

# ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Wabash College's Environmental Studies minor provides students with an opportunity to apply a liberal arts perspective to environmental issues and questions of sustainability, linking traditional scientific study of the environment to the role the environment plays in human experience and society. Human society relies on a healthy, functioning global ecosystem for its survival, but human activities often damage the environment and undermine its capacity to support us. While such environmental degradation has occurred throughout human history, environmental issues have increasingly moved to the forefront of public discourse, even to the point of being considered the greatest existential threat to humanity. Addressing issues of biodiversity and ecological resiliency in our curriculum is an essential aspect of our stated mission to educate responsible, humane leaders. Students minoring in Environmental Studies are expected to help catalyze more environmental interest and action on campus, supporting a transformation to a renewable, more sustainable, Wabash College.

The minor is open to students of any major. Environmental Studies minors are encouraged to participate in co-curricular activities led by collaborations between students and experienced faculty from a multitude of disciplines. Three core courses focus on natural science, social science, and the humanities, while two additional elective courses provide disciplinary breadth to a student's approach to the field. A senior capstone course invites interdisciplinary reflection, as students compose an essay that integrates coursework from their minor requirements across multiple disciplines.

The program is administered by the Environmental Studies Committee.

## Student Learning Goals

Demonstrate scientific literacy with respect to prominent environmental issues, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

Engage with and respond thoughtfully to works and/or topics related to human relationship to the environment, considering social, political, economic, and aesthetic aspects of the environment in the human experience.

Consider and respond to information related to environmental challenges and solutions, drawing from approaches including the natural sciences, humanities, and/or behavioral sciences.

## Requirements for the Minor

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Environmental Natural Science Core</b>		<b>1</b>
One credit from the following:		
BIO-102	Plants & Human Affairs	
BIO-103	Environmental Science	
BIO-213	Ecology	
<b>Environmental Humanities or Social Science Core</b>		<b>1</b>
One credit from the following:		
ART-210	Topics in Art History (Art and the Environment)	
ECO-234	Environmental Economics	
EDU-310	History & Philosophy of Environmental Ed	
HUM-277	Special Topics: Literature (Literature and the Environment)	
PHI-215	Environmental Philosophy	

<b>One additional credit from either core group</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Electives</b>		<b>2</b>
Two credits from any Division		
<b>Division I:</b>		
BIO-102	Plants & Human Affairs	
BIO-103	Environmental Science	
BIO-213	Ecology	
ENS-201	Topics Env Studies: Nat Sci	
BIO-313	Advanced Ecology	
GHL-177	Special Topics (Global Health)	
GHL-277	Epidemiology	
<b>Division II:</b>		
ART-210	Topics in Art History (Art and the Environment)	
HUM-277	Special Topics: Literature (Literature and the Environment)	
ENS-202	Environ Humanities	
PHI-215	Environmental Philosophy	
REL-273	Topics in Theology (Materiality and Embodiment)	
RHE-265	Rhetoric, Science, & Public Policy	
RHE-280	Deliberation & Democracy (with instructor permission)	
<b>Division III:</b>		
ECO-232	Public Policy	
ECO-234	Environmental Economics	
EDU-310	History & Philosophy of Environmental Ed	
ENS-203	Environ Social Sci	
HIS-201	Big History	
<b>Capstone</b>		<b>0</b>
ENS-400	Environmental Studies Capstone	0
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>5</b>

## Environmental Studies (ENS)

### ENS-201 Topics Env Studies: Nat Sci

This course focuses on a topic in the natural sciences with application to environmental issues. Refer to the Course Descriptions document on the Registrar's webpage for topics and descriptions of current offerings.

**Prerequisites:** none

**Credits:** 0.5-1

### ENS-202 Environ Humanities

This course focuses on a topic in the humanities with application to environmental issues. Refer to the Course Descriptions document on the Registrar's webpage for topics and descriptions of current offerings.

**Prerequisites:** none

**Credits:** 0.5-1

### ENS-203 Environ Social Sci

This course focuses on a topic in the social sciences with application to environmental issues. Refer to the Course Descriptions document on the Registrar's webpage for topics and descriptions of current offerings.

**Prerequisites:** none

**Credits:** 0.5-1

**ENS-400 Environmental Studies Capstone**

In the fall of their senior year, students will enroll in ENS400. At the beginning of the semester, students will meet with the instructor(s) of the course to agree on materials to include in a capstone portfolio. This portfolio will consist of: papers and projects generated by the student from his courses within the Environmental Studies minor and from co-curricular experiences relevant to the minor (e.g., summaries of or written products from internships, volunteer experiences, or campus involvement in environmental issues), and a reflective essay integrating the content. The portfolio should illustrate the relationship between environmental issues and the full breadth of their liberal arts education, and students should be prepared to discuss their portfolio during oral comprehensive exams.

**Prerequisites:** One credit from BIO-102, BIO-103, or BIO-213. One credit from ECO-234, EDU-310, PHI-215, ART-210 (Art the Environment), or HUM-277 (Literature the Environment).

**Credits:** 0

Bradley Carlson, *Biology*, Chair

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