BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BS) DEGREE WITH A MAJOR IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND A MAJOR CONCENTRATION IN ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY

Program Learning Outcomes for the BS Degree with a Major in Environmental Science

Upon completing the BS degree with a major in Environmental Science, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate foundational knowledge in the natural sciences that is fundamental to the environmental sciences or application of the environmental sciences to other fields.
2. Integrate knowledge of natural and applied sciences to understand complex natural systems and cycles.
3. Synthesize knowledge from natural sciences and engineering and apply it to the study of the environment.
4. Understand environmental issues from a scientific perspective and be able to solve issues using a variety of interdisciplinary perspectives (e.g., social sciences, economics, humanities, and/or architecture).
5. Demonstrate knowledge and skills suitable for doing research and/or field studies in environmental science.

Requirements for the BS Degree with a Major in Environmental Science

For graduation requirements, see Graduation Requirements (https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/). Students pursuing the BS degree with a major in Environmental Science must complete:

- A minimum of 26-29 courses (77-82 credit hours), depending on course selection, to satisfy major requirements.
- A minimum of 120 credit hours to satisfy degree requirements.
- A minimum of 5-7 courses (15-24 credit hours), depending on declared major concentration, taken at the 300-level or above.
- An advanced field or research experience requirement.
- A capstone senior seminar requirement.
- The requirements of a major concentration. When students declare the major (https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-opportunities/majors-minors-certificates/#text) in Environmental Science, students must additionally identify and declare one of two major concentrations, either in:
  - Earth Science (https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/environmental-science/environmental-science-bs-earth-science-concentration/#Earth_Science), or
  - Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (p. 3).

Because of the common core requirements, it is possible for students to change their major concentration at any time, even after initially declaring the major. To do so, please contact the Office of the Registrar (registrar@rice.edu).

Environmental Science is an interdisciplinary major that addresses environmental issues in the context of what we know about earth, ecology, and society. In addition to its science core, the major also seeks to provide students with some appreciation of social, cultural, and policy dimensions of environmental issues.

The courses listed below satisfy the requirements for this major. In certain instances, courses not on this official list may be substituted upon approval of the major’s academic advisor, or where applicable, the department’s Director of Undergraduate Studies. (Course substitutions must be formally applied and entered into Degree Works by the major’s Official Certifier (https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/degeworks/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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Credit Hours Required for the Major in Environmental Science</strong></td>
<td>77-82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Credit Hours Required for the BS Degree with a Major in Environmental Science</strong></td>
<td>120</td>
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**Degree Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Core Requirements</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Foundation Coursework</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 201</td>
<td>INTRODUCTORY BIOLOGY I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 202</td>
<td>INTRODUCTORY BIOLOGY II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 332</td>
<td>ECOLOGY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 121</td>
<td>GENERAL CHEMISTRY I 1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 123</td>
<td>GENERAL CHEMISTRY LABORATORY I 1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 122</td>
<td>GENERAL CHEMISTRY II 1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 124</td>
<td>GENERAL CHEMISTRY LABORATORY II 1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 101</td>
<td>SINGLE VARIABLE CALCULUS I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 102</td>
<td>SINGLE VARIABLE CALCULUS II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 105</td>
<td>AP/OTH CREDIT IN CALCULUS I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 106</td>
<td>AP/OTH CREDIT IN CALCULUS II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 280</td>
<td>ELEMENTARY APPLIED STATISTICS</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 305</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO STATISTICS FOR BIOSCIENCES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Select 1 course from the following:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYS 101</td>
<td>MECHANICS (WITH LAB)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 103</td>
<td>and MECHANICS DISCUSSION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 111</td>
<td>HONORS MECHANICS (WITH LAB)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS #25</td>
<td>GENERAL PHYSICS (WITH LAB)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select 1 course from the following: 4
### Bachelor of Science (BS) Degree with a Major in Environmental Science and a Major Concentration in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 102 &amp; PHYS 104</td>
<td>ELECTRICITY &amp; MAGNETISM (WITH LAB) and ELECTRICITY AND MAGNETISM DISCUSSION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 112</td>
<td>HONORS ELECTRICITY &amp; MAGNETISM (WITH LAB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 126</td>
<td>GENERAL PHYSICS II (WITH LAB)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Core Courses
- **BIOS 213**: INTRODUCTORY LAB IN ECOLOGY & EVOLUTION 2
- **ENST 100 / ARCH 105**: ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE AND SOCIETY 3
- Any course from Earth, Environmental, and Planetary Sciences (ESCI) courses offerings at the 100-level (any course offerings between course numbers ESCI 100 and ESCI 199) 3
- **ESCI 321**: EARTH AND PLANETARY SURFACE ENVIRONMENTS 4
- **ESCI 325**: OCEANS, ATMOSPHERES AND CLIMATE 4

#### Field Experience
**Select 1-2 courses from the following:**
- **BIOS 316**: LAB MODULE IN ECOLOGY
- **BIOS 317**: LAB MODULE IN BEHAVIOR
- **BIOS 319**: TROPICAL FIELD BIOLOGY
- **BIOS 320**: ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION OF BRAZILIAN WETLANDS LABORATORY
- **BIOS 327**: BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
- **BIOS 330**: INSECT BIOLOGY LAB
- **BIOS 337**: FIELD BIRD BIOLOGY LAB
- **ESCI 103**: FIELD TRIPS FOR THE EARTH
- **ESCI 334**: THE EARTH LABORATORY
- **ESCI 380 / FOTO 390**: VISUALIZING NATURE
- **FWIS 187**: EXPLORING THE SCIENCE AND HISTORY OF HOUSTON'S BAYOUS

#### Major Concentration
**Select 1 from the following Major Concentrations (see below for Major Concentration requirements):**
- **Earth Science**
- **Ecology and Evolutionary Biology**

#### Advanced Electives
**Select 1 course from the following:**
- **ANTH 348**: ANTHROPOLOGIES OF NATURE
- **ANTH 381**: MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
- **ENST 301**: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
- **ENST 302 / SOCI 304**: ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES: RICE INTO THE FUTURE
- **ENST 332 / ANTH 332**: THE SOCIAL LIFE OF CLEAN ENERGY
- **ENST 367 / ANTH 367**: ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY
- **ENST 437 / ECON 437**: ENERGY ECONOMICS
- **ENST 480 / ECON 480**: ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY ECONOMICS
- **POLI 332**: URBAN POLITICS
- **ENGL 269 / ENST 265**: SCIENCE FICTION AND THE ENVIRONMENT
- **ENGL 310**: NONFICTION NATURE WRITING
- **ENGL 358**: CONSUMPTION AND CONSUMERISM
- **ENGL 459**: STUDIES IN LITERATURE AND ECOLOGY
- **ENST 202 / HUMA 202**: CULTURE, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT: AN INTRODUCTION TO ENERGY HUMANITIES
- **ENST 313 / ARCH 313**: SUSTAINABLE DESIGN
- **ENST 322 / ARCH 322**: CASE STUDIES IN SUSTAINABILITY: THE REGENERATIVE REPOSITIONING OF NEW OR EXISTING RICE CAMPUS BLDGS
- **ENST 368 / ENGL 368**: LITERATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT
- **ENST 445**: SEMINAR IN URBAN SUSTAINABILITY AND LIVABILITY RESEARCH METHODS AND APPLICATIONS
- **ENST 446**: LAB IN ENGAGED URBAN SUSTAINABILITY AND LIVABILITY RESEARCH
- **HART 302**: FROM THE SUBLIME TO THE SUSTAINABLE: ART, ARCHITECTURE AND NATURE
- **HIST 321**: US ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY
- **SPO 411**: LITERATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN LATIN AMERICA

#### Natural Sciences and Engineering
**Select 1 course from the following:**
- **BIOS 280**: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND REPORTING
- **BIOS 559**: SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS
- **CEVE 302 / ENGI 302**: SUSTAINABLE DESIGN
- **CEVE 308**: INTRODUCTION TO AIR POLLUTION CONTROL
- **CEVE 310**: PRINCIPLES OF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING
- **CEVE 314 / BIOE 365 / GLHT 314**: SUSTAINABLE WATER PURIFICATION FOR THE DEVELOPING WORLD
- **CEVE 401**: CHEMISTRY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE
- **CEVE 404**: ATMOSPHERIC PARTICULATE MATTER
- **CEVE 411**: ATMOSPHERIC CHEMISTRY AND CLIMATE
- **CEVE 412**: HYDROLOGY AND WATER RESOURCES ENGINEERING
- **CEVE 420**: ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION RESTORATION

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Bachelor of Science (BS) Degree with a Major in Environmental Science and a Major Concentration in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

**Advanced Field or Research Experience Requirement**

Independent Research (see the Opportunities tab for additional information).  

*Select 1 course from the following:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 401</td>
<td>UNDERGRADUATE HONORS RESEARCH</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESCI 390</td>
<td>GEOLOGY FIELD CAMP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESCI 391</td>
<td>EARTH SCIENCE FIELD EXPERIENCE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESCI 481</td>
<td>UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH IN EARTH SCIENCE</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Capstone Senior Seminar Requirement**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ESCI 495</td>
<td>SEMINAR: TOPICS IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Credit Hours Required for the Major in Environmental Science**

77-82

**Additional Credit Hours to Complete Degree Requirements**

7-12

**Footnotes and Additional Information**

1. University Graduation Requirements include 31 credit hours, comprised of Distribution Requirements (Groups I, II, and III), FWIS, and LPAP coursework. In some instances, courses satisfying major requirements may additionally meet distribution requirements.

2. Additional Credit Hours to Complete Degree Requirements include general electives, coursework completed as upper-level, residency (hours taken at Rice), and/or any other additional academic program requirements.

3. The Core Courses acquaint students with a range of environmental topics encountered by scientists, engineers, managers, and policy makers. Core Courses stress the components of the global environment and their interactions, culminating with a tropical seminar that integrates across the field.

4. In addition to the courses in the Natural Sciences and Engineering Advanced Electives list, students may complete 1 course listed in the major concentration requirements outside of the student’s declared major concentration.

5. Students are encouraged, but not required, to undertake independent research on environmentally related topics.

**Major Concentration: Ecology and Evolutionary Biology**

Students must complete a total of 3 courses (9 credit hours) as listed below to satisfy the requirements for the major concentration in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

**Code** | **Title**                                      | **Credit Hours** |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 373</td>
<td>CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEMS</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 423</td>
<td>CONSERVATION BIOLOGY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Capstone Senior Seminar Requirement**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ESCI 340</td>
<td>BIOLOGY OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENST 340</td>
<td>GLOBAL BIOGEOCHEMICAL CYCLES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Credit Hours**

9

**Footnotes and Additional Information**

1. Please note that the course not completed in the Core Requirements list for the major concentration in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology may be completed and applied towards the major concentration’s Elective Requirement.

**Policies for the BS Degree with a Major in Environmental Science and a Major Concentration in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology**

**Program Restrictions and Exclusions**

Students pursuing the BS Degree with a Major in Environmental Science and a Major Concentration in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology should be aware of the following program restriction:

- Students pursuing the major in Environmental Science may pursue only one major concentration within the major.

**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 major in Environmental Science should be aware of the following program 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.

**Additional Information**

For additional information, please see the following websites:

- https://biosciences.rice.edu/
- https://earthscience.rice.edu/academics/undergraduate-program/

### Opportunities for the BS Degree with a Major in Environmental Science and a Major Concentration in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

**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.

**Independent Research**

Students are encouraged to undertake independent research on environmentally related topics as part of their degree programs, in cooperation with one or more faculty. Course options for independent research, repeatable for credit, include: BIOS 401, BIOS 402, and ESCI 481.

Students also can enroll in senior honors thesis programs within their major concentrations, or by arrangement with other departments, and/or through the Rice Undergraduate Scholars Program. Students completing a thesis will also be eligible for the Distinction in Research and Creative Work, a university honor. Details for each program can be found here:

- Rice Undergraduate Scholars Program (https://ouri.rice.edu/rusp (https://ouri.rice.edu/rusp/))

**Additional Information**

For additional information, please see the following websites:

- https://biosciences.rice.edu/
- https://earthscience.rice.edu/academics/undergraduate-program/