
2024-2025 Bachelor of Science Environmental Sciences (ENSC)

Curriculum Checklist

An Environmental Sciences undergraduate degree provides a rigorous education that can lead to helping to understand and resolve some of today's most challenging scientific and policy issues—including global climate change, pollution, biodiversity conservation, sustainability, and balancing resource use and preservation. To help reach these objectives, the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Sciences offers an interdisciplinary approach to environmental problem solving. As an Environmental Sciences major, a student completes course work in four general areas:

1. OSU's Graduation requirements
2. Baccalaureate Core
3. Major Curriculum
 - Science and math
 - Environmental sciences and humanities core
 - Experiential Learning
 - Specialization Option
 - Applied Ecology or
 - Conservation, Resources and Sustainability

Degree Learning Outcomes

Students will...

- Identify and define concepts in the natural sciences
- Identify and define concepts in the humanities and social sciences (e.g. economics, environmental law, ethics, resource policy, and human-environment interaction fields like agronomy and geography).
- Integrate concepts in the natural sciences with those in the humanities and social sciences.
- Demonstrate a rigorous cross-disciplinary science base (biological, physical, and social sciences) with a deeper knowledge in a specialization area by using the quantitative tools to analyze and interpret data.
- Communicate ideas clearly—orally, graphically, or in writing—to address environmental sciences issues.
- Engage in and experience the application of the environmental sciences beyond the classroom through fieldwork, participation in an internship, research, study abroad, or other forms of experiential learning.

OSU Graduation Requirements:

Students pursuing a degree at OSU must meet the following requirements in addition to Bacc Core and major requirements.

- _____ 180—total number of credits required to graduate from OSU
- _____ 60—number of upper division credits required
- _____ 45 of last 75 credits must be OSU credits
- _____ 2.0 Cumulative OSU

Checklist only lists OSU-Cascades Courses

A. OSU Baccalaureate Core: Total 48 credits plus WIC course. No single course may be used to satisfy more than one area of Bacc Core, except WIC. <https://catalog.oregonstate.edu/earning-degrees/bcc/>

Bacc Core area	Course	Fulfilled
Skills Requirements: (15 Credits)		
Lifetime Fitness	HHS 231	
Lifetime Fitness Lab or PAC course		
Mathematics	Fulfilled by Major	
Writing I	WR 121Z	
Writing II		
Speech		
Perspective Requirements: (24 Credits)- <i>No more than two courses from any one subject may be used.</i>		
Cultural Diversity		
Literature & the Arts		
Social Processes & Institutions (SPI)	ECON 201 in Major (if selected for Env. Econ & Policy)	
Western Culture		
Physical Science	Fulfilled by Major	
Biological Science	Fulfilled by Major	
Additional Science (Physical or Biological)	Fulfilled by Major	
Difference, Power & Discrimination (DPD)	GEOG 333 in major (if selected for Env. Ethics)	
Synthesis Requirements: (6 credits)- <i>These two courses cannot be from the same department</i>		
Contemporary Global Issues (CGI)	Multiple courses double count in major	
Science, Technology & Society (STS)	GEOG 340 in major	
WIC Course: (3-4 credits)		
Writing Intensive Course in Major (WIC)	ENSC 321 in Major	

ENSC Major Requirements: Courses taken in sections B and C can double count in Bacc Core requirements. Students cannot S/U major requirements. **A grade of C- or better is required in all upper division (300-400) level courses, and some Basic Science and Math Core courses.**

B. Basic Science and Math Requirements (51-53 credits/12 courses)

1.MATH	Pre-reqs and Guidance	Term offered (Subject to change)	Fulfilled
MTH 251(4) Differential Calculus	MTH 112Z or ALEKs 75 score	F, W, SU	
MTH 252 (4) Integral Calculus	MTH 251	W, S, SU	
2. Chemistry			
CH 121 or CH 231/261 General Chemistry	MTH 111Z or Higher, or ALEKs 60 score	F	
CH 122 or CH 232/262* (5) General Chemistry	CH 121 or CH 231/261	W	
CH 123 or CH 233/263 (5) General Chemistry	CH 122 or CH 232 /262	S	
3.BIOLOGY SEQUENCE			
BI 221 (4) Principles of Biology	CH 121 or CH 231/261 (or concurrent reg)	F, SU	
BI 222 (4) Principles of Biology	BI 221+ CH 121 or CH 231/261	W, SU	
BI 223 (4) Principles of Biology	BI 221 + CH 121 or CH 231/261	S, SU	
4.PHYSICS SEQUENCE			
PH 201 (5) Gen. Physics or PH 211 (5) Physics w/Calc	Talk to advisor	F, SU	
PH 202 (5) Gen. Physics or PH 212 (5) Physics w/Calc	Talk to advisor	W, SU	
5.STATISTICS			
ST 351 (4) Intro to Stat. Methods		F, SU	
ST 352 (4) Intro to Stat. Methods	ST 351	W, SU	

C. Environmental Sciences and Humanities Core: Courses taken in this section can double count with Bacc Core requirements. Courses cannot double count in both Sections C and D. A grade of C- or better is required in all upper-division classes.

Environmental Sciences and Humanities Core	Pre-req/ Notes	Term offered- (Subject to change)	Fulfilled
ENSC 101 (1) Environmental Sciences Orientation		F	
ENSC 221 (4) Environmental Field Studies		S	
ENSC 321 (4) Environmental Case Studies ^ WIC	Writing-Intensive Course	W	
Natural Environmental Systems	Pre-reqs and Guidance	Term offered (Subject to change)	Fulfilled
ATS 201 (4) Climate Science <i>Atmosphere</i>		S	
BI 370 (3) Ecology <i>Biosphere</i>	Pre-req (BI 221-223 or BI 211-213) BI 370 must be taken for Option Prep	W	
GEO 221 (4) Environmental Geology <i>Geosphere</i>		F	
GEOG 340 (3) Intro H ₂ O Sci & Policy *STS <i>Hydrosphere</i>		F	
Humans and the Environment (15-20 credits) – Choose one course for each requirement			
Economics and Policy– Choose one course from below	Pre-reqs and Guidance	Term offered (Subject to change)	Fulfilled
ECON 201 (4) Intro to Microeconomics *SPI or PS 475 (4) Environmental Politics		F, W S	
Env. Ethics – Choose one course from below			
SOC 480 (4) Environmental Sociology *CGI or FES 485 (3) Consensus and Natural Resources *STS or GEOG 333 (3) Environmental Justice *DPD		F S W,S	
Human Environment – Choose one course from below			
SUS 102 (4) Intro to Env. Science & Sustainability or SUS 350 (4) Sustainable Communities *CGI or Z 349 (3) Biodiversity: Causes, Conseq. Conserv. *CGI		F F TBD	
Environmental Mgmt. – Choose one course from below			
FW 251 (3) Principles Fish & Wildlife Conservation or RNG 455 (4) Riparian Ecohydrology & Mgmt or FES 365 (3) Issues in Natural Resources Conservation *CGI or FW 323 (3) Mgmt Principles of Pacific Salmon or FW 350 (3) Endangered Species, Society, Sustainability or RNG 341 (3) Rangeland Ecology and Mgmt or FW 326 (3) Integrated Watershed Mgmt or FES 445 (4) Ecological Restoration	Recommended pre-req FW 326 Pre-req BI 221-223 Recommended pre-req FW 326 Recommended pre-req BI 370 (3) Ecology	F F W S W W S	

D. Experiential Learning (3 credits required):

The program must contain at least one internship, research, or study abroad experience that provides opportunities for hands-on experience in design and collection of observations in the physical, biological, or social environment.

- ENSC 401 Research
- ENSC 410 Internship
- Programs (Study Abroad, IE3 Global Internships, etc.) Coursework- Courses that provide hands-on-training in lab or field research. These courses can double count in Bacc core and ENSC sciences. Consult with your advisor for alternative approved courses. Examples: BI 371, and BI 375

E. Specialization Option (A minimum of 27 credits is required):

The Environmental Sciences major requires students to declare a Specialization Option. OSU-Cascades offers two Environmental Sciences options: (1) Applied Ecology and (2) Conservation, Resources, and Sustainability. Pages 4-5 describe these specializations in more detail. Specialization courses can double count with Bacc Core requirements, but they cannot double count with Basic Science and Math Courses or Environmental Sciences and ENSC and Humanities Core. Contact your advisor to declare a specialization.

Applied Ecology Option (27 credits minimum)

Taking root as a field of inquiry independent from biology, geography, and other related disciplines in the 1960s, Environmental Sciences developed with ecology at its base. This science-based option takes an applied ecology approach and therefore includes field and geographic methods for collecting and measuring data on ecological change at various scales. Students seeking a concentration in policy and management are encouraged to consider the Conservation, Resources, and Sustainability option.

In the Applied Ecology option, students take at least one advanced ecology course, selecting from plant, forest, wetland riparian, and rangeland ecologies. Their choice may lead to taking additional related courses such as in forest ecology. In consultation with their advisor, students will find many possibilities for pursuing their interests in ecology.

Because environmental scientists who focus on ecology usually conduct fieldwork, the curriculum contains a field methods course either in ecology restoration (BI 375) or wildland plant identification (RNG 353). Complementing the field methods requirement, students take at least one geographic methods course. Various types of ecological data can be analyzed and presented for policy making from local to global scales using geographic information systems (GIScience) and remote sensing.

Applied Ecology Core: 10-20 Total Credits		Term Offered	
1. Ecological Studies- Select 1 minimum FES 341 (3) Forest Ecology or RNG 341 (3) Rangeland Ecology & Mgmt	Pre-req BI 221-223 Pre-req BI 221-223	F W	
2. Field Methods – Select 1 minimum RNG 353 Wildland Plant Identification (4) or BI 375 Field Methods in Ecology Restoration (4) or BI 371 Ecology	Pre-req. BI 221-223 Pre-req. BI 221-223	F SU W	
3. Geographic Methods GEOG 360 (4) GIS Systems & Theory		W	

Specialty Option Additional Electives <i>select 9-17cr to complete 27 total credits in option from below or above courses.</i>	Pre-reqs and Guidance	Term Offered (subject to change)	Fulfilled
BI 311 (3) Genetics FES 342 (3) Forest Types of the Northwest FES 440 (3) Wildland Fire Ecology FES 445/FW 445 (4) Ecological Restoration FW 311 (3) Ornithology FW 312 (3) Systematics of Birds FW 317 (3) Mammalogy FW 318 (2) Systematics of Mammals FW 320 (4) Population Dynamics FW 481 (3) Wildlife Ecology RNG 455 (4) Riparian Ecohydrology and MGMT Z 477 (4) Aquatic Entomology Z 423 (3) Environmental Physiology	Pre-req BI 221-223 Recommended pre-req BI 370 Recommended pre-req, 1 year BIO Recommended pre-req, 1 year BIO Recommended pre-req, 1 year BIO Recommended Pre-req 1 year BIO Pre-req BI 370 Pre-req BI 370 Recommended pre-req FW 326 Pre-req BI 221-223 Pre-req BI 221-223 and CH 233/263	F F S S S (EOY) W (EOY) S (EOY) W (EOY) S (EOY) S (EOY) F F F	

Conservation, Resources and Sustainability Option (27 credits minimum)

This option provides Environmental Sciences students the opportunity to explore the many course offerings at OSU in the areas of conservation, resource management, and sustainability. The option features broad course choices and flexibility in response to diverse student interests and changing environmental science applications. Courses with more of an ecology focus can be found in the Applied Ecology option.

While broad, this option provides a curricular pathway for students to think in terms of conservation approaches, resource management, and sustainability as science and policy; the curriculum satisfies student goals that may be both personal endeavors and professional. The option has three categories, requiring students to have some background in conservation and resource management, as well as social aspects and related values. With advising and course selection, students can select related courses to pursue areas of personal interest, e.g. rangeland, forests, or mammals.

Students studying in this option can look toward jobs or continued study in the related areas of conservation, resources, and sustainability. For jobs, federal and state agencies—US Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife, and state parks—plus non-profits (e.g. land and river conservancies), and consultancies, offer a range of possibilities for students completing this option.

Conservation – Select 3 (or more)	Pre-reqs and Guidance	Term offered (subject to change)	Fulfilled
FW 370 Conservation Genetics (4) FES/FW 445 Ecological Restoration (4) FW 320 Introductory Population Dynamics (4) FW 326 Integrated Watershed Management (3) Z 349 Biodiversity: Causes, Conseq., Conservation (3) BI 375 Field Methods in Ecological Restoration (4)	Pre-req BI 370 (3) Ecology Recommended BI 370 Pre-req BI 221-223	W S S (EOY) W TBD SU	
Resource Management and Policy – select 3 (or more)			
AEC 352 (3) Environmental Economics and Policy *CGI FW 323 (3) Mgmt Principles Pacific Salmon of NW GEOG 360 (4) GISCIENCE I PS 475 (4) Environmental Politics and Policy RNG 341 (3) Rangeland Ecology & Mgmt SUS 304 (4) Sustainable Assessment *STS	Pre-req ECON 201 (4) Microeconomics Pre-req BI 221-223	W S W S W W	
Society and Values – select 1 (or more)			
SUS 350 (4) Sustainable Communities *CGI SOC 480 (4) Environmental Sociology *CGI NR 455 (4) Natural Resources Decision Making SUS 304 (4) Sustainability Assessment *STS SUS 420 (3) Social Dimensions of Sustainability FES 485 (3) Consensus and Natural Resources *STS GEOG 333 (3) Environmental Justice *DPD	Pre-req FES 485 and (BI 371 or ENSC 479)	F F W W W S W,S	
Additional Electives from above to complete 27 total			

Bacc Core Key Guide

- DPD- Difference, Power, and Discrimination
- CGI- Contemporary Global Issues
- STS- Science, Tech, and Society