

# ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (BA)

Department Website (<http://as.nyu.edu/environment/>)

NYSED: 31478 HEGIS: 0420.00 CIP: 26.1301

## Program Description

The Department of Environmental Studies aims to provide students with the breadth of understanding and skills necessary for resolving environmental questions and creating a sustainable future on scales ranging from local to global. It does so through integrated, problem-oriented study and a broad range of courses across disciplines and schools. The major and minor draw on NYU's strong faculty base in Arts and Science (FAS), the Center for Atmosphere Ocean Science (CAOS, Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences/FAS), the Center on Environmental and Land Use Law (School of Law), the M.A. Program in Bioethics (Faculty of Health), and the Environmental Conservation Education program (Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development), as well as in the Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, the Stern School of Business, the Gallatin School of Individualized Study, and the School of Medicine.

The department offers opportunities to develop interests in a number of areas, including environmental science; environmental values, policy, and law; earth system science; public health; urban environmental problems; climate change; energy systems; environmental justice; and our complex relations with both domesticated and wild nature.

## Honors Program

Students who maintain a GPA over 3.65 (both in the major and overall) and complete the ENVST-UA 950 Honors Seminar in Environmental Studies are eligible for departmental honors. Consult the department for more information.

## Admissions

New York University's Office of Undergraduate Admissions supports the application process for all undergraduate programs at NYU. For additional information about undergraduate admissions, including application requirements, see How to Apply (<https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/how-to-apply.html>).

## Program Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
<b>General Education Requirements</b>		
First-Year Seminar		4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing The Essay:	4
Foreign Language <sup>1</sup>		16
Quantitative Reasoning		4
Physical Science		4
Life Science		4
Texts and Ideas		4
Cultures and Contexts		4
Expressive Culture		4
<b>Major Requirements</b>		
<i>Core Courses</i>		

ENVST-UA 100	Environmental Systems Science	4
ENVST-UA 101	Environment & Society	4
or SOCS-SHU 135	Environment and Society	
ENVST-UA 900	Environmental Studies Senior Seminar	4
<i>Methods of Inquiry</i>		
Select one of the following:		
ENVST-UA 305	Introduction to Environmental Modeling	4
ENVST-UA 310	Environmental Quantitative Methods	
ENVST-UA 320	Introduction to Conservation Analysis	
ENVST-UA 350	Energy Generation and the Environment	
ENVST-UA 360	Fundamental Dynamics of Earth's Atmosphere and Climate	
ENVST-UA 372/BIOL-UA 64	Geographic Information Systems for Ecology	
ENVST-UA 424	Environmental Qualitative Methods	
BIOL-UA 42	Biostatistics	
CORE-UA 105	Quantitative Reasoning: Elementary Statistics	
CORE-UA 107	Quantitative Reasoning: Prob,Stats & Decisn-Mkng	
POL-UA 800		
PSYCH-UA 10	Statistics for The Behavioral Sciences	
SOC-UA 301	Research Methods	
UPADM-GP 111	Quantitative Analysis for Public Policy	
<i>Governance</i>		
Select one of the following: <sup>2</sup>		
ECON-UA 326		4
ENVST-UA 323	Introduction to Marine Ecology and Conservation	
ENVST-UA 407	Climate Politics: When Policy meets Reality	
ENVST-UA 410	Environmental Economics	
ENVST-UA 422	Science in Environmental Policy	
ENVST-UA 423	History of United States Environmental Policy	
ENVST-UA 435	Environmental Governance	
ENVST-UA 445	Global Environmental Politics	
ENVST-UA 485	Environmental Activism:	
ECON-UA 353	Public Economics	
POL-UA 306	Public Policy	
POL-UA 315	Controversies in Public Policy: Logic and Evidence	
POL-UA 341	Private Influence in Public Policy	
POL-UA 350		
POL-UA 700	International Politics	
POL-UA 720	Diplomacy & Negotiation	
POL-UA 730	Internat'L Organization	
POL-UA 810		
<b>Electives</b>		
Select four elective courses chosen in consultation with a departmental adviser. The courses below may be chosen: <sup>3</sup>		
Other Elective Credits		44
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>128</b>

1

The foreign language requirement is satisfied upon successful completion through the Intermediate level of a language. This may be accomplished in fewer than 16 credits, but those credits must then be completed as elective credit.

2

Or from a fuller list including courses in other NYU schools and at NYU study away sites, available from the department.

3

ENVST-UA 800 Internship in Environmental Studies may count as one of the four electives.

## Electives

Please note that elective courses are not necessarily offered every year and may carry prerequisites. Some ENVST-UA courses are cross-listed and originate in other departments. Below is a partial list of acceptable electives in CAS; for a full list that includes courses in the other divisions of NYU (both undergraduate and graduate), contact the department.

The categories below are designed to support concentrations that students may choose within the ES major. Electives do not need to be restricted to any one category or distributed across the three categories.

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Environmental Science Electives</b>		
ENVST-UA 210		4
ENVST-UA 226	Climate Change	4
or ENVST-UA 9226	Climate Change	
ENVST-UA 250	Topics in Environmental Science	4
ENVST-UA 254		4
ENVST-UA 275	Where the City Meets the Sea: Studies in Coastal Urban Environments	4
ENVST-UA 300	Advanced Topics:	4
ENVST-UA 315	Environmental and Molecular Analysis of a Disease	4
ENVST-UA 323	Introduction to Marine Ecology and Conservation	4
ENVST-UA 325	Fundamentals of Ecology	4
ENVST-UA 327	NY Underground	4
ENVST-UA 331	Food Production and Climate Change	4
ENVST-UA 332	Current Topics in Earth System Science	4
ENVST-UA 333	Limits of The Earth: Issues in Human Ecology	4
ENVST-UA 340	Earth System Science	4
ENVST-UA 345		4
ENVST-UA 350	Energy Generation and the Environment	4
ENVST-UA 370	Biogeochemistry of Global Change	4
ENVST-UA 372	Geographic Information Systems for Ecology	4
ENVST-UA 380		4
ENVST-UA 385	Climate and Life	4
ENVST-UA 390	Urban Ecology	4
BIOL-UA 16	Ecological Field Methods	4
BIOL-UA 63	Fundamentals of Ecology	4
CORE-UA 203	Physical Science: Energy & The Environment	4
CORE-UA 311	Life Science: Lessons From The Biosphere	4
<b>Environmental Values and Society (Ethics, History, Politics)</b>		

ECON-UA 326		4
ENVST-UA 400	Ethics & The Environment	4
ENVST-UA 405		4
ENVST-UA 410	Environmental Economics	4
ENVST-UA 415		4
ENVST-UA 420		4
ENVST-UA 422	Science in Environmental Policy	4
ENVST-UA 423	History of United States Environmental Policy	4
ENVST-UA 435	Environmental Governance	4
ENVST-UA 440	Food, Animals, & The Environment	4
ENVST-UA 445	Global Environmental Politics	4
ENVST-UA 450	Topics in Environmental Values & Society	4
ENVST-UA 465	Business and the Environment	3
ENVST-UA 470	Climate and Society	4
ENVST-UA 475	Topics in Environmental Values and Society	4
ENVST-UA 480	Environmental Justice & Inequality	4
ENVST-UA 490	Urban Political Ecology	4
ENVST-UA 503	Journalism & Society: Covering The Earth	4
ENVST-UA 510		4
ENVST-UA 593	Making Art in the Anthropocene	4
ENVST-UA 630	Animals and Public Policy	4
ENVST-UA 675	Literature and the Environment	4
ENVST-UA 800	Internship in Environmental Studies	4
IDSEM-UG 1566	History of European Environmental Sciences	4
IDSEM-UG 1627	Green Design from Geddes to Gore	4
IDSEM-UG 1628	Think Big: Global Issues and Ecological Solutions	4
IDSEM-UG 1892	History of Environmental Sciences	4
IDSEM-UG 2004	NYC Coastlines: Past, Present, and Future	4
IDSEM-UG 2114	Environmental Racism and Environmental Injustice: Rights, Citizenship, and Activism	4
IDSEM-UG 2123	Cultures of Energy and the End of Fossil Fuels	4
<b>Planning, Cities, and Transportation</b>		
ENVST-UA 431	Urban Environmentalism	4
ENVST-UA 495	Urban Greening Lab: New York	4
ARTH-UA 672	Environmental Design: Issues & Methods	4
SCA-UA 602		4

## Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credits
<b>1st Semester/Term</b>		
Foreign Language I		4
Texts and Ideas		4
First-Year Seminar		4
Quantitative Reasoning		4
		<b>Credits</b>
		<b>16</b>
<b>2nd Semester/Term</b>		
Foreign Language II		4
Cultures and Contexts		4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing The Essay:	4
Expressive Culture		4
		<b>Credits</b>
		<b>16</b>
<b>3rd Semester/Term</b>		
ENVST-UA 100	Environmental Systems Science	4
Methods of Inquiry major requirement <sup>1</sup>		4
Foreign Language III		4

Physical Science		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>4th Semester/Term</b>		
ENVST-UA 101	Environment & Society	4
Governance major requirement <sup>1</sup>		4
Foreign Language IV		4
Life Science		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>5th Semester/Term</b>		
Major Elective (#1 of 4)		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>6th Semester/Term</b>		
Major Elective (#2 of 4)		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>7th Semester/Term</b>		
ENVST-UA 900	Environmental Studies Senior Seminar	4
Major Elective (#3 of 4)		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>8th Semester/Term</b>		
Major Elective (#4 of 4)		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>128</b>

1

Drawn from a list of specific courses in the program of study.

## Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of program requirements, students are expected to have acquired:

1. The skills necessary for resolving environmental questions and creating a sustainable future on scales ranging from local to global.
2. The intellectual tools for critical thinking about the environment.
3. A general familiarity with main theoretical constructs relevant for thinking about the environment from scientific, humanistic, social, and integrative perspectives.
4. Demonstrated engagement and familiarity with primary texts in the field.
5. Proficiency in written and oral communication.
6. Familiarity with fundamental research skills, including organizing, analyzing, and displaying scientific data.

## Policies

### Policies Applying to the Major and Minor

1. A course cannot satisfy more than one requirement for the environmental studies major or minor. Students must earn a C or better in all courses for the major or minor. Pass/Fail courses cannot

count toward the major or minor. Transfer students must complete at least half of the major or minor at NYU.

2. Completion of the major in environmental studies satisfies the Societies and the Social Sciences component of the College Core Curriculum. However, completion of the minor does not satisfy this requirement. Environmental Quantitative Methods (ENVST-UA 310) fulfills the Quantitative Reasoning requirement in the Foundations of Scientific Inquiry component of the College Core Curriculum. In addition, Where the City Meets the Sea: Studies in Coastal Urban Environments (ENVST-UA 275) fulfills the Life Science requirement in the Foundations of Scientific Inquiry component of the College Core Curriculum.
3. Many courses approved for the major and minor in ES are outside of the College of Arts and Science. CAS students may take up to 16 points outside the College and apply them to their degree. To request additional non-CAS credits beyond the 16-point limit, students must consult with the College of Arts and Science Advising Center (726 Broadway, 7th floor; 212-998-8130; <http://cas.nyu.edu/academic-standards/petitions> (<http://cas.nyu.edu/academic-standards/petitions/>)).
4. No non-CAS courses can count toward the 64 credits that internal or external transfer students are required to complete in CAS (-UA) courses, even if they are approved for the major or minor in ES.
5. To declare a major or minor in environmental studies, contact the adviser for environmental studies at [environmental.studies.advising@nyu.edu](mailto:environmental.studies.advising@nyu.edu) or visit the department.

## NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/>).

## College of Arts and Science Policies

A full list of relevant academic policies can be found on the CAS Academic Policies page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/arts-science/academic-policies/>).