Transfer Guide Leading to a Bachelor’s Degree in *Environmental Studies*

All degree requirements are subject to the provisions and notices in the NIU Undergraduate Catalog. Information is valid through November 2015.

**Courses Highly Recommended Prior to Transfer:**

As you earn your associate’s degree or work toward completion of the Illinois Articulation Initiative General Education Core Curriculum, you should try to take classes that will satisfy requirements for your degree at NIU. For example, you must choose either a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) or Bachelor of Science (B.S.) sequence in environmental studies at NIU. Students with interests in biodiversity and environmental restoration, energy studies, or water will need the B.S. and take chemistry, while students in the human experience, environmental policy, and non-governmental organization can choose either the B.S. or B.A. option.

A B.S. at NIU requires you to take a combination of math and science courses (check the Articulation Tables to see which classes at your community college are equivalent to required courses at NIU). You will want to look for equivalents of CHEM 210 (with the 212 lab) and CHEM 211 (with the 213 lab) if you are pursuing a B.S. As preparation for CHEM 210, you may need to enroll in equivalent of CHEM 110 first. Likewise, at a minimum, it is helpful to complete an equivalent of NIU’s MATH 110 or higher with a grade of ‘C’ or better prior to enrolling at NIU.

A B.A. requires completion of a 2-4 semester sequence of a foreign language. If you choose a B.A. in environmental studies, it doesn't matter what language you take, but if you have specific interests in particular regions of the world, it makes sense to take a language appropriate to that interest (e.g., Spanish for Latin America).

**About the Department**

Environmental Studies (ENVS) is an interdisciplinary undergraduate program that gives students a broad understanding of the global and regional environment, a general understanding of climate systems and sensitivity, and offers general and applied knowledge of energy systems. The program is dedicated to offering students tools that will allow them to address the environmental, climatic and energy challenges facing our global society.

**Student Organizations:**

*Committee for the Preservation of Wildlife*

*Green Paws Environmental Alliance*

*Illinois Lake Management Association-Student Chapter*

**Career Information:**

Graduates of the ENVS program are ready to face environmental and energy challenges during their careers in industry; small business; federal, state, and local governments; non-governmental organizations; and academic research.
What are some common career options?

- Conservation officer
- Energy policy analyst
- Environmental educator
- Forest resources manager
- Green marketing representative
- Land use planner
- Park naturalist/ranger
- Remediation specialist
- Restoration technician
- Solar developer
- Waste resources manager
- Watershed coordinator

Environmental Studies Major

Environmental Studies offers a B.S. degree in several areas of concentration, including focus on physical and biological sciences and society. A B.A. degree is offered as an option for ENVS students concentrating in the social sciences and humanities. To earn the bachelor’s degree in Environmental Studies, all students must complete the required core courses and the courses for their selected emphasis. Satisfying the requirements for the major generally includes prerequisites and co-requisites beyond the core curriculum.

The Environmental Studies major offers six emphases:

**Biodiversity and environmental restoration** appeals to students who want to take the challenge of learning how to best use biodiversity resources while providing effective stewardship to ensure that biodiversity resources are maintained for future generations.

**Energy studies** links the world of green technology and energy-related issues with the human component. The focus of the emphasis includes, but is not limited to, green concepts in power production, processing, manufacturing, ecologically friendly materials, and transportation. Graduates of this emphasis will be able to connect engineers with the people who implement these technologies.

**Nature and Society** provides students with an understanding of social movements and community-based responses to environmental problems. This includes a wide-ranging examination of environmental issues through time and from diverse perspectives in order to provide students the ability to better understand and critically assess contemporary environmental challenges. The human experience emphasis is selected by students interested in working in the many areas of environmental justice and advocacy.
Environmental policy is for students interested in the legal process or who plan to attend law school upon graduation from NIU. This emphasis is also selected by students who seek public service or business careers that use the knowledge of how American law and policy has responded to environmental problems.

Water science is for students who want to work in the rapidly growing field of water resources. Whether it is for agriculture, industry, or personal consumption, current use of fresh water by humans is unsustainable. In many parts of the world, access to clean, safe drinking water is lacking. It is essential that students pursuing environmental studies are well grounded in the economic, legal, physical, and biological facets of water resources.

Engaged Learning Opportunities:

- **Independent studies**
- **Internships**
- **Faculty-mentored research opportunities**

For More Information

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