

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES - B.A.

College of Sciences and Humanities
Department of Geography
www.kent.edu/geography

About This Program

The Environmental Studies B.A. program combines scientific, social and policy perspectives to provide you with a comprehensive understanding of environmental issues. Enroll now and become an agent for positive change. Read more...

Contact Information

- **David Kaplan** (Kent Campus) | dkaplan@kent.edu | 330-672-3221
- **Chris Post** (Stark Campus) | cpost2@kent.edu
- Speak with an Advisor
 - Kent Campus
 - Stark Campus
- Chat with an Admissions Counselor: Kent Campus | Regional Campuses

Program Delivery

- **Delivery:**
 - In person
- **Location:**
 - Kent Campus
 - Stark Campus

Examples of Possible Careers and Salaries*

Compliance officers

- 3.0% about as fast as the average
- 418,000 number of jobs
- \$78,420 potential earnings

Environmental science teachers, postsecondary

- 2.9% slower than the average
- 9,000 number of jobs
- \$87,710 potential earnings

Environmental scientists and specialists, including health

- 4.4% about as fast as the average
- 90,300 number of jobs
- \$80,060 potential earnings

Environmental science and protection technicians, including health

- 4.0% about as fast as the average
- 40,400 number of jobs
- \$49,490 potential earnings

Forestry and conservation science teachers, postsecondary

- 4.0% about as fast as the average
- 1,600 number of jobs
- \$100,830 potential earnings

* Source of occupation titles and labor data comes from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook. Data comprises projected percent change in employment over the next 10 years; nation-wide employment numbers; and the yearly median wage at which half of the workers in the occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less.

Admission Requirements

The university affirmatively strives to provide educational opportunities and access to students with varied backgrounds, those with special talents and adult students.

First-Year Students on the Kent Campus: First-year admission policy on the Kent Campus is selective. Admission decisions are based upon cumulative grade point average, strength of high school college preparatory curriculum and grade trends. Students not admissible to the Kent Campus may be administratively referred to one of the seven regional campuses to begin their college coursework. For more information, visit the admissions website for first-year students.

First-Year Students on the Regional Campuses: First-year admission to Kent State's campuses at Ashtabula, East Liverpool, Geauga, Salem, Stark, Trumbull and Tuscarawas, as well as the Twinsburg Academic Center, is open to anyone with a high school diploma or its equivalent. For more information on admissions, contact the Regional Campuses admissions offices.

International Students: All international students must provide proof of proficiency of the English language (unless they meet specific exceptions) through the submission of an English language proficiency test score or by completing English language classes at Kent State's English as a Second Language Center before entering their program. For more information, visit the admissions website for international students.

Former Students: Former Kent State students who have not attended another institution since Kent State and were not academically dismissed will complete the re-enrollment process through the Financial, Billing and Enrollment Center. Former students who attended another college or university since leaving Kent State must apply for admissions as a transfer or post-undergraduate student.

Transfer Students: Students who attended an educational institution after graduating from high school or earning their GED must apply as transfer students. For more information, visit the admissions website for transfer students.

Admission policies for undergraduate students may be found in the University Catalog's Academic Policies.

Students may be required to meet certain criteria to progress in their program. Any progression requirements will be listed on the program's Coursework tab

Program Requirements

Major Requirements

| Code | Title | Credit Hours |
|--|---|--------------|
| Major Requirements (courses count in major GPA) | | |
| BSCI 10110 | BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (ELR) (KBS) (KLAB) | 4 |
| ENVS 22070 | NATURE AND SOCIETY (KSS) | 3 |
| ENVS 30105 | CAREER PATHWAYS IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES | 1 |
| ENVS 32091 | ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND SUSTAINABILITY | 2 |
| ENVS 42099 | INTEGRATIVE SENIOR PROJECT (ELR) (WIC) ¹ | 3 |
| ESCI 21062 | ENVIRONMENTAL EARTH SCIENCE (KBS) | 3 |
| Biological Sciences Elective, choose from the following: | | 3-4 |
| BSCI 30274 | FORESTRY | |
| BSCI 30277 | ECONOMIC BOTANY | |
| BSCI 30360 | GENERAL ECOLOGY | |
| BSCI 30361 | BIOGEOGRAPHY | |
| BSCI 30362 | INTRODUCTION TO BIOLOGY OF THE TROPICS | |
| BSCI 30370 | CLIMATE CHANGE BIOLOGY | |
| BSCI 30582 | ORNITHOLOGY | |
| BSCI 40170 | STREAM BIOLOGY | |
| BSCI 40222 | INVASION BIOLOGY | |
| BSCI 40365 | FIELD METHODS IN ORNITHOLOGY (ELR) | |
| BSCI 40375 | ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT | |
| BSCI 40525 | WILDLIFE RESOURCES (ELR) | |
| BSCI 40558 | MAMMALOLOGY | |
| BSCI 40560 | HERPETOLOGY | |
| Earth Science Elective, choose from the following: | | 3 |
| ESCI 33025 | WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT | |
| ESCI 42065 | WATERSHED HYDROLOGY | |
| ESCI 42066 | PHYSICAL HYDROGEOLOGY | |
| ESCI 44025 | GEOLOGIC HAZARDS AND DISASTERS | |
| ESCI 44040 | EARTH'S ENERGY TRANSITION | |
| Geography Elective, choose from the following: | | 3 |
| GEOG 41051 | NATURAL DISASTERS AND SOCIETY | |
| GEOG 41066 | GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE | |
| GEOG 41074 | RESOURCE GEOGRAPHY | |
| GEOG 41082 | GEOGRAPHY OF SOILS | |
| GEOG 41195 | SPECIAL TOPICS IN ENVIRONMENTAL GEOGRAPHY | |
| Methods Elective, choose from the following: | | 3-4 |
| BSCI 40224 | QUANTITATIVE METHODS IN BIOLOGY | |
| ESCI 42030 | REMOTE SENSING | |
| ESCI 42035 | DATA ANALYSIS IN THE EARTH SCIENCES | |
| ESCI 42060 | EARTH OBSERVING | |
| GEOG 40285 | FIELD EXPERIENCE IN GEOGRAPHY | |
| GEOG 41065 | DATA ANALYSIS FOR CLIMATE AND THE ENVIRONMENT | |
| GEOG 49070 | GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE | |
| GEOG 49073 | ENVIRONMENTAL DATA ANALYSIS IN R | |
| GEOG 49230 | REMOTE SENSING | |

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|--|---|------------|
| SOC 32210 | RESEARCHING SOCIETY (ELR) (WIC) ¹ | |
| Social Sciences Electives, choose from the following: | | 15 |
| ARCS 30421 | ENVIRONMENTAL IMPERATIVES | |
| ECON 32084 | ECONOMICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT | |
| ENG 35105 | LITERATURE, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT | |
| ENVS 30000 | ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION REGULATIONS AND ASSESSMENT | |
| ENVS 46092 | INTERNSHIP IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (ELR) | |
| ENVS 49195 | SPECIAL TOPICS IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES | |
| FDM 35012 | SUSTAINABILITY IN FASHION | |
| GEOG 31070 | POPULATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT | |
| GEOG 32023 | FOOD AND PLACE (ELR) | |
| GEOG 41073 | CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES | |
| GEOG 41077 | WATER AND SOCIETY | |
| GEOG 41800 | PERCEPTIONS OF NATURE | |
| GEOG 42064 | SETTLING THE NORTH AMERICAN ENVIRONMENT | |
| GEOG 45085 | URBAN TRANSPORTATION | |
| GEOG 46060 | FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABILITY | |
| GEOG 46070 | URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING | |
| GEOG 46080 | URBAN SUSTAINABILITY | |
| PACS 35050 | ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION | |
| PACS 45060 | ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE | |
| PARK 36082 | INTERPRETATION OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES | |
| PARK 36083 | ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION | |
| PH 30006 | INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY | |
| PHIL 30025 | ENVIRONMENTAL PHILOSOPHY (ELR) | |
| PLST 35001 | ENVIRONMENTAL LAW FOR PARALEGALS | |
| POL 30350 | ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION | |
| POL 40440 | U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS AND POLICIES | |
| POL 40540 | POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT | |
| SOC 42560 | SOCIOLOGY OF FOOD (ELR) | |
| SOC 42565 | ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY (ELR) | |
| Additional Requirements (courses do not count in major GPA) | | |
| UC 10001 | FLASHES 101 | 1 |
| Foreign Language (see Foreign Language College Requirement below) | | 10-16 |
| American Civic Literacy Requirement ² | | 3 |
| Kent Core Composition | | 6 |
| Kent Core Mathematics and Critical Reasoning | | 3 |
| Kent Core Humanities and Fine Arts (minimum one course from each) ² | | 6-9 |
| Kent Core Social Sciences (must be from two disciplines) ² | | 0-3 |
| Kent Core Additional | | 6 |
| General Electives (total credit hours depends on earning 120 credit hours, including 39 upper-division credit hours) | | 39 |
| Minimum Total Credit Hours: | | 120 |

¹ A minimum C grade must be earned to fulfill the writing-intensive requirement.

² If students complete the American Civic Literacy requirement by taking HIST 12061, the course will apply to the Kent Core Humanities category. If they complete it with POL 10101, the course will apply to the Kent Core Social Sciences category.

Graduation Requirements

| Minimum Major GPA | Minimum Overall GPA |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 2.000 | 2.000 |

Foreign Language College Requirement, B.A.

Students pursuing the Bachelor of Arts degree* in the College of Sciences and Humanities must complete the following:

1. Elementary I and II of any language (or equivalent) **and**
2. One of the following options:
 - a. Intermediate I and II of the same language
 - b. Elementary I and II of a second language
 - c. Any combination of two courses from the following list:
 - i. Intermediate I of the same language
 - ii. One to two college-level course(s) completed outside the United States
 - iii. Courses: ARAB 21401, ASL 19401, CHIN 25421, MCLS 10001, MCLS 20001, MCLS 20091, MCLS 21417, MCLS 21420, MCLS 22217, MCLS 28403, MCLS 28404

*The Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Studies is exempt from the foreign language requirement until fall 2028 due to its previous longstanding academic placement in the College of Communication and Information, which does not have a foreign language requirement.

All students with prior foreign language experience should take the foreign language placement test to determine the appropriate level at which to start. Some students may start beyond the Elementary I level and will complete the requirement with fewer courses. This may be accomplished in one of three ways:

1. Passing a course beyond Elementary I through Intermediate II level
2. Receiving credit through one of the alternative credit programs offered by Kent State University
3. Demonstrating language proficiency comparable to Elementary II of a foreign language

Certain programs may require specific languages, limit the languages from which a student may choose or require coursework through Intermediate II. Students who plan to pursue graduate study may need a particular language proficiency.

Roadmap

This roadmap is a recommended semester-by-semester plan of study for this program. Students will work with their advisor to develop a sequence based on their academic goals and history. Courses designated as critical (!) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation.

| Semester One | | Credits |
|-------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| ENVS 22070 | NATURE AND SOCIETY (KSS) | 3 |
| UC 10001 | FLASHES 101 | 1 |
| Kent Core Requirement | | 3 |
| Kent Core Requirement | | 3 |
| Kent Core Requirement | | 3 |
| Credit Hours | | 13 |
| Semester Two | | |
| BSCI 10110 | BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (ELR) (KBS) (KLAB) | 4 |
| ESCI 21062 | ENVIRONMENTAL EARTH SCIENCE (KBS) | 3 |
| American Civic Literacy Requirement | | 3 |

| | | |
|--|--|------------|
| Kent Core Requirement | | 3 |
| Kent Core Requirement | | 3 |
| Credit Hours | | 16 |
| Semester Three | | |
| Geography Elective | | 3 |
| Social Sciences Elective | | 3 |
| Foreign Language | | 4 |
| Kent Core Requirement | | 3 |
| Kent Core Requirement | | 3 |
| Credit Hours | | 16 |
| Semester Four | | |
| Biological Sciences Elective | | 3-4 |
| Methods Elective | | 3-4 |
| Foreign Language | | 4 |
| Kent Core Requirement | | 3 |
| General Elective | | 2 |
| Credit Hours | | 15 |
| Semester Five | | |
| Earth Science Elective | | 3 |
| Social Sciences Elective | | 3 |
| Foreign Language and/or General Elective | | 3 |
| General Electives | | 6 |
| Credit Hours | | 15 |
| Semester Six | | |
| ENVS 30105 | CAREER PATHWAYS IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES | 1 |
| ENVS 32091 | ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND SUSTAINABILITY | 2 |
| Social Sciences Elective | | 3 |
| Foreign Language and/or General Elective | | 3 |
| General Electives | | 6 |
| Credit Hours | | 15 |
| Semester Seven | | |
| Social Sciences Elective | | 3 |
| General Electives | | 12 |
| Credit Hours | | 15 |
| Semester Eight | | |
| ENVS 42099 | INTEGRATIVE SENIOR PROJECT (ELR) (WIC) | 3 |
| Social Sciences Elective | | 3 |
| General Electives | | 9 |
| Credit Hours | | 15 |
| Minimum Total Credit Hours: | | 120 |

University Requirements

All students in a bachelor's degree program at Kent State University must complete the following university requirements for graduation.

NOTE: University requirements may be fulfilled in this program by specific course requirements. Please see Program Requirements for details.

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Flashes 101 (UC 10001) | 1 credit hour |
| Course is not required for students with 30+ transfer credits (excluding College Credit Plus) or age 21+ at time of admission. | |
| American Civic Literacy | 3 credit hours |
| Experiential Learning Requirement (ELR) | varies |

Students must successfully complete one course or approved experience.

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Kent Core (see table below) | 36-37 credit hours |
| Writing-Intensive Course (WIC) | 1 course |
| Students must earn a minimum C grade in the course. | |
| Upper-Division Requirement | 39 credit hours |
| Students must successfully complete 39 upper-division (numbered 30000 to 49999) credit hours to graduate. | |
| Total Credit Hour Requirement | 120 credit hours |

Kent Core Requirements

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Kent Core Composition (KCOMP) | 6 |
| Kent Core Mathematics and Critical Reasoning (KMCR) | 3 |
| Kent Core Humanities and Fine Arts (KHUM/KFA) (min one course each) | 9 |
| Kent Core Social Sciences (KSS) (must be from two disciplines) | 6 |
| Kent Core Basic Sciences (KBS/KLAB) (must include one laboratory) | 6-7 |
| Kent Core Additional (KADL) | 6 |
| Total Credit Hours: | 36-37 |

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the environment and how it relates to human activity, human resource needs and human cognition.
2. Analyze the interconnections between environmental and human systems and how those play out in particular problem areas.
3. Evaluate how environmental problems are framed and public attitudes and policies can be harnessed to provide solutions to environmental degradation.

Program Policies

Foreign Language Requirements

In general, students may elect any foreign language taught through the Department of Modern and Classical Language Studies. However, certain majors, concentrations and minors require specific languages or limit the languages from which students may choose. In addition, students who plan to pursue graduate study may need particular languages for that study. In such cases, students should seek the advice of the appropriate department before selecting a language.

Progress Toward Fulfillment

College of Sciences and Humanities students are encouraged to begin meeting the foreign language requirement as early as possible in their program to ensure timely degree completion.

Mandatory Outcomes Assessment

In addition to the other General Requirements of the college, candidates for an undergraduate degree in the College of Sciences and Humanities are required, as a condition of graduation, to participate in an outcomes assessment. These outcomes assessments are conducted by

each undergraduate degree program in the College of Sciences and Humanities.

Full Description

The Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Studies prepares students to integrate concepts and knowledge about environmental issues from across multiple disciplines and communicate about these in important ways. Basic scientific knowledge about environmental processes is used to inform different social goals. Students develop a set of key competencies in earth systems science, environmental social science, human-natural systems and sustainability science to solve specific environmental problems.

Environmental Studies students may apply early to the M.S. degree in Geography and double count 9 credit hours of graduate courses toward both degree programs. See the Combined Bachelor's/Master's Degree Program Policy in the University Catalog for more information.