ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Program Description

The Environmental Studies Program is an interdisciplinary program designed to develop an understanding of living and non-living earth processes and how they affect and are affected by the human population. Courses in biology, earth sciences and history provide a foundation in the functioning of living systems including population growth, ecology, and toxicology; geologic processes including energy resources, geologic hazards, and pollution; and human attitudes towards nature including historical perspective and context for our current situation.

Through these courses students will gain a better understanding of how humans are intimately connected with the environment and how human activities impact and are impacted by the environment.

An understanding of environmental matters is essential in today’s world. Careers in natural resources, land use planning, business, energy, waste management, pollution control, law and environmental administration all require knowledge of environmental issues and the functioning of ecosystems. Career opportunities may require more discipline-specific studies in biology, geology or political science.

AA Degree Requirements

All students majoring in Environmental Studies must complete a set of departmental requirements consisting of courses that provide a basic understanding of the physical, biological and social sciences and their application to analysis of environmental processes and issues. As a general curriculum, this option is suitable for students to maintain a broad range of choices for their degree. Additional required courses stress the need for transfer possibilities or for growth potential in the environmental professions.

Planning a Program for Transfer

Special problems confront the student planning to transfer to a four-year university. Major requirements in Environmental Studies differ from school to school and within a single institution by major emphasis. You should work closely with the Counseling Center or a faculty adviser for the Environmental Studies Program.

Programs of Study

Credit Program

- Environmental Studies, Associate in Arts (AA) (https://catalog.sbcc.edu/academic-departments/environmental-studies/environmental-studies-aa)

Credit Courses

Environmental Studies (ENVS)

ENVS 110 Humans And The Biological Environment (3 Units)
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or ENG 110H.
Hours: 54 (54 lecture)
Growth and variations in populations of organisms and their interactions with the physical environment. Characteristics of living natural resources and changes caused by expanding human populations and technological developments. Satisfies SBCC General Education requirement in Natural Sciences when combined with ENVS 111. (Required for the Environmental Studies major.)
SBCC General Education: SBCCGE Area A Lecture
Transfer Information: CSUGE Area B2, IGETC Area 5B, CSU Transferable, UC Transferable

ENVS 111 Environmental Field Studies (1 Unit)
Corequisites: ENVS 110.
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or ENG 110H.
Hours: 54 (54 lab)
Field studies designed to demonstrate general ecological/environmental principles through exposure to and analysis of many different communities and sites of environmental concern. Satisfies SBCC General Education requirement in Natural Sciences when combined with ENVST 110.
SBCC General Education: SBCCGE Area A Lab
Transfer Information: CSUGE Area B3, IGETC Area 5C, CSU Transferable, UC Transferable
UC Transfer Limit: No credit for ENVST 111 unless taken after or concurrently with 110.

ENVS 112 American Environmental History (3 Units)
Same as: HIST 112
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or 110H.
Hours: 54 (54 lecture)
Examines American attitudes and actions towards the environment by Indians and European immigrants, from the colonial period to the present. Analyzes current environmental problems in the context of American development.
SBCC General Education: SBCCGE Area B
Transfer Information: CSUGE Area C2, CSUGE Area D6, IGETC Area 3B, IGETC Area 4F, CSU Transferable, UC Transferable

ENVS 115 Environmental Geology (3 Units)
Same as: ERTH 115
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 103 and proficiency in MATH 1 or MATH 41.
Hours: 54 (54 lecture)
Introduction to the problems of volcanism, earthquakes, fire, floods, landslides and other geologic hazards; air and water pollution, hazardous materials and land use planning. Applications to the Santa Barbara area emphasized. Required of all Environmental Studies majors.
SBCC General Education: SBCCGE Area A Lecture
Transfer Information: CSUGE Area B1, IGETC Area 5A, CSU Transferable, UC Transferable
C-ID: GEOL 130.
ENVS 115L Environmental Geology Laboratory (1 Unit)
Same as: ERTH 115L
Corequisites: ENVS 115 or ERTH 115.
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 103 and proficiency in MATH 1 or MATH 41.
Hours: 54 (54 lab)
Laboratory approach to topics covered in ENVST 115, with emphasis on rock and mineral identification, hazard assessment, geologic resource management, and land use planning. In-lab field trips.
SBCC General Education: SBCCGE Area A Lab
Transfer Information: CSUGE Area B3, IGETC Area 5C, CSU Transferable, UC Transferable
C-ID: GEOL 130L.

ENVS 116 Energy And Natural Resources (3 Units)
Same as: ERTH 116
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 103 and proficiency in MATH 1 or MATH 41.
Hours: 54 (54 lecture)
Study of formation, exploration, development and judicious use of natural resources in relation to present and future energy requirements, electricity, conservation, fossil fuels, solar, geothermal, nuclear and hydrogen. Required of all Environmental Studies majors.
Transfer Information: CSUGE Area B1, IGETC Area 5A, CSU Transferable, UC Transferable

ENVS 200 Projects In Sustainability (2 Units)
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or ENG 110H.
Hours: 36 (36 lecture)
Students work in groups to develop projects that make the college and local community more sustainable. Lectures, discussions and workshops provide the student with current knowledge in environmental science, sustainable practices, and real-world skills needed to implement practical solutions to local environmental and social problems.
Transfer Information: CSU Transferable

ENVS 201 Leadership in Projects in Sustainability (2 Units)
Prerequisites: ENVS 200.
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or ENG 110H.
Hours: 36 (36 lecture)
Students take on a leadership role in projects that make the college and local community more sustainable. Students will study consensus building and management in the context of projects in sustainability to hone their skills as project managers.
Transfer Information: CSU Transferable

ENVS 295 Internship in Environmental Studies (2-4 Units)
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110, ENG 110H.
Hours: 273 (273 lab)
Student must have completed 12 units at SBCC, with a GPA of 2.5 and a minimum of 2 units in Environmental Studies. Structured internship program in which students gain experience with work on campus or in the community, related to Environmental Studies.
Transfer Information: CSU Transferable