Environmental Policy and Planning, BS

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. 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 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 (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 BS with a major in environmental policy and planning requires the following coursework.

Requirements	Hours
Introductory Courses	17-18
Intermediate Courses	12
Methods Courses	13-14
Capstone Course/Research Project	1-6
Track Courses	12

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
GEOG:2013/ BUS:2013/ SUST:2013/ URP:2013	Introduction to Sustainability	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/ ENVS: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
GEOG:3300/ GHS:3300	Envisioning Future Worlds: Sustainable Development and Its Alternatives	3
NAIS:1290/ AMST:1290/ GHS:1290/ HIST:1290	Native American Foods and Foodways	3
Two of these:		
GEOG:3400	Iowa Environmental Policy in Practice	3
GEOG:3780/ GHS:3780/ HIST:3240/ POLI:3431	U.S. Energy Policy in Global Context	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
JMC:1800	Twenty-first-Century Science: Environmental Communication in the Digital Age	3
RHET:3560/ PBAF: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

Course #	Title	Hours
These courses:		
GEOG:2050	Foundations of GIS	4
GEOG:3520/ IGPI:3520	GIS for Environmental Studies	3
STAT:2010	Statistical Methods and Computing	3
One of these:		
ANTH:5110	Anthropological Data Analysis	3
POLI:3000	Analyzing Political Data	3
STAT:3120/ DATA:3120/ IGPI:3120	Probability and Statistics	4
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 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/ URP:3135	Environmental and Natural Resource Economics	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:3210/ CPH:3400	Health, Work, and the Environment	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

CPH:3400/ GEOG:3210	Health, Work, and the Environment	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
POLI:3100	American State Politics	3
POLI:3102	The U.S. Congress	3
POLI:3110	Local Politics	3
POLI:3111	American Public Policy	3
POLI:3117/ PBAF:3117	Bureaucratic Politics and Public Administration	3
POLI:3118	Interest Groups	3
POLI:3123	State Politics in Iowa (section EX)	3
POLI:3128	Politics of the U.S. National Park System	3
POLI:3204/ SOC:3525	Public Opinion	3
POLI:3408	Chinese Politics and Society	3
POLI:3424	Global Development	3

Combined Programs

BS/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 BS/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 encouraged, though 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, departmental honors 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: 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.

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- Planning Track [p. 4]
- Policy Track [p. 5]

Planning Track

Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
GE CLAS Core: Sustainability [a]		
	Hours	**0**
First Year		
Fall		
ENVS:1085 or EES:1080 or GEOG:1020	Fundamentals of Environmental Science [b] or Introduction to Environmental Science or The Global Environment	3 - 4
GEOG:1070	Contemporary Environmental Issues [b]	3
ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030	The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric	3 - 4
CSI:1600	Success at Iowa	2
Elective course [c]		3
	Hours	**14-16**
Spring		
ECON:1100	Principles of Microeconomics [b]	4
STAT:2010	Statistical Methods and Computing [b]	3
ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030	The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion [d]		3
Elective course [c]		3
	Hours	**16-17**
Second Year		
Fall		
ANTH:1046 or ANTH:2261	Environmental Politics in India [b] or Human Impacts on the Environment	3
ENVS:2010	Interdisciplinary Environmental Seminar	1
GEOG:2013	Introduction to Sustainability	3
Major: upper-level statistics course		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course [e]		4 - 5
	Hours	**14-15**
Spring		
GEOG:2050	Foundations of GIS	4
Major: intermediate political science or history or geography course [f]		3
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts [d]		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course [e]		4 - 5
Elective course [c]		2
	Hours	**16-17**
Third Year		
Fall		
ANTH:3103 or GEOG:3300 or NAIS:1290	Environment and Culture or Envisioning Future Worlds: Sustainable Development and Its Alternatives or Native American Foods and Foodways	3
Major: intermediate communication course [g]		3
Major: planning track elective course		3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab [d]		4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency or elective course [e]		4 - 5
	Hours	**17-18**
Spring		
GEOG:3800 or ECON:3625	Environmental Economics and Policy or Environmental and Natural Resource Economics	3
GEOG:3520	GIS for Environmental Studies	3
Major: intermediate political science or history or geography course [f]		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course [e]		4 - 5
Elective course [c]		2
	Hours	**15-16**
Fourth Year		
Fall		
Major: planning track elective course		3
GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture [d]		3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives [d]		3
Elective course [c]		3
Elective course [c]		3
	Hours	**15**
Spring		
Major: senior capstone research project [h]		1 - 3
Major: planning track elective course		3
Elective course [c]		3
Elective course [c]		3
Elective course [c]		3
Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall) [i]		
	Hours	**13-15**
	Total Hours	**120-129**

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 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 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.

e 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.

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

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

h Choose from ENVS:3010 or GEOG:3992. Honors students choose from ANTH: 4995, GEOG:4995, POLI:4601, or both HIST: 3995 and HIST: 3996.
i 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 [a]		
	Hours	**0**
First Year		
Fall		
EES:1080 or GEOG:1020 or ENVS:1085	Introduction to Environmental Science [b] or The Global Environment or Fundamentals of 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
STAT:2010	Statistical Methods and Computing [b]	3
ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030	The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion [d]		3
Elective course [c]		3
	Hours	**16-17**
Second Year		
Fall		
ANTH:2261 or ANTH:1046	Human Impacts on the Environment or Environmental Politics in India	3
ENVS:2010	Interdisciplinary Environmental Seminar	1
GEOG:2013	Introduction to Sustainability	3
Major: upper-level statistics course		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course [e]		4 - 5
	Hours	**14-15**
Spring		
GEOG:2050	Foundations of GIS	4
Major: intermediate political science or history or geography course [f]		3
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts [d]		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course [e]		4 - 5
Elective course [c]		2
	Hours	**16-17**
Third Year		
Fall		
GEOG:3300 or NAIS:1290 or ANTH:3103	Envisioning Future Worlds: Sustainable Development and Its Alternatives or Native American Foods and Foodways or Environment and Culture	3
Major: intermediate communication course [g]		3
Major: policy track elective course		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency or elective course [e]		4 - 5
Elective course [c]		3
	Hours	**16-17**
Spring		
GEOG:3520	GIS for Environmental Studies	3
Major: intermediate political science or history or geography course [f]		3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab [d]		4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course [e]		4 - 5
Elective course [c]		2
	Hours	**16-17**
Fourth Year		
Fall		
Major: policy track elective course		3
GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture [d]		3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives [d]		3
Elective course [c]		3
Elective course [c]		3
	Hours	**15**
Spring		
POLI:2417 or GEOG:4750	Comparative Environmental Policy or Environmental Impact Analysis	3
Major: senior capstone research project [h]		1 - 3
Major: policy track elective course		3
Elective course [c]		3
Elective course [c]		3
Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall) [i]		
	Hours	**13-15**
	Total Hours	**120-129**

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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 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.

e 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.

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

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

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

i 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.