

# Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of General Studies 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.A. or B.G.S. Major

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Environmental Studies Introduction to Science and Culture</b>		
Majors must complete the following:		
EVRN 140	Global Environment I: The Discovery of Environmental Change	3
or EVRN 144	Global Environment I: Discovery of Environmental Change, Honors	
EVRN 142	Global Environment II: The Ecology of Human Civilization	3
or EVRN 145	Global Environment II: The Ecology of Human Civilization, Honors	
EVRN 160	Environmental Solutions	1
EVRN 336	Ethics, Ideas and Nature (Environmental Social Science and Policy)	3
Statistics. Satisfied by one of the following:		3-4
MATH 365	Elementary Statistics	
GEOG 316	Methods of Analyzing Geographical Data	
BIOL 370	Introduction to Biostatistics	
<b>Environmental Studies Core Knowledge and Skills</b>		
Majors must complete a course in each of the following areas:		

Environmental Social Science and Policy Satisfied by: 3

EVRN 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: 3

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: 3

EVRN 460	Field Ecology
or EVRN 660	Summer Field Ecology

**Capstone Experience. Satisfied by one of the following:** 3-6

EVRN 491	Capstone Internship
EVRN 615	Capstone Project
EVRN 624	Independent Study
& EVRN 625	and Honors Research in Environmental Studies (Completion of EVRN 624 AND 625 required for Capstone experience.)

### 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 5 courses at the 300+ level. Students completing the honors capstone sequence (EVRN 624 & EVRN 625) may count 3 hours of that sequence toward the elective requirement.

## 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 40-41 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 33 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/>).

A sample 4-year plan for the BA degree in Environmental Studies can be found here: Environmental Studies Sample 4-year BA plan (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/environmental-studies/ba-bgs/ba-environmental-studies/>), or by using the left-side navigation.

Sample 4-year plans for the BGS degree in Environmental Studies can be found here: Environmental Studies Sample 4-year BGS plan (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/environmental-studies/ba-bgs/BGS-in-Environmental-Studies/>), or by using the left-side navigation.

## 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 EVRN 624 Independent Study, and 3 credit hours of EVRN 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 the results of their work at the department's Undergraduate Research Colloquium.