# ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES MINOR

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Environmental Studies Minor Website (http://www.jmu.edu/environment/studies.shtml)

The environmental studies minor provides a cross disciplinary education engaging socio-cultural, scientific and technical issues raised by the oft-conflicting needs and desires of globally interacting societies. Designed to complement any major, the goals of the environmental studies minor include:

- To help undergraduates develop an awareness of the cultural, political and scientific aspects of the world's environmental problems.
- To better prepare students for further study at the graduate or professional school level and careers in the expanding field of environmental professions.

## Minor Requirements

### Overview of Requirements

The requirement for a minor in environmental studies is a minimum of 21 credit hours taken from the three categories:

- **Introduction to Environment and Environmental Science Literacy**: Fundamental to exploring the problems which emerge through the human/nature interaction is an understanding of core scientific concepts and processes that underlie natural systems. Therefore, minors will take an environmental science course that provides a broad survey of core concepts as well as an environmental science course that provides a targeted focus on an environmental science topic.
- **The Socio-Cultural Context of Environmental Studies**: The core of the Environmental Studies minor is exploring the human/nature relationship and the challenges emerging from it through multiple disciplinary lenses, resulting in a truly interdisciplinary environmental studies experience.
- **The Senior Seminar capstone course**: The culminating experience for the environmental studies minor is the combined capstone, co-taught by two faculty members from different fields and joined by the environmental science and environmental management minors. With a small size, opportunities for experiential field trips and engagement with current environmental challenges, ENVT 400 creates an all hands on deck opportunity to demonstrate interdisciplinary competency in environmental studies and to make a difference with real environmental, sustainability, climate justice and resiliency problems.

No more than two courses from a single subject (e.g., GEOG, GEOL, ANTH, ENG) may count toward completion of the minor. Students wishing to complete more than one of the environment minors (environmental management (https://catalog.jmu.edu/programs/environmental-management-minor/), environmental science (https://catalog.jmu.edu/programs/environmental-science-minor/) and environmental studies) may receive dual credit for the capstone course (ENVT 400), but may not receive dual credit for any other courses that might be shared by the minors.

### Courses

| Code | Title | Credits |
|---|---|---|
| **Introduction to Environment** | | |
| All students seeking the minor must have one broad survey course on the human/nature relationship. | | |
| Choose one of the following: | | 3-4 |
| BIO 103 | Contemporary Biology [C3NS] | |
| BIO 250 | Quantitative Ecology and Evolution | |
| ENVT 200 | Environmental Systems Theory | |
| GEOG 210 | Physical Geography (2, 2) | |
| GEOL 102 | Environment: Earth [C3NS] | |
| GEOL 110 | Physical Geology [C3NS] | |
| GEOL 115 | Earth Systems and Climate Change [C3NS] | |
| GEOL 210 | Applied Physical Geology [C3NS] | |
| ISAT 100 | Environmental and Energy Sustainability [C3PP] | |
| ISAT 112 | Environmental Issues in Science and Technology (2,3) [C3PP] | |
| Subtotal | | 3-4 |
| **Environmental Science Literacy** | | |
| The Environmental Literacy requirement ensures that Minors will have at least one course providing depth and focus on at least one environmental science topic. | | |
| Choose one of the following: | | 3-4 |
| BIO 457 | Biological Applications of Geographic Information Systems | |
| BIO 459 | Freshwater Ecology | |
| GEOG 327 | Climatology | |
| GEOL 211 | Introduction to Oceanography [C3NS] | |
| GEOL 230 | Evolution of Earth (3, 2) | |
| GEOL 310 | Environmental Impact | |
| GEOL 320 | Meteorology | |
| GEOL 430 | Environmental Soil Science (2, 2) | |
| ISAT 320 | Fundamentals of Environmental Science and Technology I | |
| PHYS 215 | Energy and the Environment [C3PP] | |
| GEOG/ISAT 429 | Sustainability: An Ecological Perspective | |
| Subtotal | | 3-4 |
| **The Socio-Cultural Context of Environmental Studies** | | |
| Choose four courses (a minimum of 12 credit hours) from the following: [1] | | 12 |
| ECON 305 | Environmental Economics | |
| ECON 340 | Economics of Natural Resources | |
| ENG 221 | Literature and Ideas [C2L] (Lit, Nature, Env section only) | |
| ENG 371 | Literature and the Environment | |
| ENG 390 | The Environmental Imagination | |
| GEOL 310 | Environmental Impact | |
| or GEOG 310 | Environmental Issues | |
| GEOG 322 | Agricultural Systems | |
| GEOG 325 | Environmental Ethics | |

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|---|---|---|
| GEOG 330 | Weather, Climate and Society | |
| GEOG 427 | Water Resources of the World | |
| HIST 427 | U.S. Environmental History | |
| ISAT 290 | Introduction to Systems Thinking for Complex Problems | |
| ISAT 421 | Environmental Policy and Regulation | |
| ISAT 424 | Natural Resource Management | |
| ISAT 474 | Political Ecology | |
| PPA 484 | Environmental Regulatory Policy and Politics | |
| PPA 485 | Governance for Environmental Sustainability | |
| SCOM/WGSS 302 | Third Wave Ecofeminism | |
| SCOM 354/ WRTC 326 | Environmental Communication and Advocacy | |
| SOCI 311 | Sociology of the Environment | |
| SOCI 357 | Sociology of Disasters | |
| WRTC 416/ SCOM 465 | Rhetoric of Environmental Science and Technology | |
| Approved special topics courses | | |
| Approved internship programs | | |
| Approved study abroad courses | | |
| Subtotal | | 12 |
| **Senior Seminar Capstone Course** | | |
| ENVT 400 | Capstone Seminar in Environmental Problem Solving | 3 |
| Subtotal | | 3 |
| **Total Credits** | | **21-23** |

[1] Only two courses with the same course subject may be taken.