

Environmental Studies Minor

Administered by the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies
1202 Ashley Hall

The Environmental Studies Program provides students with perspectives on environmental issues from a wide variety of disciplines, including the humanities, the social sciences, and the natural sciences. It familiarizes students with core topics related to environmental issues and sustainable solutions. This interdisciplinary minor is for those students who wish to use it as preparation for a career as well as those who wish to better understand environmental issues. Since everything we do involves the environment in one way or another, a minor in Environmental Studies can complement any major at VSU. Moreover, environmental issues are becoming increasingly important in both public and private sectors. Consequently, employers value individuals who understand and are skilled in this area.

Selected Educational Outcomes

Coursework in environmental studies will enable students:

1. to analyze core issues and topics of the natural environment and how those have changed through time;
2. to explore the interdisciplinary relationship among the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences with regard to the study of the environment;
3. to engage in independent critical research of the natural environment in its relationship to humanity.

Examples of Outcome Assessments

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of core issues and topics in environmental studies through formal written work, tests, and projects. The Environmental Studies Committee will sample student work and assess it according to an assessment rubric.
2. Students will be able to articulate interdisciplinary relationships in environmental studies through formal written work, tests, and projects. The Environmental Studies Committee will sample student work and assess it according to an assessment rubric.

Requirements for the Minor in Environmental Studies ¹

PHIL 3180	Ethics and the Environment	3
BIOL 1080	Conservation Biology	3
or GEOG 1125	Resources, Society, and Environment	
Select Humanities/Social Sciences Option or Natural Sciences Option (see below)		12
Total Hours		18

¹ At least 9 hours must be taken at the 3000 to 4000 level.

Humanities/Social Sciences Option

(3 courses from the list of Humanities/Social Sciences courses and 1 course from the Natural Sciences courses)

ECON 3800	Environmental Economics	3
ECON 3850	Sustainability: An Economic Perspective	3
ENGL 3300	Special Studies in Literature (where appropriate) ¹	3
ENGL 4300	Special Topics in Literature (where appropriate) ¹	3
GEOG 3510	Urban Community Planning	3
HIST 4295	Environmental History	3
PHIL 3200	Philosophy of Science	3
PHIL/REL 3540	Ecology and World Religions	3
PHIL 3640	Environmental Philosophy	3
PHIL 4120	Ethics and Public Policy	3
PHIL 4220	Ethics and Public Administration	3
POLS 4450	Comparative Environmental Politics and Policy	3
SOCI 4800	Issues in Sociological Practice (Environmental Sociology) ¹	3
SPAN 4900	Special Topics (Latin America and the Environment) ¹	3
Total Hours		42

Natural Sciences Option

(3 courses from the list of Natural Sciences courses and 1 course from the Humanities/Social Sciences courses)

BIOL 1080	Conservation Biology	3
BIOL 3100	Microbiology ¹	4
BIOL 3250	Ecology and Evolution ¹	4
BIOL 3600	Local Flora ¹	4
BIOL 4020	Topics in Conservation Biology ¹	2-4
BIOL 4700	Limnology ¹	4
BIOL/GEOG 3810	Introduction to Biogeography ¹	3
BIOL 3960	Wildlife Biology ¹	4
CHEM 1010	Introductory Chemistry for Environmental Studies	4
CHEM 3320	Environmental Chemistry ¹	3
GEOG 1110	Our Hazardous Environment	3
GEOG 1112K	Introduction to Weather and Climate	4
GEOG 1125	Resources, Society, and Environment	3
GEOG 3020	Global Climate Change ¹	3
GEOG 3050	Computer Cartography and Image Analysis	3
GEOG 3051	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems ³	3
GEOG 3100	Regional Planning and Environmental Management ³	3
GEOG/GEOL 3210	Introduction to Hydrology ¹	4

¹ Course prerequisite(s) required

² Prerequisites are any two Area D lab courses

³ Consent of instructor required