

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies

Why study environmental studies?

The Environmental Studies Program at the University of Kansas, established in 1971, is one of the oldest environmental studies programs in the country. The KU Environmental Studies Program provides a rigorous interdisciplinary degree that balances learning in the physical and social sciences along with the arts and humanities. Learning Pathways (<https://esp.ku.edu/learning-pathways/>), thematic areas of study that match student interest to the environmental expertise of our faculty, are a key aspect of our unique program.

Undergraduate Admission

Admission to KU

All students applying for admission must send high school and college transcripts to the Office of Admissions. Prospective first-year students should be aware that KU has qualified admission requirements that all new first-year students must meet to be admitted. Consult the Office of Admissions (<http://admissions.ku.edu/>) for application deadlines and specific admission requirements.

Visit the International Support Services (<http://www.iss.ku.edu/>) for information about international admissions.

Students considering transferring to KU may see how their college-level course work will transfer on the Office of Admissions (<http://credittransfer.ku.edu/>) website.

Requirements for the B.S. Degree

General Education Requirements

In addition to degree and major requirements, all students must complete the KU Core.

Environmental Studies Prerequisite or Co-requisite Knowledge

Code	Title	Hours
Mathematics		
Majors must complete the following:		
Calculus. Satisfied by one of the following:		
MATH 115 & MATH 116	Calculus I and Calculus II	
MATH 125	Calculus I	
Statistics. Satisfied by one of the following:		
MATH 365	Elementary Statistics	
GEOG 316	Methods of Analyzing Geographical Data	
BIOL 370	Introduction to Biostatistics	
Supporting Laboratory Science		
Majors must complete one of the following:		
Principles of Physical Geography and Intro Lab to in Physical Geography. Satisfied by:		
GEOG 104 & GEOG 105	Introduction to Physical Geography and Introductory Laboratory in Physical Geography	

Introduction to Geology and Geological Fundamentals Laboratory. Satisfied by:

GEOL 101 The Way The Earth Works
& GEOL 103 and Geology Fundamentals Laboratory

Fundamentals of Organic Chemistry and Organic Chemistry Laboratory. Satisfied by:

CHEM 330 Organic Chemistry I
& CHEM 331 and Organic Chemistry I Laboratory

Biology and Ecology

Majors must complete the following:

Principles of Molecular and Cellular Biology. Satisfied by:

BIOL 150 Principles of Molecular and Cellular Biology
or BIOL 151 Principles of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Honors

Principles of Organismal Biology. Satisfied by:

BIOL 152 Principles of Organismal Biology
or BIOL 153 Principles of Organismal Biology, Honors

Introductory Biology Lab

BIOL 154 Introductory Biology Lab for STEM Majors

Principles of Ecology. Satisfied by:

BIOL 414 Principles of Ecology

Chemistry

Majors must complete the following:

Foundations of Chemistry I. Satisfied by:

CHEM 130 General Chemistry I
or CHEM 190 Foundations of Chemistry I, Honors
and Foundations of Chemistry I Laboratory, Honors
& CHEM 191

Foundations of Chemistry II. Satisfied by:

CHEM 135 General Chemistry II
or CHEM 195 Foundations of Chemistry II, Honors
and Foundations of Chemistry II Laboratory, Honors
& CHEM 196

Environmental Studies Core Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Environmental Studies Introduction to Science and Culture		
Majors must complete the following:		7
Global Environment I: The Discovery of Environmental Change. Satisfied by one of the following:		
EVNR 140	Global Environment I: The Discovery of Environmental Change	
or EVNR 144	Global Environment I: Discovery of Environmental Change, Honors	
Global Environment II: The Ecology of Civilization. Satisfied by one of the following:		
EVNR 142	Global Environment II: The Ecology of Human Civilization	
or EVNR 144	Global Environment II: The Ecology of Human Civilization, Honors	
EVNR 160	Environmental Solutions	
Environmental Studies Core Knowledge and Skills		
Majors must complete a course in each of the following areas:		
Environmental Social Science and Policy. Satisfied by:		
EVNR 320	Environmental Policy Analysis	

EVRN 371	Environmental Geopolitics	
EVRN 384	Environment, Power, and Justice	
EVRN 385	Environmental Social Problems	
EVRN 386	Sociology of Global Food	
EVRN 528	Environmental Justice and Public Policy	
EVRN 537	Water Resource Sustainability	
EVRN 542	Ethnobotany	
EVRN 543	Natural Hazards and Environmental Risks	
Environmental Humanities and Arts Satisfied by:		
EVRN 306	Global Environmental Literature	
EVRN 330	Sculpture Intercepting the Waste Stream	
EVRN 332	Environmental Law	
EVRN 347	Environmental History of North America	
EVRN 362	Art and Ecology: Inhabiting the Ecosphere	
EVRN 375	Radical Environmentalism in the United States	
EVRN 377	Resilient and Resistant Futures: Global Perspectives in Climate Change Literature	
EVRN 563	U.S. Environmental Thought in the 20th Century	
EVRN 630	Sculpture Intercepting the Waste Stream	
EVRN 662	Art and Ecology: Inhabiting the Ecosphere	
Field Ecology. Satisfied by:		
EVRN 460	Field Ecology	3
or EVRN 660	Summer Field Ecology	
Capstone Experience. Satisfied by:		
EVRN 615	Capstone Project	3
Environmental Studies Required Electives/Options		
Majors must select an option or design their own. Self-designed emphases must be approved in their entirety by an environmental studies advisor and the undergraduate studies director before implementation. Each option requires 4 courses at the 300+ level.		12

Major Hours & Major GPA

While completing all required courses, majors must also meet each of the following hour and grade-point average minimum standards:

Major Hours

Satisfied by 31 hours of major courses.

Major Hours in Residence

Satisfied by a minimum of 15 hours of KU resident credit in the major.

Major Junior/Senior Hours

Satisfied by a minimum of 24 hours from junior/senior courses (300+) in the major.

Major Junior/Senior Graduation GPA

Satisfied by a minimum of a 2.0 KU GPA in junior/senior courses (300+) in the major. GPA calculations include all junior/senior courses in the field of study including F's and repeated courses. See the Semester/Cumulative GPA Calculator (<https://sis.ku.edu/gpa-calculator/>).

Below is a sample 4-year plan for students pursuing the BS in Environmental Studies. To view the list of courses approved to fulfill Core34, please visit the KU Core 34 page (<https://catalog.ku.edu/core34/>).

Freshman			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
Core 34: English (SGE) ⁰¹⁰	3	Core 34: English (SGE) ⁰¹⁰	3
EVRN 140	3	EVRN 142 (Major Requirement)	3
Core 34: Communications (SGE) ⁰²⁰	3	MATH 115 (Major Requirement)	3
MATH 101 (Core 34: Math and Statistics (SGE), Pre-requisite for Major Requirements) ^{030*}	3	Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3
EVRN 160 (Core 34: Natural and Physical Sciences (SGE), Major Requirement) ^{040*}	1	Second area of Study / Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours	3
	13		15
Sophomore			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
MATH 116 (Major Requirement)	3	CHEM 135	5
CHEM 130	5	Environmental Humanities and Arts (Major Requirement) ¹	3
Environmental Social Science and Policy (Major Requirement) ¹	3	BIOL 152	3
Core 34: Arts and Humanities (SGE) ⁰⁶⁰	3	EVRN Supporting Laboratory Science LEC (Major Requirement) ¹	3
Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3	EVRN Supporting Laboratory Science LAB (Major Requirement) ¹	2
	17		16
Junior			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
Core 34: Arts and Humanities (SGE) ⁰⁶⁰	3	Core 34: Social and Behavioral Science (SGE) ⁰⁵⁰	3
EVRN Elective 300+ (Major Requirement) ²	3	Core 34: US Culture (SGE) ⁰⁷⁰	3
BIOL 150	3	EVRN Elective 300+ (Major Requirement) ²	3
Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3	BIOL 154 (BS Requirement)	2
Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3	Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3
	15		14
Senior			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
Core 34: Global Culture (SGE) ⁰⁷⁰	3	EVRN 615 (Capstone)	3
EVRN 460 or 660 (Major Requirement) ³	3	Core 34: Social and Behavior Science (SGE) ⁰⁵⁰	3

MATH 365, GEOG 316, or BIOL 370 (BS Requirement)	3-4 EVRN Elective 300+ (Major Requirement) ²	3
BIOL 414 (Major Requirement)	3 Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior- Senior Hours ⁴	3
EVNR Elective 300+ (Major Requirement) ²	3 Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior- Senior Hours ⁴	3
15-16		15
Total Hours 120-121		

the results of their work at the department's Undergraduate Research Colloquium.

- ¹ Refer to the Degree Requirements tab for a list of courses that can fulfill this major requirement.
- ² A total of 12 hours of EVRN 300+ electives are required for the major. Students are encouraged to choose courses based on an emphasis area in consultation with an advisor.
- ³ EVNR 460 is a Fall only course. EVNR 142 is a Spring only courses. EVNR 660 is a Summer only course.
- ⁴ Hour requirements (incl. 45 jr/sr hrs) are typically met through Core 34, degree, major, second area of study and/or elective hours. Students completing the BGS with a major must choose a secondary area of study. Individual degree mapping is done in partnership with your advisor.

Please note:

All students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences are required to complete 120 total hours of which 45 hours must be at the Jr/Sr (300+) level.

*Courses with a * designate courses that are degree requirements but can also be taken to fulfill the KU Core 34 requirement. If another course if used to fulfill the Core 34 requirement, the course listed is still required as a degree requirement.

Notes:

* - This course is a Required major course and is also part of Core 34: Systemwide General Education. If this course is not taken to fulfill the Core 34:SGE requirement, it must be taken in place of elective hours.

** - This course is a Recommended Core 34: Systemwide General Education course. This specific course is not required but is recommended by the program's faculty.

*** - This course is a Required Core 34: Systemwide General Education course. This program is approved by the Kansas Board of Regents to require this specific Core 34: Systemwide General Education course. If a student did not take this course it must be taken in addition to other degree requirements.

Departmental Honors

To graduate with honors in environmental studies, an undergraduate must maintain a minimum grade-point average of 3.5 in the major. The student must also complete an individual honors research project in cooperation with a faculty mentor. This project normally represents 2 semesters of original work, the completion of 3 credit hours of EVNR 624 Independent Study, and 3 credit hours of EVNR 625 Honors Research in Environmental Studies. All 6 hours may be applied to the 12 hours of environmental studies electives required for the major. Upon completion of the research project, honors candidates are required to present