
Environmental Sciences

In the College of Sciences

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The environmental sciences major is overseen by the College of Sciences and administered by the Environmental Sciences Program Committee. The major includes courses offered mostly in departments of the College of Sciences, with some courses in departments in other Colleges of the University.

Faculty

Environmental Sciences Program Director and Undergraduate Adviser: Sweedler (Physics)

Environmental Sciences Program Committee: Chatfield (Chemistry and Biochemistry), Deutschman (Biology), Ganster (Regional Studies of the Californias), Matt (Psychology), Shapiro (Field Station Programs), Sweedler (Physics), Thorbjarnarson (Geological Sciences), Van Schoik (Southwest Center for Environmental Research and Policy)

Offered by the College of Sciences

Major in environmental sciences with the B.S. degree in applied arts and sciences.

The Major

Environmental sciences is an interdisciplinary program leading to a Bachelor of Science degree in applied arts and sciences. The program will provide the student with a rigorous and broad foundation in those sciences most relevant to environmental issues. While the focus is on the physical environmental sciences, some coursework is required in biology, computer science, geography, and statistics. Those students wishing to concentrate more on the biological aspects of the environment, should consider the ecology emphasis offered by the Department of Biology.

Upon completion of the degree, students will be prepared to understand and contribute to a broad range of environmental problems confronting society. This major should be especially attractive to students who wish a broader background in the environmental sciences than is easily offered by individual departments. The major will prepare the student for employment in diverse situations in the dynamic and ever-changing environmental science job market. It will also be an excellent undergraduate major for students planning to go on to graduate school in any of the environmental sciences.

Advising

Students are required to meet with the undergraduate adviser in order to declare the major. Students wishing to major in environmental sciences are urged to meet with the adviser during their first semester.

Environmental Sciences Major

With the B.S. Degree in Applied Arts and Sciences
(Major Code: 49011)

All candidates for a degree in applied arts and sciences must complete the graduation requirements listed in the section of this catalog on "Graduation Requirements." Individual master plans are filed with both the environmental sciences adviser and the Office of Advising and Evaluations.

A minor is not required with this major.

Preparation for the Major. Environmental Sciences 100; Biology 201A; Biology 215 or Statistics 250; Chemistry 200, 201, 231; Computer Science 205; Geological Sciences 100, 101; Geography 103; and Mathematics 150, Physics 195, 195L, 196, 196L, or Mathematics 121, 122, Physics 180A, 180B, 182A, 182B. (47-48 units)

Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement. Completing one of the approved upper division writing courses (W) with a grade of C (2.0) or better or passing the Writing Proficiency Assessment with a score of 10 or above.

Major. A minimum of 36 upper division units to include Environmental Sciences 498A-498B; Biology 354; Geography 508 or 511; Geography 484 or 488 or Geological Sciences 505; Geological Sciences 305 or Environmental Engineering 355; Geological Sciences 545 or Oceanography 541; 15 units selected from Biology 350, 517, 540, Chemistry 571, Computer Science 558, Economics 452 or 453, Geography 570, 572, 574, Geological Sciences 530 and 551, Mathematics 336.

Courses (ENV S)

LOWER DIVISION COURSES

ENV S 100. Environmental Sciences (3)

The earth as an ecosystem composed of biological, chemical, and physical systems and how these systems interact with one another and the human population.

ENV S 299. Special Study (3)

Prerequisite: Consent of program director and instructor.
Individual Study.

UPPER DIVISION COURSES (Intended for Undergraduates)

ENV S 498A-498B. Senior Seminar in Environmental Sciences (3-3)

Prerequisite: Senior standing in the environmental sciences major.
Research projects related to an environmental issue in the San Diego and California region.
