ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY/ DIGITAL MEDIA AND STORYTELLING (BA/MC)

Loyola's School of Communication, in partnership with the School of Environmental Sustainability, will offer a new program that will enable students to earn an undergraduate and graduate degree in environmental communication in five years.

The new Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's (ABM) program will allow SOC students to earn their undergraduate degree in their declared major, plus a master's degree in Environmental Science and Sustainability.

Similarly, SES students will earn their undergraduate degree in their declared major, while also earning a master's degree from the SOC in either the Digital Media and Storytelling or Global Strategic Communication graduate programs.

The School of Communication and School of Environmental Sustainability spent two years developing this unique ABM program, joining only a handful of universities across the nation offering such a dual degree. The new program will begin in Fall 2022.

The two schools developed the ABM program to train environmental scientists to be better communicators, and communication professionals to better understand environmental science.

While environmental scientists are trained to investigate, analyze data and interpret results, they are not taught how to communicate their results and conclusions in ways that are readily accessible to the general public, CEOs, or legislators.

Equally, while journalists, filmmakers and television producers may have the skills to tell compelling stories, they often lack the scientific background to understand and properly relate the impact of climate change, pollution, and loss of biodiversity.

For students in the School of Communication, the ABM program will help deepen their understanding of complex socio-ecological issues and their connection with sustainable development goals, while also expanding their capacity to communicate environmental science and sustainability issues to the world. Such a program can help develop better-informed journalists, documentary filmmakers, television, radio and podcast producers, public relations and advertising professionals, and social media specialists.

For students in the School of Environmental Sustainability, the ABM program will help them with writing, public speaking, conference presentations, television and radio interviews, and social media messaging.

These ABM programs are uniquely applied and strongly interdisciplinary. They integrate basic science concepts, communication theory and practice, and socio-cultural dimensions to cultivate the interdisciplinary problem-solving and communication skills necessary for developing sustainable solutions. The goals of these programs are to:

- Educate students across the sciences, social sciences and humanities, providing knowledge and interdisciplinary perspectives needed to effectively address complex environmental problems through grounding in solid scientific understanding of ecosystem operation.
- Develop skills in environmental and sustainability sciences including GIS, sustainability tracking, and environmental communications as well as important professional skills, such as interdisciplinary thinking, systems thinking, research design, data collection, data analysis, research ethics, technical writing, and communication.
- Improve communication skills by teaching students how to tell stories through enhanced speaking and presentation methods, better writing, video production, recording podcasts, developing blogs and social media.
- Prepare students for advancement in careers in the public and private sectors, including in government agencies, consulting firms, media organizations, businesses, and not-for-profit organizations.

For more information, email: LoyolaSOC@luc.edu

Dual Degree Programs

Students in dual degree programs are responsible for abiding by academic policies and graduation requirements of both academic units to which they are enrolled. It is strongly recommended that students schedule regular meetings with academic advisors from both units to ensure timely degree completion. Dual degree programs may have slightly different degree requirements from the standard for one or both of the degrees earned. Students should closely read through all degree requirements and ask for clarification as needed.

CURRICULUM

Environmental Policy students complete coursework spanning a variety of disciplines pertinent to the understanding of environmental issues.

Code	Title	Hours
BA Requirements		
Core Curriculum		
ENVS 137	Foundations of Environmental Science I	3
ENVS 237	Foundations of Environmental Science II	3
ENVS 238	Foundations of Environmental Science Lab	1
ENVS 200	Environmental Careers and Professional Skills	1
ENVS 203	Environmental Statistics	3
ENVS 280	Principles of Ecology	3
ENVS 286	Principles of Ecology Lab	1
ENVS 310	Introduction to Environmental Law & Policy	3
PLSC 101	American Politics	3
PLSC 392	Environmental Politics	3
Justice and Ethics Choice		
Select one of the following:		3
ENVS 284	Environmental Justice	
PHIL 287	Environmental Ethics	
THEO 204	Religious Ethics and the Ecological Crisis	
Economics Choice		
Select one of the following:		3
ENVS 335	Ecological Economics	3
or ECON 328	Environmental Economics	
Engaged Learning Choice		
Select one of the following:		3
ENVS 226	Science & Conservation of Freshwater Ecosystems	

ENVS 267	Bird Conservation and Ecology	
ENVS 369	Field Ornithology	
ENVS 273	Energy and The Environment	
ENVS 283	Environmental Sustainability	
ENVS 340	Natural History of Belize	
ENVS 345	Conservation and Sustainability of Neotropical Ecosystems	
ENVS 350A	Solutions to Environmental Problems: Water	
ENVS 350B	Solutions to Environmental Problems: Biogas	
ENVS 350C	Solutions to Environmental Problems: Climate Action	
ENVS 350F	Solutions to Environmental Problems: Food Systems	
ENVS 391	Environmental Research	
ENVS 395	Environmental Internship	
Capstone Choice		
Select one of the following:		3
ENVS 390	Integrative Seminar	
ENVS 391C	Independent Environmental Research (Capstone)	
ENVS 395C	Environmental Internship (Capstone)	
Electives		*18*
See designated elective categories below		
MC Requirements		
COMM 400	Designing for Digital Environments	3
COMM 405	Story Development and Production	3
COMM 410	Media Law for Inclusive Digital Storytelling	3
COMM 415	Data-Powered Digital Storytelling	3
COMM 420	Digital Production: Storytelling with Impact	3
COMM 425	Digital Marketing and Analytics	3
COMM 430	2D Design for Print and the Web	3
COMM 450	Capstone II	3
Elective Courses from List of Electives for DMST		12
Total Hours		**93**

BA Electives

Code	Title	Hours
Society, Ethics, and Justice		
Select one of the following:		3
ENVS 204	Gender, Health & Environment	
ENVS 279	Climate and History	
ENVS 284	Environmental Justice	
ENVS 297	North American Environmental History	
ENVS 298	Special Topics (with SES approval)	
ENVS 338	Climate Change and Human Health	
ENVS 350A	Solutions to Environmental Problems: Water	
ENVS 350B	Solutions to Environmental Problems: Biogas	
ENVS 350C	Solutions to Environmental Problems: Climate Action	
ENVS 350F	Solutions to Environmental Problems: Food Systems	
ENVS 383	Human Dimensions of Conservation	
ENVS 391	Environmental Research (with SES approval)	
ENVS 395	Environmental Internship (with SES approval)	

ENVS 398	Special Topics (with SES approval)	
ENVS 399	Directed Readings (with SES approval)	
COMM 101	Public Speaking & Critical Thinking	
COMM 260	Environmental Journalism	
COMM 277	Organizational Communication	
COMM 306	Environmental Advocacy	
COMM 322	Guerilla Media	
COMM 379	Digital Sustainability	
ENGL 288	Nature in Literature	
PHIL 287	Environmental Ethics	
PSYC 277	Environmental Psychology	
SOCL 226	Science, Technology, & Society	
SOCL 252	Global Inequalities	
SOCL 272	Environmental Sociology	
SOCL 276	The Sociology and Politics of Food	
SOCL 278	Global Health	
THEO 204	Religious Ethics and the Ecological Crisis	
THEO 344	Theology and Ecology	
Policy, Economics, and Resource Management		
Select two of the following:		6
ENVS 298	Special Topics (with SES approval)	
ENVS 300	Introduction to Public Health	
ENVS 311	Natural Resources and Land Use Law & Policy	
ENVS 312	Water Law & Policy	
ENVS 313	Energy Law & Policy	
ENVS 327	Food Systems Analysis	
ENVS 332	Industrial Ecology	
ENVS 333	Introduction to the Circular Economy	
ENVS 335	Ecological Economics	
ENVS 336	Design for Circular & Sustainable Business	
ENVS 338	Climate Change and Human Health	
ENVS 363	Sustainable Business Management	
ENVS 364	Sustainability Management in the Global Context	
ENVS 383	Human Dimensions of Conservation	
ENVS 384	Conservation Economics	
ENVS 389	Ecological Risk Assessment	
ENVS 391	Environmental Research (with SES approval)	
ENVS 395	Environmental Internship (with SES approval)	
ENVS 398	Special Topics (with SES approval)	
ENVS 399	Directed Readings (with SES approval)	
ECON 328	Environmental Economics	
GLST 305	Globalization and Environmental Sustainability	
MGMT 201	Managing People and Organizations	
PLSC 354	Global Environmental Politics	
Methods and Analysis		
Select one of the following:		3
COMM 260	Environmental Journalism	
ENVS 298	Special Topics (with SES approval)	
ENVS 327	Food Systems Analysis	
ENVS 352	Sustainability Assessment & Reporting I	
ENVS 353	Sustainability Assessment & Reporting II	
ENVS 354	Sustainability Plan Development & Reporting	

ENVS 380	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems	
ENVS 381	Advanced GIS Applications	
ENVS 382	Remote Sensing	
ENVS 384	Conservation Economics	
ENVS 388	Applied Environmental Statistics	
ENVS 389	Ecological Risk Assessment	
ENVS 391	Environmental Research	
ENVS 395	Environmental Internship	
ENVS 398	Special Topics (with SES approval)	
ENVS 399	Directed Readings	
ANTH 317	Ethnographic Methods	
BIOL 335	Intro to Biostatistics	
COMM 231	Conflict Management and Communication	
COMM 234	Interviewing for Communication	
COMM 277	Organizational Communication	
COMM 363	Research Methods in Advertising/Public Relations	
MARK 320	Marketing for Environmental Sustainability	
SOCL 206	Principles of Social Research	
SOCL 301	Statistics for Social Research	
SOCL 302	Qualitative Research	
STAT 203	Introduction to Probability & Statistics	
STAT 303	SAS Programming & Applied Statistics	

Environmental Electives

Select two of the following: 6

COMM 260	Environmental Journalism	
ENVS 204	Gender, Health & Environment	
ENVS 207	Plants and Civilization	
ENVS 215 / BIOL 215	Ornithology	
ENVS 218	Biodiversity & Biogeography	
ENVS 223	Soil Ecology	
ENVS 224	Climate & Climate Change	
ENVS 226	Science & Conservation of Freshwater Ecosystems	
ENVS 227R	Ecology of the Mediterranean Sea	
ENVS 267	Bird Conservation and Ecology	
ENVS 273	Energy and The Environment	
ENVS 274	Chemistry of the Environment	
ENVS 278	Hydrology	
ENVS 279	Climate and History	
ENVS 283	Environmental Sustainability	
ENVS 297	North American Environmental History	
ENVS 298	Special Topics (with SES approval)	
ENVS 300	Introduction to Public Health	
ENVS 301	Environmental Health	
ENVS 303	Introduction to Epidemiology	
ENVS 311	Natural Resources and Land Use Law & Policy	
ENVS 312	Water Law & Policy	
ENVS 313	Energy Law & Policy	
ENVS 319	Winter Ecology	
ENVS 320	Conservation Biology	
ENVS 322	Invasive Species	
ENVS 323	Environmental Microbiology	

ENVS 325	Sustainable Agriculture	
ENVS 326	Agroecosystems	
ENVS 327	Food Systems Analysis	
ENVS 330	Restoration Ecology	
ENVS 338	Climate Change and Human Health	
ENVS 340	Natural History of Belize	
ENVS 345	Conservation and Sustainability of Neotropical Ecosystems	
ENVS 350A	Solutions to Environmental Problems: Water	
ENVS 350B	Solutions to Environmental Problems: Biogas	
ENVS 350C	Solutions to Environmental Problems: Climate Action	
ENVS 350F	Solutions to Environmental Problems: Food Systems	
ENVS 351	Introduction to Sustainability Concepts & Impacts	
ENVS 352	Sustainability Assessment & Reporting I	
ENVS 353	Sustainability Assessment & Reporting II	
ENVS 354	Sustainability Plan Development & Reporting	
ENVS 369	Field Ornithology	
ENVS 380	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems	
ENVS 381	Advanced GIS Applications	
ENVS 385	Introduction to Global Health	
ENVS 387	Principles of Ecotoxicology	
ENVS 388	Applied Environmental Statistics	
ENVS 389	Ecological Risk Assessment	
ENVS 391	Environmental Research (with SES approval)	
ENVS 395	Environmental Internship (with SES approval)	
ENVS 398	Special Topics (with SES approval)	
ENVS 399	Directed Readings (with SES approval)	
ANTH 104	The Human Ecological Footprint	
ANTH 303	People and Conservation	
BIOL, CHEM, PHYS 300-level courses (with SES approval)		

Total Hours	**18**

Electives for Digital Media and Storytelling

Code	Title	Hours
Advertising/Public Relations		
COMM 422	Global and Multicultural Audiences and Stakeholders	3
COMM 432	Nonprofit Communication	3
COMM 433	Corporate Communication	3
COMM 437	Advertising/PR Multimedia Commercial Production	3
COMM 463	Intermediate Advertising Design	3
COMM 464	Mobile Advertising	3
Film and Production		
COMM 439	Video Documentary	3
COMM 455	Animation	3
COMM 459	Advanced Post Production	3
COMM 494	Film & Digital Media Internship	3
Multimedia Journalism		
COMM 458	Newscasting and Producing	3
COMM 473	Digital Storytelling Abroad	3

Course	Title	Hours
COMM 492	Multimedia Journalism Internship	3
Other		
COMM 416	Special Topics in Digital Media & Storytelling	3
COMM 479	Digital Sustainability	3
COMM 498	Directed Study for Graduate Students	1-3

Suggested Sequence of Courses

The below sequence of courses is meant to be used as a suggested path for completing coursework. An individual student's completion of requirements depends on course offerings in a given term as well as the start term for a major or graduate study. Students should consult their advisor for assistance with course selection.

To complete the Digital Media and Storytelling MC portion of the accelerated bachelor's master's program the following courses are required:

Course	Title	Hours
Senior		
Fall		
COMM 405	Story Development and Production	3
COMM 420	Digital Production: Storytelling with Impact	3
DMST Elective		3
	Hours	**9**
Spring		
COMM 425	Digital Marketing and Analytics	3
COMM 430	2D Design for Print and the Web	3
DMST Elective		3
	Hours	**9**
Master's		
Fall		
COMM 400	Designing for Digital Environments	3
COMM 410	Media Law for Inclusive Digital Storytelling	3
DMST Elective		3
	Hours	**9**
Spring		
COMM 415	Data-Powered Digital Storytelling	3
COMM 450	Capstone II	3
DMST Elective		3
	Hours	**9**
	Total Hours	**36**

Guidelines for Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's Programs

Terms

- Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's programs: In this type of program, students share limited credits between their undergraduate and graduate degrees to facilitate completion of both degrees.
- Shared credits: Graduate level credit hours taken during the undergraduate program and then applied towards graduate program requirements will be referred to as Shared credits.

Admission Requirements

Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's programs are designed to enhance opportunities for advanced training for Loyola's undergraduates. Admission to these programs must be competitive and will depend upon a positive review of credentials by the program's admissions committee. Accordingly, the admission requirements for these programs may be higher than those required if the master's degree were pursued entirely after the receipt of a bachelor's degree. That is, programs may choose to have more stringent admissions requirements in addition to those minimal requirements below.

Requirements:

- Declared appropriate undergraduate major,
- By the time students begin taking graduate courses as an undergraduate, the student has completed approximately 90 credit hours, or the credit hours required in a program that is accredited by a specialty organization,[1]
- A minimum cumulative GPA for coursework at Loyola that is at or above the program-specific requirements, a minimum major GPA that is at or above the program-specific requirements, and/or appropriate designated coursework for evaluation of student readiness in their discipline.[2]

Students not eligible for the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program (e.g., students who have not declared the appropriate undergraduate major) may apply to the master's program through the regular admissions process. Students enrolled in an Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program who choose not to continue to the master's degree program upon completion of the bachelor's degree will face no consequences.[3]

Ideally, a student will apply for admission (or confirm interest in proceeding towards the graduate degree in opt-out programs) as they approach 90 credit hours. Programs are encouraged to begin advising students early in their major so that they are aware of the program and, if interested, can complete their bachelor's degree requirements in a way that facilitates completion of the program. Once admitted as an undergraduate, Program Directors should ensure that students are enrolled using the plan code associated with the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program. Using the plan code associated with the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program will ensure that students may be easily identified as they move through the program. Students will not officially matriculate into the master's degree program and be labeled as a graduate student by the university, with accompanying changes to tuition and Financial Aid (see below), until the undergraduate degree has been awarded. Once admitted to the graduate program, students must meet the academic standing requirements of their graduate program as they complete the program curriculum.

[1] Programs that have specialized accreditation will adhere to the admissions criteria provided by, or approved by, their specialized accreditors.

[2] The program will identify appropriate indicators of student readiness for graduate coursework (e.g., high-level performance in 300 level courses). Recognizing differences between how majors are designed, we do not specify a blanket requirement.

[3] If students choose not to enroll in the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program, they still must complete all of the standard requirements associated with the undergraduate degree (e.g., a capstone).

Curriculum

Level and progression of courses. The Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's programs are designed to be competitive and attractive to our most capable students. Students admitted to Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's programs should be capable of meeting graduate level learning outcomes. Following guidance from the Higher Learning Commission,

only courses taken at the 400 level or higher (including 300/400 level courses taken at the 400 level) will count toward the graduate program.[1,2] Up to 50% of the total graduate level credit hours, required in the graduate program, may come from 300/400 level courses where the student is enrolled in the 400 level of the course. Further, at least 50% of the credit hours for the graduate program must come from courses that are designed for and restricted to graduate students who have been admitted to a graduate program at Loyola (e.g., enrolled in plan code that indicates the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program, typically ending with the letter "D").[3]

In general, graduate level coursework should not be taken prior to admission into the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program. Exceptions may be granted for professional programs where curriculum for the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program is designed to begin earlier. On the recommendation of the program's Graduate Director, students may take one of their graduate level courses before they are admitted to the Accelerated Bachelors/Master's program if they have advanced abilities in their discipline and course offerings warrant such an exception.[4] Undergraduate degree requirements outside of the major are in no way impacted by admission to an Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program.[5]

Shared credits. Undergraduate courses (i.e., courses offered at the 300 level or below) cannot be counted as shared credits nor count towards the master's degree. Up to 50% of the total graduate level credit hours, required in the graduate program, may be counted in meeting both the undergraduate and graduate degree requirements. Of those shared credits, students in an Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program should begin their graduate program with the standard introductory course(s) for the program whenever possible. So that students may progress through the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program in a timely manner, undergraduate programs are encouraged to design their curriculum such that a student can complete some required graduate credit hours while completing the undergraduate degree. For instance, some of the graduate curriculum should also satisfy electives for the undergraduate major.

The program's Graduate Director will designate credit hours to be shared through the advising form and master's degree conferral review process. Shared credit hours will not be marked on the undergraduate record as having a special status in the undergraduate program. They will be included in the student's undergraduate earned hours and GPA. Graduate credit hours taken during the undergraduate program will not be included in the graduate GPA calculation.

[1] If students wish to transfer credits from another university to Loyola University Chicago, the program's Graduate director will review the relevant syllabus(es) to determine whether it meets the criteria for a 400 level course or higher.

[2] Programs with specialized accreditation requirements that allow programs to offer graduate curriculum to undergraduate students will conform to those specialized accreditation requirements.

[3] In rare cases, the Graduate Director may authorize enrollment in a 400-level course for a highly qualified and highly motivated undergraduate, ensuring that the undergraduate's exceptional participation in the graduate class will not diminish in any way the experience of the graduate students regularly enrolled.

[4] For example, if a particular course is only offered once every 2-3 years, and a student has demonstrated the necessary ability to be successful, the Graduate Director may allow a student to take a graduate level course to be shared prior to the student being formally admitted to the graduate program. See, also, footnote 4.

[5] Students should not, for example, attempt to negotiate themselves out of a writing intensive requirement on the basis of admission to a graduate program.

Graduation

Degrees are awarded sequentially. All details of undergraduate commencement are handled in the ordinary way as for all students in the School/College/Institute. Once in the graduate program, students abide by the graduation deadlines set forth by the graduate program. Students in these programs must be continuously enrolled from undergraduate to graduate degree program unless given explicit permission by their program for a gap year or approved leave of absence.

SES Shared Learning Outcomes

All SES majors share the following Program Learning Objectives, in addition to their unique major-specific Program Learning Objectives:

1. Articulate the foundational principles of natural and social sciences and humanities essential to solving environmental problems.
2. Critically evaluate the accuracy and credibility of information relating to environmental topics.
3. Employ knowledge and skills to design and implement solutions that contribute to a just and sustainable world.
4. Exemplify the values of environmental and social justice through actions to care for our common home and one another.