BACHELOR OF ARTS WITH A MAJOR IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (STEM)

The Environmental Studies program at George Washington University is a multidisciplinary, science-based degree program that focuses on interactions between people and their natural and built environments. Students in the program explore sustainability issues through the social sciences, humanities, and physical and life sciences. They learn to analyze broad-based environmental and development policies, both domestically and internationally.

Environmental Studies is a platform for student engagement on many levels. For example, they may gain experience outside the classroom through internship experiences with organizations such as the National Park Service, National Geographic, and the Environmental Protection Agency. Students also are exposed to service opportunities in the Washington, DC, area through government agencies and environmental organizations and can participate in campus organizations such as Green GW (https://www.facebook.com/TheGreenGW/) and the Food Justice Alliance (http://gwfoodjustice.blogspot.com/p/about.html). Many program alumni go on to graduate school and to careers as educators, managers, public officials, and lawyers.

This is a STEM designated program.

Visit the program website (https://geography.columbian.gwu.edu/ba-environmental-studies) for additional information.

ADMISSIONS

For information about the admission process, including deadlines, visit the Office of Undergraduate Admissions website (https://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/). Applications can be submitted via the Common Application (https://go.gwu.edu/commonapp).

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Office of Undergraduate Admissions
The George Washington University
800 21st St NW Suite 100
Washington, DC 20052

For questions visit undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/contact-us (http://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/contact-us).

REQUIREMENTS

This Bulletin covers the degree requirements for students matriculating in the current academic year. Students who matriculated before the current year can find their requirements in the relevant archived Bulletin (https://bulletin.gwu.edu/archives/).

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

The general requirements stated under Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Undergraduate Programs (https://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#degreeregulationstext).

Program-specific curriculum:

Code	Title	Credits
Required foundational courses		
BISC 1006	The Ecology and Evolution of Organisms	
or BISC 1112	Introductory Biology: The Biology of Organisms	
GEOG 1002	Introduction to Physical Geography	
GEOG 1003	Society and Environment	
GEOG 2104	Introduction to Cartography and GIS	
STAT 1053	Introduction to Statistics in Social Science	
or STAT 1051	Introduction to Business and Economic Statistics	
or STAT 1111	Business and Economic Statistics I	
or STAT 1127	Statistics for the Biological Sciences	

Code	Title	Credits
Required for the major		
Capstone		
ENVR 4195	Environmental Studies Capstone	
One field course selected from the following:		
BISC 3459	Field Biology *	
GEOG 2196	Field Methods in Geography (or equivalent)	
GEOG 3128	Geomorphology and Natural Hazards *	
Three science courses selected from the following:		
ANTH 3407	Conservation in a Changing World: Human and Animal Behavior	
BISC 2010	Global Change Biology	
BISC 2333	Evolution and Extinction of Dinosaurs	
BISC 2401	Biodiversity in a Changing World	
BISC 2452	Animal Behavior	
BISC 2454	General Ecology	
BISC 3454	Marine Ecology	
BISC 3458	Plant Comparative Structure and Function	
BISC 3459	Field Biology (or equivalent) *	
BISC 3460	Conservation Biology	

or BISC 3460W	Conservation Biology
BISC 3461	Plant-Animal Interactions
BISC 3464	Ecology and Evolution of Societies
CHEM 2085	Environmental Chemistry
GEOG 2129	Biogeography
or GEOG 2129W	Biogeography
GEOG 2136	Water Resources
GEOG 2196	Field Methods in Geography *
GEOG 3108	Weather and Climate
GEOG 3128	Geomorphology and Natural Hazards (or equivalent) *
GEOG 3218	Arctic Systems
GEOG 3275	Sustainable Food Systems
GEOL 2106	Oceanography
GEOL 2151	Introduction to Paleontology
GEOL 3128	Sedimentology and Stratigraphy
GEOL 3138	Hydrogeology
GEOL 3191	Geology of Energy Resources
Three society courses selected from the following:	
ANTH 3407	Conservation in a Changing World: Human and Animal Behavior
ANTH 3502	Cultural Ecology
CIAR 3350	Basic Sustainability Design Strategies
ECON 2136	Environmental and Natural Resource Economics
GEOG 2124	Urban Transportation
GEOG 2125	Transportation Systems and Networks
GEOG 2127	Population Geography
GEOG 2133	People, Land, and Food
GEOG 2134	Energy Resources
or GEOG 2134W	Energy Resources
GEOG 2137	Environmental Hazards
GEOG 2140	Cities and Societies
GEOG 2141	Cities in the Developing World
GEOG 3132	Environmental Quality and Management
GEOG 3143	Urban Sustainability
or GEOG 3143W	Urban Sustainability
GEOG 3193	Environmental Law and Policy
GEOG 3810	Planning Cities
HIST 3001	Special Topics (an environmental topic)
PHIL 2281	Philosophy of the Environment
PPPA 2701	Sustainability and Environmental Policy
PUBH 3132	Health and Environment
PUBH 3150	Sustainable Energy and Environmental Health
SUST 2002	The Sustainable City
GFI 3003	World on a Plate
or SUST 3003	
Electives	
Two additional upper-level courses selected from the science and society course lists above.	

*Can count as a field course or a science course, but not both.

GENERAL EDUCATION

In addition to the University General Education Requirement (https://bulletin.gwu.edu/university-regulations/general-education/), undergraduate students in Columbian College must complete a further, College-specific general education curriculum —Perspective, Analysis, Communication (G-PAC) (https://advising.columbian.gwu.edu/general-education-curriculum-gpac) as well as the course CCAS 1001 First-Year Experience. Together with the University General Education Requirement, G-PAC engages students in active intellectual inquiry across the liberal arts. Students achieve a set of learning outcomes that enhance their analytical skills, develop their communication competencies, and invite them to participate as responsible citizens who are attentive to issues of culture, diversity, and privilege.

Coursework (https://bulletin.gwu.edu/university-regulations/general-education/#generaleducationtext) for the University General Education Requirement is distributed as follows:

- One course in critical thinking in the humanities.
- Two courses in critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, or scientific reasoning in the social sciences.

- One course that has an approved oral communication component.
- One course in quantitative reasoning (must be in mathematics or statistics).
- One course in scientific reasoning (must be in natural and/or physical laboratory sciences).
- UW 1020 University Writing
- After successful completion of UW 1020, 6 credits distributed over at least two different Writing in the Disciplines (WID) courses taken in separate semesters (summer counts as one semester). WID courses are designated by a "W" appended to the course number.

Coursework for the CCAS G-PAC requirement is distributed as follows:

- Arts—one approved arts course that involves the study or creation of artwork based on an understanding or interpretation of artistic traditions or knowledge of art in a contemporary context.
- Global or cross-cultural perspective—one approved course that analyzes the ways in which institutions, practices, and problems transcend national and regional boundaries.
- Local or civic engagement—one approved course that develops the values, ethics, disciplines, and commitment to pursue responsible public action.
- Natural or physical science—one additional approved laboratory course that employs the process of scientific inquiry (in addition to the one course in this category required by the University General Education Requirement).
- Humanities—one additional approved humanities course that involves critical thinking skills (in addition to the one course in this category required by the University General Education Requirement).
- CCAS 1001 First-Year Experience

Certain courses are approved to fulfill GPAC requirements in more than one category.

Courses taken in fulfillment of G-PAC requirements can also be counted toward majors or minors. Transfer courses taken prior to, but not after, admission to George Washington University can count toward the University General Education Requirement and G-PAC, if those transfer courses are equivalent to GW courses that have been approved by the University and the College.

Lists of approved courses in the above categories are included on each undergraduate major's (https://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#majorstext) page in this Bulletin.

COMBINED PROGRAMS

Combined programs

- Dual Bachelor of Arts with a major in environmental studies and Master of Arts in the field of environmental resource policy (https://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/environmental-studies/combined-ba-ma-environmental-resource-policy/)
- Dual Bachelor of Arts with a major in environmental studies and Master of Arts in the field of environmental and sustainability policy (STEM/STEM) (https://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/environmental-studies/dual-ba-environmental-studies-ma-environmental-sustainability-policy/)