

# ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

## Overview

An Area of Concentration (AOC) in Environmental Studies prepares students for meaningful careers in the global community by emphasizing a broad understanding of how natural and human social systems interact in complex ways. The Environmental Studies Program (ESP) provides students with knowledge and experience in ecology, human behavior, policy, society, ethics, the humanities, and systems thinking. Successful students demonstrate competencies in real-world skills such as quantitative measurement, descriptive observation, analysis, collaboration, public speaking, and writing. Students are able to align their personal and academic interests by asking and answering questions that have legitimate application in diverse fields.

Because Environmental Studies is an interdisciplinary field, faculty are drawn from throughout the college, offering ESP students many pathways into the program. The Environmental Studies Area of Concentration is coordinated by the Environmental Studies Steering Committee. ESP students meet the program requirements by completing nine core courses supported by five additional courses within a chosen track including: Anthropology, Science, Policy, Urban Studies, or Student Designed. Students who pursue a joint AOC degree, e.g., Environmental Studies and Psychology, must complete the nine core requirements, but not the five additional track courses (see Requirements tab for details).

## Faculty in Environmental Studies

Frank Alcock (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/frank-r-alcock/>), Professor of Political Science and Environmental Studies (On Leave)

David Brain (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/david-brain/>), Professor of Sociology (On Leave)

Erin Dean (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/erin-l-dean/>), Associate Professor of Anthropology

Nicolas Delon (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/nicolas-delon/>), Associate Professor of Philosophy and Environmental Studies (On Leave)

Erika Díaz Almeyda (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/erika-diaz-almeyda/>), Assistant Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies (On Leave)

Heidi Harley (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/heidi-e-harley/>), Professor of Psychology/Peg Scripps Buzzelli Chair/Director of Environmental Studies Program

Emily Heffernan (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/emily-v-heffernan/>), Associate Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies/Associate Provost

Jeffrey Vredenburg (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/jeffrey-vredenburg/>), Adjunct Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies

## Requirements for the AOC in Environmental Studies

**A total of fourteen (14) academic units.** An Environmental Studies Joint AOC requires the 9 core units plus the required units for the Joint AOC (which may vary).

### Code Title

#### Required Introductory Courses in Environmental Studies and Biology

ENVS 2155	Introduction to Environmental Studies*
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BIOL 2100	Foundations of Biology I*
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#### Chemistry Course or Full-Term Tutorial Taught by Chemistry Faculty

CHEM 2075	Introduction to Environmental Chemistry*
or CHEM 2100	General Chemistry I*

#### Social, Cognitive, or Similar Psychology Course

Select **one** from the following examples:

PSYC 3400	Cognitive Psychology
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PSYC 3550	Social Psychology
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PSYC 3350	Personality Psychology
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PSYC 3560	Biological Psychology
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#### Environmentally-Oriented Political Science or Economics Course

Select **one** from the following examples:

ECON 3050	Development Economics
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ECON 3280	Political Economy
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POLS 2850	Sustainable Development*
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POLS 3560	R for GIS and Political Geography
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#### Environmentally-Oriented Anthropology, History, or Urban Studies Course

Select **one** from the following examples:

ANTH 3320	Conservation and Indigenous Knowledge
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HIST 3125	U.S. Environmental History
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SOCI 3000	Planning for Campus Resilience: The New College Challenge
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SOCI 3034	Sustainable Cities
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#### Environmentally-Oriented Philosophy, Literature, Arts, or Other Humanities Course

Select **one** from the following examples:

PHIL 2010	The Good Life: Happiness, Meaning, and Ethics in a Complex World*
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PHIL 2475	Animal Minds and Ethics*
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MUSC 2400	Music and the Environment*
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LITR 3170	Poetry Recess: A Creative Writing Workshop*
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#### Environmental Studies Practicum

An ISP, full-term course, tutorial, or internship that involves teamwork with other students to complete an environmental project

#### Environmental Studies Capstone Seminar

ENVS 4995	Environmental Studies Capstone (taken in the 4th year)
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#### Elective Track Courses and Tutorials<sup>2</sup>

Select **five** elective courses or tutorials in one of the following tracks:

Policy Track
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Science Track
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Anthropology Track
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Urban Studies Track
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Student-Designed Track
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#### Additional Requirements

Research Grant Proposal approved by senior thesis sponsor and the Environmental Studies Steering Committee

Senior Thesis or Senior Capstone Project, and Baccalaureate Exam<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Introductory Psychology does not count, but requirement will be waived as a pre-requirement to take an intermediate psychology course.

<sup>2</sup> These five courses give the student depth in their area of greatest interest and help prepare the student for thesis work. Because students

differ in their interests and the skills they need to have in order to conduct their thesis work (e.g., some students need art courses, others ecology courses, others sociology, etc.), these courses vary greatly between students. Therefore, students must work with their thesis sponsors to determine these courses. It is highly recommended that a methods course and a statistics course are included in the five courses selected.

<sup>3</sup> The student's thesis committee must include a faculty member from the Environmental Studies Steering Committee or the Environmental Studies core faculty.

## Environmental Studies Suggested Timeline

### First Year

Take Introduction to Environmental Studies

Email ES Office Manager to be added to the Environmental Studies Mailing List

### Second Year

Begin work on AOC Checklist and think about Thesis and supporting courses

### Second or Third Year

ES Practicum (often ISP)

### Third Year

Find a Thesis Sponsor

Submit your ES Checklist, Unofficial Transcript and Provisional AOC form to the Environmental Studies Steering Committee (ESSC)

### Fourth Year

Submit your ES Checklist, Unofficial Transcript, Thesis Prospectus and Environmental Studies Grant Proposal (thesis oriented) to the ESSC before end of Fall semester of graduation year.

Take Environmental Studies Capstone Seminar

## Representative Senior Theses in Environmental Studies

- Garbage and Government: Recycle Now, Sarasota County, and the Politicalization of Urban Waste
- Managing Fisheries: a Case Study of Conceptual Frameworks for Policy Design
- Sea Level Rise in Southwest Florida: An Economic Benefit-Cost Analysis of Policy Alternatives
- Herbicide Resistant Crops: Can Genetic Engineering Contribute to Sustainable Agriculture?
- Longleaf Pine: Florida's Sunflower Forest
- An Ecological Assessment of the Caples Stormwater Detention Pond
- Spiraling Toward Sustainability: Permaculture Design at New College