ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY (BA)

Well-designed public policies are critical in maintaining and restoring a healthy environment. Public policies influence air and water quality, land use, biodiversity, and public health and shape crucial efforts to fight climate change. Our environmental policy program prepares students to craft and implement public policies that promote ecological conservation, environmental justice, and innovation toward a green economy.

Related Programs

Minor

- Environmental Action and Leadership Minor (https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/environmental-sustainability/environmental-action-leadership-minor/)

Curriculum

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

Code	Title	Hours
Foundational Curriculum		
ENVS 137	Foundations of Environmental Science I	3
ENVS 200	Environmental Careers and Professional Skills	1
ENVS 203	Environmental Statistics	3
ENVS 237	Foundations of Environmental Chemistry	3
ENVS 238	Foundations of Environmental Science Lab	1
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:		
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 273	Energy and the Environment	
ENVS 281	Environmental Sustainability & Science in China	
ENVS 283	Environmental Sustainability	
ENVS 345	Conservation and Sustainability of Neotropical Ecosystems	
ENVS 350A	Solutions to Environmental Problems: Water	
ENVS 350C	Solutions to Environmental Problems: Climate Action	
ENVS 350F	Solutions to Environmental Problems: Food Systems	
ENVS 369	Field Ornithology	
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 (p. 1)		**18**
See designated elective categories below		
Total Hours		**54**

Electives

Code	Title	Hours
Policy Choice		
Select two of the following:		6
ENVS 311	Natural Resources and Land Use Law & Policy	
ENVS 312	Water Law & Policy	
ENVS 313	Energy Law & Policy	
Methods and Analysis		
Select one of the following:		3
COMM 231	Conflict Management and Communication	
DSCI 101	Fundamentals of Modern Data Science with R	
ENVS 298	Special Topics (with SES approval)	
ENVS 327	Food Systems Analysis	
ENVS 380	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems	
ENVS 381	Advanced GIS Applications	
ENVS 382	Remote Sensing	
ENVS 383	Human Dimensions of Conservation	
ENVS 384	Conservation Economics	
ENVS 386	Python Programming for GIS	
ENVS 391	Environmental Research	
ENVS 395	Environmental Internship (with SES approval)	
ENVS 398	Special Topics (with SES approval)	
SOCL 206	Principles of Social Research	
SOCL 302	Qualitative Research	
STAT 303	SAS Programming & Applied Statistics	
Environmental Electives		
Select three of the following:		9
COMM 101	Public Speaking & Critical Thinking	
COMM 260	Environmental Journalism	
COMM 277	Organizational Communication	
COMM 306	Environmental Communication & Advocacy	
COMM 379	Digital Sustainability	
DSCI 101	Fundamentals of Modern Data Science with R	
ENVS 207	Plants and Civilization	
ENVS 215	Ornithology	
ENVS 218	Biodiversity & Biogeography	
ENVS 220	Conservation Genetics	
ENVS 223	Soil Ecology	
ENVS 224	Climate & Climate Change	
ENVS 226	Science & Conservation of Freshwater Ecosystems	

ENVS 230	Feeding the Planet: Global Perspectives on Sustainability, Culture and Food
ENVS 267	Bird Conservation and Ecology
ENVS 273	Energy and the Environment
ENVS 274	Chemistry of the Natural Environment
ENVS 279	Climate and History
ENVS 283	Environmental Sustainability
ENVS 284	Environmental Justice
ENVS 285	Eco-spirituality
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 316	Energy and Power Systems
ENVS 320	Conservation Biology
ENVS 322	Invasive Species
ENVS 323	Environmental Microbiology
ENVS 324	Climate Science
ENVS 325	Sustainable Agriculture
ENVS 326	Agroecosystems
ENVS 327	Food Systems Analysis
ENVS 330	Restoration Ecology
ENVS 338	Climate Change and Human Health
ENVS 345	Conservation and Sustainability of Neotropical Ecosystems
ENVS 350A	Solutions to Environmental Problems: Water
ENVS 350C	Solutions to Environmental Problems: Climate Action
ENVS 350F	Solutions to Environmental Problems: Food Systems
ENVS 369	Field Ornithology
ENVS 380	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems
ENVS 381	Advanced GIS Applications
ENVS 384	Conservation Economics
ENVS 386	Python Programming for GIS
ENVS 387	Principles of Ecotoxicology
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)
GLST 305	Globalization and Environmental Sustainability
PHIL 287	Environmental Ethics
PLSC 354	Global Environmental Politics
PSYC 277	Environmental Psychology
SOCL 206	Principles of Social Research
SOCL 272	Environmental Sociology
SOCL 302	Qualitative Research
STAT 303	SAS Programming & Applied Statistics
BIOL, CHEM, PHYS 300-level courses (with SES approval)	
Total Hours	**18**

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.

Course	Title	Hours
Year One		
Fall		
ENVS 137	Foundations of Environmental Science I	3
PLSC 101	American Politics	3
	Hours	**6**
Spring		
ENVS 203	Environmental Statistics	3
ENVS 237	Foundations of Environmental Chemistry	3
ENVS 238	Foundations of Environmental Science Lab	1
Justice & Ethics Choice		3
	Hours	**10**
Year Two		
Fall		
ENVS 200	Environmental Careers and Professional Skills	1
ENVS 280	Principles of Ecology	3
ENVS 286	Principles of Ecology Lab	1
	Hours	**5**
Spring		
ENVS 310 or PLSC 392	Introduction to Environmental Law & Policy or Environmental Politics	3
Environmental Science Elective		3
	Hours	**6**
Year Three		
Fall		
ENVS 310 or PLSC 392	Introduction to Environmental Law & Policy or Environmental Politics	3
	Hours	**3**
Spring		
ENVS 335 or ECON 328	Ecological Economics or Environmental Economics	3
Society, Ethics, & Justice Elective		3
	Hours	**6**
Year Four		
Fall		
Engaged Learning Choice		3
Policy, Economics, & Resource Management Elective		3
Methods & Analysis Elective		3
	Hours	**9**
Spring		
Capstone Choice		3
Policy, Economics, & Resource Management Elective		3

Environmental Science Elective	3
Hours	**9**
Total Hours	**54**

School of Environmental Sustainability Graduation Requirements

All SES students are required to complete a foreign language requirement and a writing intensive requirement. The SES language requirement can be fulfilled by 1) earning college credit at the 102-level or above; or 2) demonstrating proficiency via the SES foreign language proficiency examination. The SES writing intensive requirement is fulfilled by successfully completing two Loyola WI courses (max of one per semester). Writing intensive courses have a "W" in the section number.

Additional Undergraduate Graduation Requirements

All Undergraduate students are required to complete the University Core, at least one Engaged Learning course, and UNIV 101. SCPS students are not required to take UNIV 101. Nursing students in the Accelerated BSN program are not required to take core or UNIV 101. You can find more information in the University Requirements (https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/university-requirements/) area.

Learning Outcomes

- Describe the social and environmental impacts of government intervention and the policy process
- Appraise major environmental laws and international agreements.
- Analyze policy solutions that address pressing environmental problems.

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.