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 policy science, or complete a minor, 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.

Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON:1100</td>
<td>Principles of Microeconomics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS:2010/EES:2010/GEOG:2010</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Environmental Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG:1070</td>
<td>Contemporary Environmental Issues</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH:1046/GEOG:1046/GWSS:1046/SJUS:1046</td>
<td>Environmental Politics in India</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH:2261</td>
<td>Human Impacts on the Environment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:1080/ENVS:1080</td>
<td>Introduction to Environmental Science</td>
<td>3–4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS:1085/EES:1085</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Environmental Science</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG:1020</td>
<td>The Global Environment</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>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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNW:2740</td>
<td>The Art and Craft of Writing about the Environment</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
JMC:1800  Twenty-first-Century Science: Environmental Communication in the Digital Age  3
RHET:3700  Advocacy and Sustainability: Crafting Stories of People, Place, and Resilience  3

Methods Courses

Course #  Title  Hours
This course:
GEOG:2050  Foundations of GIS  4
One of these:
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
STAT:4143/ PSQF:4143  Introduction to Statistical Methods  3

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.

Course #  Title  Hours
One of these:
ENVS:3010/ EES:3010/ GEOG:3003  Interdisciplinary Environmental Seminar  1
GEOG:3992  Undergraduate Research (consult advisor)  1

Honors students choose from the following options.

Course #  Title  Hours
One of these:
ANTH:4995  Honors Research Seminar  2
GEOG:4995  Honors Thesis  3
POLI:4601  Honors Senior Thesis  3
Or both of these:
HIST:3995  History Honors Research Seminar  3
HIST:3996  Honors Thesis  3

Tracks

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.

Course #  Title  Hours
One of these:
ECON:3625  Environmental and Natural Resource Economics  3
URP:3135  Environmental Economics and Policy  3
GEOG:3800  Environmental Economics and Policy  3

Three of these:
ECON:3640/ URP:3134  Regional and Urban Economics  3
GEOG:2410  Environment and Development  3
GEOG:2930  Water Resources  3
GEOG:3315  Ecosystem Ecology  3
GEOG:3340  Ecosystem Services  3
GEOG:3350  Urban Ecology  3
GEOG:3400  Iowa Environmental Policy in Practice  3
GEOG:3760/ GHS:3760  Hazards and Society  3
GEOG:4770/ AFAM:4770/ GHS:4770  Environmental Justice  3
NAIS:1290/ AMST:1290/ GHS:1290/HIST:1290  Native American Foods and Foodways (if not taken as an intermediate course)  3
URP:3001/ GEOG:3920  Planning Livable Cities  3
URP:3350/ ECON:3750/ GEOG:3940  Transportation Economics  3

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.

Course #  Title  Hours
One of these:
GEOG:4750/ URP:4750  Environmental Impact Analysis  3
POLI:2417  Comparative Environmental Policy  3

Three of these:
ANTH:3237/ HIST:3137/ MUSM:3237  Politics of the Archaeological Past  3
ANTH:3240/ NAIS:3240  Cultural Resources Management Archaeology: Practice and Practicalities  3
GEOG:3331  Human Dimensions of Climate  3
GEOG:3400  Iowa Environmental Policy in Practice  3
HIST:3230  American Environmental History  3
NAIS:1290/ AMST:1290/ GHS:1290/HIST:1290  Native American Foods and Foodways (if not taken as an intermediate course)  3
BA/MS in Urban and Regional Planning

Students majoring in environmental policy and planning who are interested in earning a master's degree in urban and regional planning may apply to the combined BA/MS program offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the School of Planning and Public Affairs. The program enables students to begin the study of urban and regional planning before they complete their bachelor's degree. Students are able to complete both degrees in less time than if they were to complete the two degrees separately.

Separate application to each degree program is required. Applicants must be admitted to both programs before they may be admitted to the combined degree program. For more information about the urban and regional planning program, see the MS in urban and regional planning in the Graduate College section of the catalog.

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. Membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the major.

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

Academic Career

Any Semester

GE CLAS Core: Sustainability a

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>First Year</td>
<td>Fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:1080 or ENVS:1085 or GEOG:1020</td>
<td>Introduction to Environmental Science or Fundamentals of Environmental Science or The Global Environment</td>
<td>3 - 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG:1070</td>
<td>Contemporary Environmental Issues b</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030</td>
<td>The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric</td>
<td>3 - 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSI:1600</td>
<td>Success at Iowa</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective course c</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON:1100</td>
<td>Principles of Microeconomics b</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a Students are encouraged to complete at least 3 courses in sustainability.
b Course must be completed with a grade of at least B-

c Elective courses are selected from the following: POLI:1030, PBAF:3111, or ECON:1100.
Fall

Major: planning track elective course
3

GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture
3

Elective course
3

Hours 16-18

Second Year

Fall

Major: intermediate political science or history or geography course
3

GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives
3

GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course
4 - 5

Elective course
2

Hours 14-15

Spring

Major: intermediate communication course
3

GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning
3

GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency or elective course
4 - 5

Elective course
3

Hours 16-17

Third Year

Fall

Major: intermediate political science or history or geography course
3

GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives
3

GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course
4 - 5

Elective course
2

Hours 16-17

Spring

Major: senior capstone research project
1 - 3

GE CLAS Core: Sustainability
1 - 3

GE CLAS Core: Qualitative or Formal Reasoning requirement.
1 - 3

GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning requirement.
1 - 3

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.

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.

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. Fulfill a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.

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.

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

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.

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.

Policy Track

Course Title Hours

Academic Career

Any Semester

GE CLAS Core: Sustainability

First Year

Fall

GEOG:1020 or EES:1080 or ENVS:1085 The Global Environment
3 - 4

GEOG:4995 or POLI:4601 or both HIST: 3995 and HIST: 3996.


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.

Spring

GEOG:1070 Contemporary Environmental Issues
3

RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200 Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature
3 - 4

CSI:1600 Success at Iowa
2
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Year</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td>ECON:1100 Principles of Microeconomics</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENVS:2010 Interdisciplinary Environmental Seminar</td>
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<td>GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion</td>
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<td>Elective course</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td>14-16</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON:1100 Principles of Microeconomics</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>b fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.</td>
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<td>GE CLAS Core: History of Ideas</td>
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<td>Elective course</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Second Year</strong></td>
<td>16-18</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH:1046 Environmental Politics in India</td>
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<td>ENVS:2010 Interdisciplinary Environmental Seminar</td>
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<td>GEOG:2013 Introduction to Sustainability</td>
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<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency</td>
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<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td>14-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>GECLAS Core: Values and Culture</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture</td>
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<td>Elective course</td>
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<td>GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture</td>
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<td>Elective course</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Third Year</strong></td>
<td>16-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOG:3300, ANTH:3105, or NAIS:1290</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>f Students must complete this course 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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning</td>
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<td>GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency</td>
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<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td>16-17</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3111, GEOG:3992, or ANTH:4995</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major: senior capstone research project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major: policy track elective course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective course</td>
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<td><strong>Fourth Year</strong></td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major: policy track elective course</td>
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**Total Hours:** 120-130