

## Environmental Sciences Major (ES)

Overview of Major: The major emphasizes basic science in a rigorous curriculum drawn from a variety of departments including biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics, economics and environmental science. In the junior and senior years, students take electives in their area of interest, as well as courses in statistics, research methodology, and environmental modeling to prepare for the senior research thesis seminar. In the research seminar, each student designs and conducts a research project of his or her own choosing. This year-long course is the capstone of the major. The experience is extremely helpful for students as they prepare for environmental careers or graduate/professional school.

Minimum Admission Requirements: Must be completed by the end of spring term preceding fall enrollment.

Berkeley Courses:
English R1A & English R1B
Chemistry 1A & 1AL
Chemistry 1B or Chemistry 3A & 3AL
Biology 1A & 1AL and Biology 1B or Biology 11 & 11L
Math 1A & Math 1B or Math 16A & Math 16B
Check assist.org for the course equivalencies at your community college

Other helpful courses (if offered):

- Intro Environmental Science or similar courses
- Micro-economics (Macro-economics is not required for the major)
- Physics 8A or 7A

Admissions Review Process:

- Holistic review: Based on combination of academic and non-academic achievements.
- Includes personal essay, coursework, test scores, interest in the major and field. A thoughtful essay demonstrating a clear interest in the major helps build a stronger application.
- For more about admissions review: <http://admissions.berkeley.edu/selectsstudents>

Application Timeline:

- UC Systemwide Application (November)
- UC Berkeley Work in Progress Update (January)
- Advisor Review (February)
- Decision notification (Late April)

Helpful Things to Know:

- IGETC satisfies Reading & Composition, ESPM Social Science Core, and two general breadth courses. IGETC does not satisfy the ESPM Environmental Science Core, Environmental Economics, or minimum requirements listed above.
- The major has 3 areas of concentration that students can choose from. The concentration has no bearing on admission, as long as minimum admissions requirements are met.
- Research experience is strongly encouraged, though not required. Admitted students begin developing their research projects in their second semester.
- Environmental Science has three tracks (physical, biological, social) and your choices of lower division requirements will determine your track placement. Assist.org outlines the requirements for each track.

Competitive Applicants Will Have:

- A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Completed, or are in process of completing, for all lower division requirements for the major.
- Taken transferable ESPM Environmental and Social Science Core courses though these requirements may be taken at Berkeley if no course is articulated at the community college.
- Shown a sincere interest in the major, relating experiences to the essay prompts
- Completed the Admissions Supplemental Form thoroughly, identifying which courses satisfied which admissions requirements. Applicants completing IGETC should still identify specific courses for admissions requirements when possible.

How to contact an advisor:

Major Advisor: [envsci.ugrad@berkeley.edu](mailto:envsci.ugrad@berkeley.edu) (Appointments are preferred for prospective students)

Environmental Sciences Website: <https://nature.berkeley.edu/advising/majors/environmental-sciences>