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab \(e\) \(4\)  
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency or elective course \(f\) \(4 - 5\)  
Elective course \(c\) \(3\)  
**Hours** \(16-17\)**

### Fourth Year

**Fall**  
Major: planning track elective course \(3\)  
Major: planning track elective course \(3\)  
GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture \(5\) \(3\)  
Elective course \(c\) \(3\)  
**Hours** \(16-17\)**

### Policy Track

**Course Track**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Academic Career</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Any Semester</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GE CLAS Core: Sustainability</strong> (a)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Year</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG:1020 or EES:1080 or ENVS:1085</td>
<td>The Global Environment (b)</td>
<td>3 - 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG:1070</td>
<td>Contemporary Environmental Issues (b)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200</td>
<td>Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature</td>
<td>3 - 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSI:1600</td>
<td>Success at Iowa</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Elective course  c

| Hours | 14-16 |

**Spring**

- ECON:1100 Principles of Microeconomics  b  
- Major: statistics course  d  
- Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature  e  
- GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion  e  
- Elective course  c  

| Hours | 16-18 |

**Second Year**

**Fall**

- ANTH:1046 or ANTH:2261 Environmental Politics in India or Human Impacts on the Environment  
- ENV:2010 Interdisciplinary Environmental Seminar  
- GEOG:2013 Introduction to Sustainability  
- GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives  e  
- GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course  f  

| Hours | 14-15 |

**Spring**

- GEOG:2050 Foundations of GIS  
- Major: intermediate political science or history or geography course  
- GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts  e  
- GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course  f  
- Elective course  c  

| Hours | 16-17 |

**Third Year**

**Fall**

- GEOG:3300 or ANTH:3103 or NAIS:1290 Envisioning Future Worlds: Sustainable Development and Its Alternatives or Environment and Culture or Native American Foods and Foodways  
- Major: intermediate communication course  h  
- GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning  e, i  
- GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency or elective course  f  
- Elective course  c  

| Hours | 14-15 |

**Spring**

- GEOG:4750 or POLI:2417 Environmental Impact Analysis or Comparative Environmental Policy  
- Major: intermediate political science or history or geography course  
- GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab  e  
- GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course  f  
- Elective course  c  

| Hours | 16-17 |

**Fourth Year**

**Fall**

- Major: policy track elective course

| Hours | 16-17 |

**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 and Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Culture.

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

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

**d** Consider choosing a course that also fulfills the GE CLAS Core Quantitative or Formal Reasoning requirement.

**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 who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.

**g** Choose from GEOG:3400, GEOG:3780, HIST:3230, POLI:1400, or POLI:3111.

**h** Choose from CNW:2740, JMC:1800, RHET:3560, or RHET:3700.

**i** If not previously completed through EPP major statistics requirement.

**j** Choose from ENVS:3010 or GEOG:3992. Honors students choose from ANTH: 4995, GEOG:4995, POLI:4601, or both HIST: 3995 and HIST: 3996.

**k** Please see Academic Calendar, 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 Graduation Services.