Transfer Guide Leading to a Bachelor’s Degree in Environmental Studies

All degree requirements are subject to the provisions and notices in the Undergraduate Catalog. Information is valid through August 2018.

How to Choose Between a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) and Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

Either degree is valuable and good preparation for entering the work force or graduate school – focus on the skills you want to have upon completing your degree. Keep in mind that you can take courses in the degree you do not select in order to round out your education.

Choose a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) if: Students who pursue a B.A. develop expertise in a foreign language by taking a 2-4 semester sequence of a foreign language. The experience of exposing oneself to a new culture, taking perspective, and trying to speak in a new language is great preparation for many careers that involve working with a variety of people in community settings. The Environmental Policy and Nature & Society emphases are available with the completion of the B.A. sequence of courses.

Choose a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) if: Students who pursue a B.S. develop additional expertise in math, statistics, and chemistry. The Biodiversity & Environmental Restoration, Energy Studies, and Water Sciences emphases require completion of the B.S. sequence of courses.

Courses Highly Recommended Prior to Transfer:

Highly Recommended Prior to Transfer for a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.): Foreign language sequence of courses; equivalent of MATH 155 (Trigonometry); and equivalent of STAT 208 (Basic Statistics).

Highly Recommended Prior to Transfer for a Bachelor of Science (B.S.): Equivalent of MATH 211 (Calculus for Business and Social Science) OR equivalent of MATH 229 (Calculus I) AND MATH 230 (Calculus II); equivalent of CHEM 210 (General Chemistry I), CHEM 211 (General Chemistry II), CHEM 212 (General Chemistry I Lab), and CHEM 213 (General Chemistry II lab); and equivalent of UBUS 223 (Business Statistics).

*Not completing recommended coursework in foreign language, math, statistics, and/or chemistry prior to transferring to NIU could delay graduation.

Courses to be Completed at NIU:

The core Environmental Studies courses are designed to be taken in any order. It is ideal to take ENVS 100 (Exploring the Environmental Studies Major...) in the first fall semester at NIU. ENVS 305 (Green Technologies) requires completion of chemistry and Trigonometry (Math 155) or Calculus (MATH 211 or MATH 229).

Each emphasis is designed to allow students the flexibility to choose which courses outside of the department will satisfy degree requirements. There are set courses that are required for each emphasis; the flexibility comes from the lists of elective courses students may take to meet degree requirements.
**About the Department:**

Environmental Studies combines the strengths of the physical sciences, social sciences, humanities, and technology to prepare students to meet the evolving demands of the field. We prepare students to work in a range of environmental areas for the government, nonprofit organizations, private companies, and we equip students for entry into graduate study. With some additional course work and student teaching, you may also be licensed to teach at the middle- and high-school levels (Environmental Science).

Environmental Studies seeks to: (1) evaluate the nature and magnitude of environmental and climatic change at local, regional, and global scales; (2) understand and explore solutions to energy challenges; and (3) assess the impact of environmental, climatic, and energy challenges on society and contribute toward the development of a public policy that promotes sustainability.

**Engaged Learning Opportunities:**

- **Internships (ENVS 492)** – An internship experience gives you a competitive edge by providing real-world experiences that complement your in-class work.
- **Research (ENVS 490)** – Our faculty members serve as mentors for students interested in researching the wide variety of areas associated with Environmental Studies.
- **Study Abroad (variable)** – We work with students interested in going abroad to find programs that will coordinate with program curriculum requirements.

**Student Organizations:**

- **Committee for the Preservation of Wildlife (CPW)** – open to all NIU students
- **Green Paws Environmental Alliance** – open to all NIU students
- **Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Club** – open to all NIU students

These student-run and faculty-sponsored organizations aim to help students explore their interests, foster professional relationships, and become aware of opportunities related to environmental studies.

**Career Information:**

Environmental Studies provides a sound foundation for many careers, including those related to advocacy, conservation, education, energy, recycling, sustainability, water, and more. Extensive information can be found on the Environmental Studies website: [http://www.niu.edu/ese/about/careers.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/ese/about/careers.shtml)

**For More Information:**

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