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 55-62 s.h. of work for the major. 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 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 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 history 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 (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 coursework.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introductory Courses</td>
<td>17-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Intermediate Courses</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Methods Courses</td>
<td>13-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Capstone Course/Research Project</td>
<td>1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Track Courses</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>55-62</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 (11 s.h.):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<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</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/ENV:1085/GEOG:1020</td>
<td>Introduction to Environmental Science</td>
<td>3-4</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>
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</table>

### Intermediate Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH:3103</td>
<td>Environment and Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG:3300/GHS:3300</td>
<td>Envisioning Future Worlds: Sustainable Development and its Alternatives</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>
</tbody>
</table>
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
JMC:1800 Twenty-first-Century Science:Environmental Communication in the Digital Age 3
RHET:3560/ POLI:3560/ SJUS:3560 Public Policy and Persuasion 3
RHET:3700 Advocacy and Sustainability: Crafting Stories of People, Place, and Resilience 3

Methods Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GEOG:1050</td>
<td>Foundations of GIS</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG:3520/ IGPI:3520</td>
<td>GIS for Environmental Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT:2010</td>
<td>Statistical Methods and Computing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| One of these:
  STAT:3120/ IGPI:3120 | Probability and Statistics                                          | 4     |
  POLI:3000   | Analyzing Political Data                                            | 3     |
  ANTH:5110   | Anthropological Data Analysis                                       | 3     |
  STAT:4143/ PSQF:4143 | Introduction to Statistical Methods                               | 3     |

Capstone Course/Research Project

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

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 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 of the instructor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| One of these:
  ECON:3625/ URP:3135 | Environmental and Natural Resource Economics                       | 3     |
  GEOG:3800 | Environmental Economics and Policy                                   | 3     |

Three of these:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON:3640/ URP:3134</td>
<td>Regional and Urban Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
  GEOG:2410 | Environment and Development                                          | 3     |
  GEOG:2930 | Water Resources                                                      | 3     |
  GEOG:3315 | Ecosystem Ecology                                                    | 3     |
  GEOG:3340 | Ecosystem Services: Human Dependence on Natural Systems             | 3     |
  GEOG:3350 | Urban Ecology                                                        | 3     |
  GEOG:3400 | Iowa Environmental Policy in Practice                                | 3     |
  GEOG:3760/ GHS:3760 | Hazards and Society                                                 | 3     |
  GEOG: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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| One of these:
  GEOG:4750/ URP:4750 | Environmental Impact                                                 | 3     |
  POLI:2417 | Comparative Environmental Policy                                     | 3     |

Three of these:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH:3237/ MUSM:3237</td>
<td>Politics of the Archaeological Past</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
  ANTH:3240 | Cultural Resources Management Archaeology: Practice and Practicalities | 3     |
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 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.

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 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, B.S.

- Planning Track [p. 3]
- Policy Track [p. 4]

Planning Track

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

**Spring**

ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030  The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric  3 - 4
ECON:1100  Principles of Microeconomics  4
STAT:2010  Statistical Methods and Computing  3
GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion  3
Elective course  3

**Fall**

GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level  4 - 5
Proficiency or elective course  3
ANTH:2261 or SJUS:1046  Human Impacts on the Environment or Environmental Politics in India  3
GEOG:1050  Foundations of GIS  4
Major: intermediate political science or history or geography course  3

**Second Year**

**Fall**

GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level  4 - 5
Proficiency or elective course  3
GEOG:1070  Introduction to Sustainability  3
ENVS:2010  Interdisciplinary Environmental Seminar  1

**Spring**

GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level  4 - 5
Proficiency or elective course  3
GEOG:3400, HIST:3230, POLI:1400, or POLI:3111.
ENVS:3010 or GEOG:3992. Honors students choose from GEOG:4999, POLI:4601, or both ANTH:4995 and ANTH:4996.
Choose from ENVS:3010 or GEOG:3992. Honors students choose from GEOG:4999, POLI:4601, or both ANTH:4995 and ANTH:4996.

**Third Year**

**Fall**

GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level  4 - 5
Proficiency or elective course  3
ENVS:1085  or GEOG:4996.
Choose from ENVS:3010 or GEOG:3992. Honors students choose from GEOG:4999, POLI:4601, or both ANTH:4995 and ANTH:4996.

**Spring**

GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level  4 - 5
Proficiency or elective course  3
GEOG:3300  or ENVS:3010  or GEOG:4996.
Choose from ENVS:3010 or GEOG:3992. Honors students choose from GEOG:4999, POLI:4601, or both ANTH:4995 and ANTH:4996.

**Fourth Year**

**Fall**

Major: planning track elective course  3

GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion  3
Elective course  3
Elective course  3

**Spring**

Major: planning track elective course  3
Major: senior capstone research project  1 - 3
Elective course  3
Elective course  3
Elective course  3

**Degree Application:** apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall)

**Policy Track**

**First Year**

**Fall**

ENGL:1200  The Interpretation of Literature  3 - 4
GEOG:1050  Contemporary Environmental Issues  3
EES:1080 or GEOG:1020 or ENVS:1085  Introduction to Environmental Science  3 - 4
CSI:1600  Success at Iowa  2

**Spring**

RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200  Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature  3 - 4
ECON:1100  Principles of Microeconomics  4
STAT:2010  Statistical Methods and Computing  3

**Second Year**

**Fall**

GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level  4 - 5
Proficiency or elective course  3
ANTH:2261 or SJUS:1046  Human Impacts on the Environment or Environmental Politics in India  3
GEOG:1050  Foundations of GIS  4
Major: intermediate political science or history or geography course  3

**Spring**

GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level  4 - 5
Proficiency or elective course  3
GEOG:1070  Introduction to Sustainability  3
ENVS:2010  Interdisciplinary Environmental Seminar  1

**Third Year**

**Fall**

GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level  4 - 5
Proficiency or elective course  3
GEOG:3400, HIST:3230, POLI:1400, or POLI:3111.
ENVS:3010 or GEOG:3992. Honors students choose from GEOG:4999, POLI:4601, or both ANTH:4995 and ANTH:4996.
Choose from ENVS:3010 or GEOG:3992. Honors students choose from GEOG:4999, POLI:4601, or both ANTH:4995 and ANTH:4996.

**Spring**

GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level  4 - 5
Proficiency or elective course  3
GEOG:3300  or ENVS:3010  or GEOG:4996.
Choose from ENVS:3010 or GEOG:3992. Honors students choose from GEOG:4999, POLI:4601, or both ANTH:4995 and ANTH:4996.

**Fourth Year**

**Fall**

Major: planning track elective course  3

GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion  3
Elective course  3
Elective course  3
### Second Year

#### Fall
- **GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level** Proficiency or elective course  
  - ANTH:2261 or SJUS:1046 Human Impacts on the Environment or Environmental Politics in India  
  - GEOG:2013 Introduction to Sustainability  
  - ENVS:2010 Interdisciplinary Environmental Seminar  
  - Major: upper-level statistics course  
  - Hours: 16-17

#### Spring
- **GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level** Proficiency or elective course  
  - GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts  
  - GEOG:1050 Foundations of GIS  
  - Major: intermediate political science or history or geography course  
  - Hours: 14-15

### Third Year

#### Fall
- **GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level** Proficiency or elective course  
  - GEOG:3520 GIS for Environmental Studies  
  - NAIS:1290 Native American Foods and Foodways or GEOG:3300 or ANTH:3103 Envisioning Future Worlds: Sustainable Development and Its Alternatives or Environment and Culture  
  - GEOG:4750 or POLI:2417 Environmental Impact Analysis or Comparative Environmental Policy  
  - Major: intermediate communication course  
  - Hours: 16-17

#### Spring
- **GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level** Proficiency or elective course  
  - GEOG:3780 U.S. Energy Policy in Global Context  
  - Major: policy track elective course  
  - GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab  
  - Hours: 14-15

### Fourth Year

#### Fall
- Major: policy track elective course  
- GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture  
- GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives  
- Elective course  
- Elective course  
- Hours: 15

#### Spring
- Major: policy track elective course  
- Major: senior capstone research project  
- Elective course  
- Hours: 15

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**Elective course**

- 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.

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