The field of Environmental Studies explores the relationship between humans and their environment. Such a study involves information from a variety of disciplines, including economics, natural science, political science, geography, sociology, and philosophy. The Program in Environmental Studies is designed to provide students an interdisciplinary major that focuses on the diverse facets of environmental science as well as to provide in-depth training in one or more specific disciplines. After graduation, students may continue on to graduate school in environmental science, as well as environmental law, resource economics, anthropology, or wildlife biology. Because the major includes significant work in two divisions, students majoring in Environmental Studies are not required to take a concentration.

Program Requirement: Students must select to be in either the Natural Science or the Social Science/Humanities Track of the major. Each track involves six required courses and four cognates. Additionally, each student must select a focus and an adviser within their chosen track. Courses taken within the focus that are not specified must be approved by the adviser.

Natural Science Track

Core courses:
BI 190 (General Ecology)
CH 103; 104 (Fundamentals of Chemistry I and II)
GL 112 (Environmental Geology)
MA 106 (Introduction to Statistical Science); 112 (Mathematical Analysis I)

Cognate courses (any four courses; at least two must be above the 100 level):
EC 365 (Environmental Economics); 394 (Natural Resource Management)
GG 211 (Economic Geography); 230 (Environmental Conservation); 354 (Weather and Climate)
PS 104 (American Political Processes)
PA 190 (Ethics and the Environment); 230 (Philosophy of Science)
SA 307 (Social Movement and Collective Action)

One of the following foci:
Biology: 125, 4 additional courses at the 200-300 level, 1 course at the 400 level
Chemistry: 4 courses at the 200-300 level, 2 courses at the 400 level
Social Science/Humanities Track

Core courses:
EC 155 (Introductory Economics); 365 (Environmental Economics) or 394 (Natural Resource Management)
GG 211 (Economic Geography) or 212 (Urban Geography); 230 (Environmental Conservation)
PA 190 (Ethics and the Environment)
PS 104 (American Political Processes) or 208 (U.S. Congress)

Cognate courses (any four courses; at least two must be above the 100 level):
BI 190 (General Ecology); 390 (Advanced Ecology)
CH 103 (Fundamentals of Chemistry I); 170 (Chemistry for Citizens)
GL 112 (Environmental Geology); 252 (Geomorphic Processes)
MA 103 (Introduction to Computers) or 213 (Computer Science I); 106 (Introduction to Statistical Science);

One of the following foci:
Economics: 150, 210, 355, 1 additional course at the 200-300 level
Geography: 100, 4 additional courses at the 200-300 level, 1 course at the 400 level
Philosophy: 180, 4 additional courses at the 200-300 level, 1 course at the 400 level
Sociology/Anthropology: 103, 190, 302, 710, 2 Area Studies courses

Senior Independent Work: Some foci require independent work in the related department during the senior year. Students with other foci may also elect to do independent work; this work may be carried out either as a one semester project (ES 500: Independent Studies) or as a two or more semester project (ES 700: Senior Thesis). Students must carry out this work under the supervision of a faculty member in the department that best characterizes the research project. Students wishing to undertake a 500 or 700 project must submit a proposal well in advance of registration for the semester when the work is to be done. Proposals must be submitted to the project adviser, the Program Director, and an additional faculty member from the track. In addition, students undertaking a Senior Thesis must make a public presentation of the research and a defense of the thesis before a committee of at least three faculty members.

Honors Program: Students with an average of B+ or better in courses required for the major may apply for Program Honors before beginning a Senior Thesis (ES 700). Honors will be given for a thesis of superior quality (B+ or better).

ES 500 Independent Study Fall, Winter, Spring
ES 700 Senior Thesis Fall, Winter, Spring