**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

**General Education Requirements Met in the Environmental Studies Major or Undeclared with Interest in Environmental Studies**

The requirements below are deemed “met in the major” upon completion of the courses listed (even though the courses and their prerequisites are not approved for GE). This is true whether or not the student completes the major.

- Area B1 (Physical Science) is satisfied upon completion of both CHEM 115 and CHEM 380.
- Areas B2 (Life Science) and B3 (Laboratory Science) are satisfied upon completion of either BIOL 240 or BIOL 313.

**Environmental Studies (B.A.) Core (16–20 units)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 115</td>
<td>General Chemistry I: Essential Concepts of Chemistry</td>
<td>3-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 180</td>
<td>Chemistry for the Energy and the Environment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 380</td>
<td>Chemistry Behind Environmental Pollution</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 300</td>
<td>Environmental Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 450GW</td>
<td>Environmental Law and Policy - GWAR</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 680</td>
<td>Environmental Studies Internship</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 690</td>
<td>Senior Seminar in Environmental Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives (16–18 units)**

Select one course from each category:

**Physical Environment**
- ERTH 230 Environmental Geology 3
- GEOG 101 Our Physical Environment 3

**Sustainability and Social Justice**
- ENVS/ECON 306 Economics and the Environment 3
- ENVS 570 Applied Local Sustainability 3
- PHIL 470 Environmental Ethics 3
- USP 514 Sustainable Development in Cities 4
- USP 515/ GEG 667 Environmental Justice: Race, Poverty, and the Environment 4

**Global/International**
- ENVS 470 Climate Politics and Policy 3
- I R/ENVS 331 Global Environmental Crisis 4
- I R/GEOG 428 International Political Economy of Food and Hunger 4

**Ecology**
- BIOL 313 Principles of Ecology 3

**Research Methods**
- ENVS 224 Research Methods for Environmental Studies 4

**Environmental Sustainability and Social Justice Emphasis (11–12 units)**

The environmental sustainability and social justice emphasis provides students with a theoretical and applied understanding of the issues of sustainability and the connections between social justice and environmental problems and solutions. Students study the roles that values and social, political, and economic structures play in contributing to the environmental crisis. With the help of an advisor, students obtain depth by selecting elective courses from political science, American Indian studies, sociology, philosophy and religion, economics, urban studies and planning, geography, women and gender studies, and other related fields.

Take 11–12 units. Two courses must be from the short list. Courses used to meet other requirements of the major cannot also be used to meet the environmental sustainability and social justice emphasis requirements.

**Short List**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 470</td>
<td>Climate Politics and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 530</td>
<td>Environmental Leadership and Organizing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 570</td>
<td>Applied Local Sustainability</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 421</td>
<td>Future Environments</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 354</td>
<td>Politics, the Environment, and Social Change</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USP 514</td>
<td>Sustainable Development in Cities (if not taken in core)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USP 515/ GEG 667</td>
<td>Environmental Justice: Race, Poverty, and the Environment</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Long List**

- AIS 310 American Indian Religion and Philosophy 3
- BECA 502 Environmental Communication on the Electronic Media 3
- BIOL 349 Bioethics 3
- BUS 450 Greening of Business 3
- CINE 344 Film Genre 3
- CST 300/ PLSI 386 Introduction to Critical Social Thought 3
- GEG 425 Economic Geography 3
- ECON 550 Environmental Economics 3
- ECON 620 Economic Development 3
- ENGR 220 Energy: Resources, Alternatives, and Conservation 3
- ENVS/ECON 306 Economics and the Environment 3
- I R/ENVS 331 Global Environmental Crisis 4
- GEG 422 Environmental Perception 3
- GEG 427 Agriculture and Food Supply 4
- GEG/ECON 600 Environmental Problems and Solutions ([IES][GP]) 3
- GEG 647 Geography of Water Resources 4
- GEG/USP 652 Environmental Impact Analysis 4
- GEG 666 Geography of Garbage: Recycling and Waste Reduction 3
- GPS/I R/PHIL 315 Introduction to Global Peace Studies 3
- H ED 655 Environmental Health 3
- HIST 476 American Environmental History 3
- I R 334 International Organizations: New World Order 4
- I R 520 Globalization and Development 4
The Urban Environment Emphasis (11–12 units)

The urban environment emphasis provides students with a strong interdisciplinary theoretical and empirical understanding for dealing with environmental issues in urban settings. With the help of an advisor, students obtain depth by selecting elective courses focusing on sustainable urban development, environmental justice, land-use planning, economic geography, and the urban environment in a global perspective.

Take 11–12 units. Two courses must be from the short list. Courses used to meet other requirements of the major cannot also be used to meet the humanities and the environment emphasis requirements.

Short List

- GEOG/USP 433 Urban Transportation (4)
- GEOG/USP 652 Environmental Impact Analysis (4)
- GEOG/USP 658 Land-Use Planning (4)
- USP 514 Sustainable Development in Cities (4)
- USP 515/ GEOG 667 Environmental Justice: Race, Poverty, and the Environment (4)

Long List

- BUS 450 Greening of Business (3)
- ENVS 530 Environmental Leadership and Organizing (3)
- ECON 550 Environmental Economics (3)
- ENGR 220 Energy: Resources, Alternatives, and Conservation (3)
- ENVS 224 Research Methods for Environmental Studies (4)
- ENVS/USP 535 Urban Economics (3)
- ENVS/ECON 306 Economics and the Environment (3)
- ENVS 570 Applied Local Sustainability (3)
- ENVS 699 Independent Study (1-3)
- GEOG 425 Economic Geography (3)
- GEOG/USP 432 Urban Geography (4)
- GEOG/USP 433 Urban Transportation (4)
- GEOG/ENVS 600 Environmental Problems and Solutions (IES)[GP] (3)
- GEOG/USP 651 San Francisco Bay Area Environmental Issues (4)
- GEOG/USP 652 Environmental Impact Analysis (4)
- GEOG 666 Geography of Garbage: Recycling and Waste Reduction (3)
- H ED 655 Environmental Health (3)
- I R/ENVS 331 Global Environmental Crisis (4)
- RPT 440 Urban Recreation and Parks (3)
- SOC 480/ USP 470 City in a Global Society (4)
- USP 530 Alternative Urban Futures (3)

Humanities and the Environment Emphasis (11–12 units)

The humanities and the environment emphasis explores the varied and complex ways that different cultures—past and present—view and communicate about the environment. With an advisor, students choose coursework in disciplines dealing with verbal or visual communication, such as communication studies, creative writing, technical and professional writing, ethnic studies, journalism, photography, design, electronic media, and cinema.

Take 11–12 units. Two courses must be from the short list. Courses used to meet other requirements of the major cannot also be used to meet the humanities and the environment emphasis requirements.

Short List

- BECA 502 Environmental Communication on the Electronic Media (if not taken in the core) (3)
- ENG 535 Literature and Ecology (if not taken in the core) (3)
- JOUR 580 Environmental Journalism (3)
- PHI 470 Environmental Ethics (if not taken in the core) (3)
- PLSI 354 Politics, the Environment, and Social Change (4)
- WGS 593 Gender, Health, and the Environment (3)

Long List

- ANTH 321 Indigenismo: Indigenous Cultures of the Americas (3)
- CINE 344 Film Genre (3)
- CINE/H ED 527 Documentary for Health and Social Justice I (6)
- CST 300/ PLSI 386 Introduction to Critical Social Thought (3)
- COMM 348GW Writing About Environmental Rhetoric - GWAR (4)
- ENVS 530 Environmental Leadership and Organizing (3)
- HIST 476 American Environmental History (3)
- HUM 450/ AMST 410 California Culture (3)
- HUM 380 Nature and Human Values (3)
- I R 334 International Organizations: New World Order (4)
- I R 520 Globalization and Development (4)
- LS 460 Childhood, Nature, and Society (3)
- LS/HIST 681 Community Service Learning in the Schools (1)
- PHIL/PLSI 150 Contemporary Moral/Political Issues (3)
- PHIL 351 Philosophy of Risk (3)
- PHIL 365 Science and Civilization (3)
- PHIL 383 Ethics in Medicine (3)
- SOC 477 Environmental Sociology (3)

1 Note: students may take one of either LS 460 (formerly S S 460) or LS 681 (formerly S S 681) but not both.

Complementary Studies

Bachelor of Arts students must complete at least twelve units of complementary studies outside of the primary prefix for the major. (Note: Students may not use an alternate prefix that is cross-listed with the primary prefix for the major.)

Students who complete two majors or a major and a minor automatically complete the complementary studies requirement. Additional ways for students in the environmental studies B.A. program to satisfy the
requirement is with one or more languages other than English; partial completion of a minor; partial completion of certificate; or a coherent group of courses approved by a major advisor as complementary to the major.

All complementary studies units must be approved by an advisor and all of the units must be separate from the units used to satisfy major requirements. Courses that fulfill complementary studies units may be lower or upper division units, resident or transfer units, or units taken in approved study abroad programs.

The Environmental Studies Program is impacted. Current students who wish to change their major to Environmental Studies should visit the department office for admission requirements and procedures. See the Environmental Studies website for more information: envs.sfsu.edu/prospective.

General Education Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Course Level</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Area Designation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oral Communication</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written English Communication I</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>A2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>A3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written English Communication II</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>A4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Science</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>B1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Science</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Science</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>B3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>B4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>C1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts or Humanities</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>C1 or C2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities: Literature</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>C3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>D1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences: US History</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>D2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences: US &amp; CA Government</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>D3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifelong Learning and Self-Development (LLD)</td>
<td>LD or UD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical and/or Life Science</td>
<td>UD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>UD-B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts and/or Humanities</td>
<td>UD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>UD-C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>UD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>UD-D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SF State Studies**

Courses certified as meeting the SF State Studies requirements may be upper or lower division in General Education (GE), in a major or minor, or an elective.

American Ethnic and Racial Minorities (AERM)  
Environmental Sustainability (ES)  
Global Perspectives (GP)  
Social Justice (SJ)  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Course Level</th>
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<th>Area Designation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Ethnic and Racial Minorities (AERM)</td>
<td>LD or UD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Sustainability (ES)</td>
<td>LD or UD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Perspectives (GP)</td>
<td>LD or UD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Justice (SJ)</td>
<td>LD or UD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: LD = Lower Division; UD = Upper Division.

**First-Time Student Roadmap (4 Year)**

This roadmap opens in a new tab. (bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/health-social-sciences/environmental-studies/ba-environmental-studies/roadmap.html)

**General Advising Information for Transfer Students**

1. Before transfer, complete as many lower division requirements or electives for this major as possible.

2. The following courses are not required for admission, but are required for graduation. Students are strongly encouraged to complete these units before transfer; doing so will provide more flexibility in course selection after transfer.

   - a course in U.S. History
   - a course in U.S. & California Government
   - a 2nd-semester course in written English composition

For information about satisfying the requirements described in (1) and (2) above at a California Community College (CCC), please visit http://www.assist.org. Check any geographically accessible CCCs; sometimes options include more than one college. Use ASSIST to determine:

   - Which courses at a CCC satisfy any lower division major requirements for this major, including 2nd-semester composition;

Remedial courses are not transferable and do not apply to the minimum 60 units/90 quarters required for admission.

Additional units for courses that are repeated do not apply to the minimum 60 units required for upper division transfer (for example, if course was not passed on the first attempt, or was taken to earn a better grade).

Before leaving the last California community college of attendance, obtain a summary of completion of lower division General Education units (IGETC or CSU GE Breadth). This is often referred to as a GE certification worksheet. SF State does not require delivery of this certification to Admissions, but students should retain this document for verifying degree progress after transfer.

Credit for Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or College-Level Examination Program courses: AP/IB/CLEP credit is not automatically transferred from the previous institution. Units are
transferred only when an official score report is delivered to SF State. Credit is based on the academic year during which exams were taken. Refer to the University Bulletin in effect during the year of AP/IB/CLEP examination(s) for details regarding the award of credit for AP/IB/CLEP.

Students pursuing majors in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines often defer 6-9 units of lower division general education in areas C and D until after transfer in order to focus on preparation courses for the major. (This advice does not apply to students pursuing associate degree completion before transfer.)

**Transferring from institutions other than CCCs or CSUs**

Review SF State’s lower division General Education requirements. Note that, as described below, the four basic skills courses required for admission meet A1, A2, A3, and B4 in the SF State GE pattern. Courses that fulfill the remaining areas of SF State’s lower division GE pattern are available at most two-year and four-year colleges and universities.

Of the four required basic skills courses, a course in critical thinking (GE A3) may not be widely offered outside the CCC and CSU systems. Students should attempt to identify and take an appropriate course no later than the term of application to the CSU. To review more information about the A3 requirement, please visit http://bulletin.sfsu.edu/undergraduate-education/general-education/lower-division/#AAEL.

Identify and complete a 2nd-semester written English composition course before transfer. This is usually the next course after the typical “freshman comp” course, with a focus on writing, reading and critical analytical skills for academic purposes, and developing skills in composing, revising, and the use of rhetorical strategies.

Waiting until after transfer to take a single course at SF State that meets both US and CA/local government requirements may be an appropriate option, particularly if transferring from outside of California.

**All students must meet the transfer eligibility requirements outlined below for admission. For more information, visit the Undergraduate Admissions section.**

- Complete 60 or more transferable semester units or 90 or more quarter units
- Earn a college grade point average of 2.00 or better in all transferable courses. Non-local area residents may be held to a higher GPA standard.
- Be in good standing at the last college or university attended
- Complete 30 semester units (45 quarter units) of general education, including four basic skills courses:
  a. One course in oral communication (same as CSU GE area A1)
  b. One course in written composition (same as CSU GE area A2)
  c. One course in critical thinking (same as CSU GE area A3)
  d. One course in mathematics or quantitative reasoning, with intermediate algebra as a prerequisite (same as CSU GE area B4)
- The four basic skills courses and a minimum of 60 transferable semester units (90 quarter units) must be completed by the spring semester prior to fall admission, or by the fall semester prior to spring admission. Earn a "C" or better grade in each basic skills course.