INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

Environmental Sciences (ES) is a broad, interdisciplinary major that examines the impact of human activities on natural systems. Students learn how to apply tools and techniques from a variety of disciplines such as biology, ecology, chemistry, toxicology, geology, hydrology, meteorology, geography, engineering, statistics, behavioral science, policy analysis, economics, and law.

All ES majors complete a senior thesis in which they investigate an environmental issue, design and execute independent research, and present their results in oral and written form.

“ What makes ES such a great major is its interdisciplinary nature and the structured execution of a senior thesis of your choosing.”

– Aileen Lavelle, ES Student & Peer Advisor

THE ES CURRICULUM

ES has three concentrations: Biological Science, Social Science or Physical Science. For all concentrations, lower division coursework emphasizes basic science in a rigorous curriculum drawn from biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics, economics, and environmental science.

For upper division courses, students take electives in their area of interest and courses in research methodology and environmental modeling to prepare for the senior research seminar. This yearlong course is the capstone of the major where students design and conduct their own research with guidance from faculty.

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

• Apply to the Sponsored Project for Undergraduate Research (SPUR) program to pursue joint research with a faculty member.
• Get 1:1 mentoring from graduate students with Berkeley Connect in ESPM.
• Conduct field research in the Sierra Nevada at Forestry Field Camp or in French Polynesia through the Moorea Program.
• Join a student group such as the Environmental Sciences Student Association.
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
Bachelor of Science

**Explore your major**
- Familiarize yourself with ES major requirements.
- Meet with the ES major advisor to sketch out a four-year plan.
- Talk to a peer advisor about life at Rausser College.

**Connect and build community**
- Take advantage of the Rausser Student Resource Center.
- Get involved by mentoring with Berkeley Connect in ESPM.
- Join a student group like the Environmental Sciences Student Association.

**Discover your passions**
- Discover new interests in a Freshman Seminar or DeCal course like ESPM 98.
- Attend the Undergraduate Research and Scholarships Fair in October.
- Learn about research opportunities for Rausser students.
- Apply for a research position through SPUR.

**Engage locally and globally**
- Attend the Calapalooza student activities fair.
- Get involved with a student organization.
- Find service opportunities through the Cal Energy Corps.
- Enroll in a Sophomore Seminar, Big Ideas Course or Discovery Course.
- Assist faculty and grad students in their research through URAP or SURF-SMART.
- Consider a course thread in Humanities & Environment or Sciences and Society.

**Reflect and plan your future**
- Visit the Career Center and Career Counseling Library.
- Check out the Career Center Yearly Planner.
- Sign up for Handshake and Career Mail.
- Check out the Environmental Sciences Career Snapshot.
- Take advantage of career and pre-health advising for Rausser students.
- Explore career fields through the Career Connections Series or a winter externship.
- Learn about graduate and professional school programs.
- Think about doing an internship and attend an internship fair.

**FIRST YEAR**
- Complete lower division prerequisites and declare the major if currently undeclared.
- Consider a minor, certificate, or course thread.
- Meet with the ES major advisor if you plan to study abroad.

**SECOND YEAR**
- Complete the statistics requirement no later than the fall semester.
- Start brainstorming research topics for your senior thesis and reach out to potential faculty mentors.
- Take ESPM 102ES during the spring semester, which culminates in a proposal for your senior thesis research topic.

**THIRD YEAR**
- Complete the statistics requirement no later than the fall semester.
- Start brainstorming research topics for your senior thesis.
- Do a degree check to ensure you are on track to graduate.
- Complete any “bucket list” courses and remaining major, college, and campus requirements.
- Present your research at the ES Symposium to your peers, friends, and family.

**FOURTH YEAR**
- Take ESPM 175 and find a faculty mentor for your senior thesis.
- Do a degree check to ensure you are on track to graduate.
- Complete any “bucket list” courses and remaining major, college, and campus requirements.
- Present your research at the ES Symposium to your peers, friends, and family.

**WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?**
- ES graduates are well-prepared for careers in fields such as environmental consulting, education, health, or law, as well as community, urban, or regional planning and other related areas of environmentalism.
- Graduates are well-qualified for a variety of graduate programs, including environmental policy and management, law school, medical school, and environmental engineering.

**Jobs and Employers**
- Analyst Consultant, Accenture
- Biologist Intern, UCSF Business Associate, Next Jump
- Data Analyst, Lucid Software
- Environmental Compliance Intern, Recology
- Environmental Scientist, American Forestry Tech., Collins Company
- GIS Data Specialist, City of San Mateo
- Naturalist, Aquarium of the Bay
- Software Ops. Specialist, Nuro

**Graduate Programs**
- Civil Engineering, PhD
- Ecology, PhD
- Environmental Science, Masters
- Forestry, PhD
- Law, JD
- Molecular Biology, PhD
- Public Health, Masters
- Public Policy Analysis, Masters

Examples gathered from LinkedIn and the First Destination Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.