MINOR IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Program Learning Outcomes for the Minor in Environmental Studies

Upon completing the minor in Environmental Studies, students will be able to:

1. Understand the fundamental science that drives earth/natural systems, and that frames and makes comprehensible current environmental issues.
2. Evaluate the nexus of human activity with environmental processes to examine and understand sustainable (or unsustainable) practices.
3. Develop a cross-disciplinary perspective to better understand environmental issues and solutions through a focus within the natural sciences and/or engineering and a focus within the humanities, social sciences, and/or architecture.

Requirements for the Minor in Environmental Studies

Students pursuing the minor in Environmental Studies must complete:

- A minimum of 6 courses (18 credit hours) to satisfy minor requirements.
- A minimum of 3 courses (9 credit hours) taken at the 300-level or above.

The Environmental Studies minor was specifically created to provide undergraduates from a broad range of academic backgrounds with a cohesive program offering foundational literacy in the social, cultural, and scientific dimensions of environmental issues, and a cross-disciplinary holistic understanding of the challenges and solutions for creating a sustainable world. Students completing the minor will be able to synthesize frameworks, tools, and perspectives from multiple disciplines; master sustainability terminology; understand major environmental issues from multiple perspectives; develop and assess environmental solutions in an informed and logical manner; and convey knowledge and insights about environmental issues in multiple formats.

The courses listed below satisfy the requirements for this minor. In certain instances, courses not on this official list may be substituted upon approval of the minor’s academic advisor, or where applicable, the Program Director. (Course substitutions must be formally applied and entered into Degree Works by the minor’s Official Certifier [https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/degreeworks/officialcertifier/]). Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total Credit Hours Required for the Minor in Environmental Studies</td>
<td>18</td>
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Select 2 courses from the following:

- CEVE 302 / SUSTAINABLE DESIGN
- ENGI 302
- CEVE 307 / ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT
- ENST 307 / ESCI 307
- CEVE 310 / PRINCIPLES OF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING
- CEVE 314 / SUSTAINABLE WATER PURIFICATION FOR THE DEVELOPING WORLD
- BIOE 365 / GLHT 314
- CEVE 406 / INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL LAW
- ENST 406
- CHBE 281 / ENGINEERING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
- ENST 281
- EBIO 204 / ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY: THE DESIGN & PRACTICE OF COMMUNITY AGRICULTURE
- ENST 204
- EBIO 270 / ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT
- EBIO 319 / TROPICAL FIELD BIOLOGY
- EBIO 320 / ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION OF BRAZILIAN WETLANDS LABORATORY
- EBIO 323 / CONSERVATION BIOLOGY
- ENST 323
- EBIO 325 / ECOLOGY
- EBIO 327 / BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
- EBIO 372 / CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEMS
- EBIO 379 / LAB MODULE IN AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS WITH SCUBA
- ENST 379
- ELEC 365 / MSNE 365 / NANOMATERIALS FOR ENERGY
- ELEC 365
- ESCI 321 / EARTH SYSTEM EVOLUTION AND CYCLES
- ESCI 340 / GLOBAL BIOGEOCHEMICAL CYCLES
- EBIO 340 / ENST 340
- ESCI 380 / VISUALIZING NATURE
- FOTO 390
- ESCI 407 / GEOCHEMISTRY OF EARTH'S SURFACE
- ESCI 425 / ORGANIC GEOCHEMISTRY
- CHEM 425 / ENST 425
- ESCI 450 / REMOTE SENSING
- CEVE 450
- ESCI 452 / GIS FOR SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS
- ESCI 471 / EARTH SYSTEMS MODELING I: PHILOSOPHY AND FUNDAMENTALS

Total Credit Hours 18

Footnotes and Additional Information

1. Current/former EBIO majors are eligible to substitute EBIO 325 in place of EBIO 124 to meet the introductory course requirement from the natural sciences.

2. Given the wide range of courses at Rice related to Environmental Studies, students are encouraged to contact the Minor Director to suggest courses to include on the list of approved electives.

Policies for the Minor in Environmental Studies

Program Restrictions and Exclusions

Students pursuing the minor in Environmental Studies should be aware of the following program restriction:

- As noted in Majors, Minors, and Certificates (https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-opportunities/majors-minors-certificates/), i.) students may declare their intent to pursue a minor only after they have first declared a major, and ii.) students may not major and minor in the same subject.

Transfer Credit

For Rice University’s policy regarding transfer credit, see Transfer Credit (https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/transfer-credit/). Some departments and programs have additional restrictions on transfer credit. The Office of Academic Advising maintains the university’s official list of transfer credit advisors on their website: https://oaa.rice.edu. Students are encouraged to meet with their academic program’s transfer credit advisor when considering transfer credit possibilities.

Program Transfer Credit Guidelines

Students pursuing the minor in Environmental Studies should be aware of the following program-specific transfer credit guidelines:

- Requests for transfer credit will be considered by the program director (and/or the program’s official transfer credit advisor) on an individual case-by-case basis.

Distribution Credit Information

The determination of distribution eligibility is done as part of the new course creation process (https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/courseprocess/). As part of an annual roll call (https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/distribution_credit/) coordinated each Spring by the Office of the Registrar, course distribution eligibility is reviewed and reaffirmed by the Dean’s Offices of each of the academic schools.

Faculty and leadership in the academic schools are responsible for ensuring that the courses identified as distribution-eligible meet the criteria as set in the General Announcements (https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/#text). Students are responsible for ensuring that they meet graduation requirements (https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/#text) by completing coursework designated as distribution at the time of course registration.

Distribution courses from Environmental Studies (ENST) are broadly scoped and thematically diverse and prompt students to explore the cultural, social, and political dimensions of human-environmental relations and environmental systems. They present students with an interdisciplinary spectrum of relevant methods and skills and help students to develop analytical, expressive, and critical knowledge of the relationship of environment, culture, and society across the world. They are introductions to the study of human-environmental relations and environmental systems.

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Environmental Studies website: https://humanities.rice.edu/academics/programs/
Opportunities for the Minor in Environmental Studies

Academic Honors
The university recognizes academic excellence achieved over an undergraduate's academic history at Rice. For information on university honors, please see Latin Honors (https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/) (summa cum laude, magna cum laude, and cum laude) and Distinction in Research and Creative Work (https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/). Some departments have department-specific Honors awards or designations.

Additional Information
For additional information, please see the Environmental Studies website: https://humanities.rice.edu/academics/programs/environmental-studies

See https://humanities.rice.edu/student-life for tables of fellowships, prizes, and internships/practica that may be relevant to this minor.