

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES - B.A.

College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Environmental Studies
www.kent.edu/geography

About This Program

The Environmental Studies B.A. program combines scientific, social and policy perspectives to provide you with a comprehensive understanding of environmental issues. Enroll now and become an agent for positive change. Read more...

Contact Information

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- Speak with an Advisor
 - Kent Campus
 - Stark Campus
- Chat with an Admissions Counselor: Kent Campus | Regional Campuses

Program Delivery

- **Delivery:**
 - In person
- **Location:**
 - Kent Campus
 - Stark Campus

Examples of Possible Careers and Salaries*

Compliance officers

- 4.6% about as fast as the average
- 337,600 number of jobs
- \$71,100 potential earnings

Environmental science teachers, postsecondary

- 3.7% about as fast as the average
- 7,600 number of jobs
- \$84,740 potential earnings

Environmental scientists and specialists, including health

- 7.8% faster than the average
- 90,900 number of jobs
- \$73,230 potential earnings

Environmental science and protection technicians, including health

- 8.4% much faster than the average
- 34,700 number of jobs
- \$46,850 potential earnings

Forestry and conservation science teachers, postsecondary

- 2.2% slower than the average
- 2,100 number of jobs
- \$87,400 potential earnings

* Source of occupation titles and labor data comes from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook. Data comprises projected percent change in employment over the next 10 years; nation-wide employment numbers; and the yearly median wage at which half of the workers in the occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less.

Admission Requirements

The university affirmatively strives to provide educational opportunities and access to students with varied backgrounds, those with special talents and adult students.

First-Year Students on the Kent Campus: First-year admission policy on the Kent Campus is selective. Admission decisions are based upon cumulative grade point average, strength of high school college preparatory curriculum and grade trends. Students not admissible to the Kent Campus may be administratively referred to one of the seven regional campuses to begin their college coursework. For more information, visit the admissions website for first-year students.

First-Year Students on the Regional Campuses: First-year admission to Kent State's campuses at Ashtabula, East Liverpool, Geauga, Salem, Stark, Trumbull and Tuscarawas, as well as the Twinsburg Academic Center, is open to anyone with a high school diploma or its equivalent. For more information on admissions, contact the Regional Campuses admissions offices.

International Students: All international students must provide proof of proficiency of the English language (unless they meet specific exceptions) through the submission of an English language proficiency test score or by completing English language classes at Kent State's English as a Second Language Center before entering their program. For more information, visit the admissions website for international students.

Former Students: Former Kent State students who have not attended another institution since Kent State and were not academically dismissed will complete the re-enrollment process through the Financial, Billing and Enrollment Center. Former students who attended another college or university since leaving Kent State must apply for admissions as a transfer or post-undergraduate student.

Transfer Students: Students who attended an educational institution after graduating from high school or earning their GED must apply as transfer students. For more information, visit the admissions website for transfer students.

Admission policies for undergraduate students may be found in the University Catalog's Academic Policies.

Students may be required to meet certain criteria to progress in their program. Any progression requirements will be listed on the program's Coursework tab

Program Requirements

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Major Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
BSCI 10110	BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (ELR) (KBS) (KLAB)	4
ENVS 22070	NATURE AND SOCIETY (KSS)	3
ENVS 30105	CAREER PATHWAYS IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES	1
ENVS 32091	ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND SUSTAINABILITY	2
ENVS 42099	INTEGRATIVE SENIOR PROJECT (ELR) (WIC) ¹	3
ESCI 21062	ENVIRONMENTAL EARTH SCIENCE (KBS)	3
Biological Sciences Elective, choose from the following:		3-4
BSCI 30274	FORESTRY	
BSCI 30275	LOCAL FLORA (ELR)	
BSCI 30277	ECONOMIC BOTANY	
BSCI 30360	GENERAL ECOLOGY	
BSCI 30361	BIOGEOGRAPHY	
BSCI 30362	INTRODUCTION TO BIOLOGY OF THE TROPICS	
BSCI 30370	CLIMATE CHANGE BIOLOGY	
BSCI 30582	ORNITHOLOGY	
BSCI 40170	STREAM BIOLOGY	
BSCI 40222	INVASION BIOLOGY	
BSCI 40365	FIELD METHODS IN ORNITHOLOGY (ELR)	
BSCI 40375	ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT	
BSCI 40525	WILDLIFE RESOURCES (ELR)	
BSCI 40558	MAMMALOLOGY	
BSCI 40560	HERPETOLOGY	
Earth Science Elective, choose from the following:		3
ESCI 33025	WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT	
ESCI 42065	WATERSHED HYDROLOGY	
ESCI 42066	PHYSICAL HYDROGEOLOGY	
ESCI 44025	GEOLOGIC HAZARDS AND DISASTERS	
ESCI 44040	EARTH'S ENERGY TRANSITION	
Geography Elective, choose from the following:		3
GEOG 41051	NATURAL DISASTERS AND SOCIETY	
GEOG 41066	GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE	
GEOG 41074	RESOURCE GEOGRAPHY	
GEOG 41082	GEOGRAPHY OF SOILS	
GEOG 41195	SPECIAL TOPICS IN ENVIRONMENTAL GEOGRAPHY	
Methods Elective, choose from the following:		3-4
BSCI 40224	QUANTITATIVE METHODS IN BIOLOGY	
ESCI 42030	REMOTE SENSING	
ESCI 42035	DATA ANALYSIS IN THE EARTH SCIENCES	
ESCI 42060	EARTH OBSERVING	
GEOG 40285	FIELD EXPERIENCE IN GEOGRAPHY	
GEOG 41065	DATA ANALYSIS FOR CLIMATE AND THE ENVIRONMENT	
GEOG 49070	GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE	
GEOG 49073	ENVIRONMENTAL DATA ANALYSIS IN R	

GEOG 49230	REMOTE SENSING	
SOC 32210	RESEARCHING SOCIETY (ELR) (WIC) ¹	
Social Sciences Electives, choose from the following:		15
ARCS 30421	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPERATIVES	
ECON 32084	ECONOMICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT	
ENG 35105	LITERATURE, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT	
ENVS 30000	ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION REGULATIONS AND ASSESSMENT	
ENVS 46092	INTERNSHIP IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (ELR)	
ENVS 49195	SPECIAL TOPICS IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES	
FDM 35012	SUSTAINABILITY IN FASHION	
GEOG 31070	POPULATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT	
GEOG 32023	FOOD AND PLACE (ELR)	
GEOG 41073	CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES	
GEOG 41077	WATER AND SOCIETY	
GEOG 41800	GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	
GEOG 42064	SETTLING THE NORTH AMERICAN ENVIRONMENT	
GEOG 45085	URBAN TRANSPORTATION	
GEOG 46060	FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABILITY	
GEOG 46070	URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING	
GEOG 46080	URBAN SUSTAINABILITY	
PACS 35050	ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION	
PACS 45060	ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE	
PH 30006	INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY	
PHIL 30025	ENVIRONMENTAL PHILOSOPHY (ELR)	
PLST 35001	ENVIRONMENTAL LAW FOR PARALEGALS	
POL 30350	ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION	
POL 40440	U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS AND POLICIES	
POL 40540	POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT (DIVG)	
RPTM 36082	INTERPRETATION OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES	
RPTM 36083	ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION	
SOC 42560	SOCIOLOGY OF FOOD	
SOC 42565	ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY	
Additional Requirements (courses do not count in major GPA)		
UC 10001	FLASHES 101	1
Foreign Language (see Foreign Language College Requirement below)		10-16
Kent Core Composition		6
Kent Core Mathematics and Critical Reasoning		3
Kent Core Humanities and Fine Arts (minimum one course from each)		9
Kent Core Social Sciences (must be from two disciplines)		3
Kent Core Additional		6
General Electives (total credit hours depends on earning 120 credit hours, including 39 upper-division credit hours)		39
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		120

¹ A minimum C grade must be earned to fulfill the writing-intensive requirement.

Graduation Requirements

Minimum Major GPA	Minimum Overall GPA
2.000	2.000

Foreign Language College Requirement, B.A.

Students pursuing the Bachelor of Arts degree in the College of Arts and Sciences must complete the following:

1. Elementary I and II of any language (or equivalent) **and**
2. One of the following options:
 - a. Intermediate I and II of the same language
 - b. Elementary I and II of a second language
 - c. Any combination of two courses from the following list:
 - i. Intermediate I of the same language
 - ii. One to two college-level course(s) completed outside the United States
 - iii. Courses: ARAB 21401, ASL 19401, CHIN 25421, MCLS 10001, MCLS 20001, MCLS 20091, MCLS 21417, MCLS 21420, MCLS 22217, MCLS 28403, MCLS 28404

All students with prior foreign language experience should take the foreign language placement test to determine the appropriate level at which to start. Some students may start beyond the Elementary I level and will complete the requirement with fewer courses. This may be accomplished in one of three ways:

1. Passing a course beyond Elementary I through Intermediate II level
2. Receiving credit through one of the alternative credit programs offered by Kent State University
3. Demonstrating language proficiency comparable to Elementary II of a foreign language

Certain programs may require specific languages, limit the languages from which a student may choose or require coursework through Intermediate II. Students who plan to pursue graduate study may need a particular language proficiency.

Roadmap

This roadmap is a recommended semester-by-semester plan of study for this major. However, courses designated as critical (!) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation.

Semester One	Credits
ENVS 22070 NATURE AND SOCIETY (KSS)	3
UC 10001 FLASHES 101	1
Kent Core Requirement	3
Kent Core Requirement	3
Kent Core Requirement	3
Credit Hours	13
Semester Two	
BSCI 10110 BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (ELR) (KBS) (KLAB)	4
ESCI 21062 ENVIRONMENTAL EARTH SCIENCE (KBS)	3
Kent Core Requirement	3
Kent Core Requirement	3
Kent Core Requirement	3
Credit Hours	16
Semester Three	
Geography Elective	3
Social Sciences Elective	3
Foreign Language	4
Kent Core Requirement	3
Kent Core Requirement	3
Credit Hours	16

Semester Four		
Biological Sciences Elective		3-4
Methods Elective		3-4
Foreign Language		4
Kent Core Requirement		3
General Elective		2
Credit Hours		15
Semester Five		
Earth Science Elective		3
Social Sciences Elective		3
Foreign Language and/or General Elective		3
General Electives		6
Credit Hours		15
Semester Six		
ENVS 30105 CAREER PATHWAYS IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES		1
ENVS 32091 ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND SUSTAINABILITY		2
Social Sciences Elective		3
Foreign Language and/or General Elective		3
General Electives		6
Credit Hours		15
Semester Seven		
Social Sciences Elective		3
General Electives		12
Credit Hours		15
Semester Eight		
ENVS 42099 INTEGRATIVE SENIOR PROJECT (ELR) (WIC)		3
Social Sciences Elective		3
General Electives		9
Credit Hours		15
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		120

University Requirements

All students in a bachelor's degree program at Kent State University must complete the following university requirements for graduation.

NOTE: University requirements may be fulfilled in this program by specific course requirements. Please see Program Requirements for details.

Flashes 101 (UC 10001)	1 credit hour
Course is not required for students with 30+ transfer credits (excluding College Credit Plus) or age 21+ at time of admission.	
Diversity Domestic/Global (DIVD/DIVG)	2 courses
Students must successfully complete one domestic and one global course, of which one must be from the Kent Core.	
Experiential Learning Requirement (ELR)	varies
Students must successfully complete one course or approved experience.	
Kent Core (see table below)	36-37 credit hours
Writing-Intensive Course (WIC)	1 course
Students must earn a minimum C grade in the course.	
Upper-Division Requirement	39 credit hours
Students must successfully complete 39 upper-division (numbered 30000 to 49999) credit hours to graduate.	

Total Credit Hour Requirement	120 credit hours
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Environmental Studies students may apply early to the M.S. degree in Geography and double count 9 credit hours of graduate courses toward both degree programs. See the Combined Bachelor's/Master's Degree Program Policy in the University Catalog for more information.

Kent Core Requirements

Kent Core Composition (KCMP)	6
Kent Core Mathematics and Critical Reasoning (KMCR)	3
Kent Core Humanities and Fine Arts (KHUM/KFA) (min one course each)	9
Kent Core Social Sciences (KSS) (must be from two disciplines)	6
Kent Core Basic Sciences (KBS/KLAB) (must include one laboratory)	6-7
Kent Core Additional (KADL)	6
Total Credit Hours:	36-37

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the environment and how it relates to human activity, human resource needs and human cognition.
2. Analyze the interconnections between environmental and human systems and how those play out in particular problem areas.
3. Evaluate how environmental problems are framed and public attitudes and policies can be harnessed to provide solutions to environmental degradation.

Program Policies

Foreign Language Requirements

In general, students may elect any foreign language taught through the Department of Modern and Classical Language Studies. However, certain majors, concentrations and minors require specific languages or limit the languages from which students may choose. In addition, students who plan to pursue graduate study may need particular languages for that study. In such cases, students should seek the advice of the appropriate department before selecting a language.

Progress Toward Fulfillment

College of Arts and Sciences students are encouraged to begin meeting the foreign language requirement as early as possible in their program to ensure timely degree completion.

Mandatory Outcomes Assessment

In addition to the other General Requirements of the college, candidates for an undergraduate degree in the College of Arts and Sciences are required, as a condition of graduation, to participate in an outcomes assessment. These outcomes assessments are conducted by each undergraduate degree program in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Full Description

The Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Studies prepares students to integrate concepts and knowledge about environmental issues from across multiple disciplines and communicate about these in important ways. Basic scientific knowledge about environmental processes is used to inform different social goals. Students develop a set of key competencies in earth systems science, environmental social science, human-natural systems and sustainability science to solve specific environmental problems.