Bachelor of Science

INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

Conservation and Resource Studies (CRS) is an interdisciplinary program designed for students interested in environmental issues and areas of interaction among natural resources, population, energy, technology, societal institutions, and cultural values. The CRS major helps students understand the structure and functions of the complex systems within our society and biosphere.

The major is offered by the Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management (ESPM). A minor in CRS is also available, as well as minors in Environmental Economics and Policy and Forestry and Natural Resources.

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

• Join a student organization like Better Beaches at Berkeley that allows you to engage with conservation firsthand.
• Get 1:1 mentoring from graduate students with Berkeley Connect in ESPM.
• Apply for a research position during the academic year through the SPUR program and get academic credit.

THE CRS CURRICULUM

Along with completing lower division requirements in the major, students will be guided in selecting eight upper division area of interest courses. Students draw on the course offerings of the entire campus and can incorporate courses in the social sciences, biological sciences, physical sciences, or humanities. Sample topics include environmental justice and education, sustainable development of world populations, conservation and culture, and ecological restoration and policy. Students can also utilize community resources in the development of individual programs of study.

“ The CRS major means leadership, curiosity, and passion to me. It allows me to explore my education and navigate it on my own terms, creating my own path along the way and opening up the world to my curious exploration. ”

– Alicia Hernandez-Miyaures, Conservation and Resource Studies student

ADVISING

The Undergraduate Advisors for all Rausser College majors are located in the Office of Instruction and Student Affairs in 260 Mulford Hall.

Visit nature.berkeley.edu/advising/meet-rausser-advisors for detailed office hours and appointment booking links. You may email general advising questions to crs.ugrad@berkeley.edu.

CONSERVATION AND RESOURCE STUDIES

HOW TO USE THIS MAP

Use this map to help plan and guide your experience at UC Berkeley, including academic, co-curricular, and discovery opportunities. Everyone’s Berkeley experience is different and activities in this map are suggestions. Always consult with your advisors whenever possible for new opportunities and updates.

Visit ue.berkeley.edu/majormaps for the latest version of this major map.

CONNECT WITH US

Cal Day
Come to UC Berkeley’s annual Open House in April for information sessions, campus tours, special talks, and more.

Golden Bear Orientation
Join your peers in the campus-wide UC Berkeley orientation program for all new students.

Events
Attend department events with students, faculty, and staff. Visit nature.berkeley.edu for news and updates.
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**FIRST YEAR**
- Explore your major
  - Meet with your college advisor to discuss your academic plans.
  - Review major and college requirements.
  - Talk to your college's peer advisors about life in the major.
  - Start thinking about which topics within and related to the major interest you.
- Connect and build community
  - Take advantage of the college’s Student Resource Center.
  - Join a student group like the Conservation and Resource Studies Student Organization.
  - Get suggestions from graduate students with Berkeley Connect in ESPM.
  - Meet current students and alumni at the Raussner College Homecoming Picnic.
- Discover your passions
  - Enroll in a Freshman Seminar or student-run DeCal course like ESPM 16: Restoration of Strawberry Creek.
  - Visit the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarships.
  - Learn about research opportunities for Raussner College students.
- Engage locally and globally
  - Attend the Calapalooza student activities fair and get involved with a student organization.
  - Find service opportunities through the Public Service Center.
  - Explore study, internship, and research abroad options with Berkeley Study Abroad.

**SECOND YEAR**
- Explore your major
  - Complete lower division prerequisites and declare the major if currently undecided.
  - Take ESPM 90 during the spring semester and develop your Area of Interest.
  - Review college guidelines for study abroad.
  - Complete your major with a certificate, course thread, or summer minor.
- Connect and build community
  - Start attending undergraduate events in the college.
  - Get to know professors and graduate student instructors during office hours.
  - Join a student organization like Better Beaches at Berkeley that allows you to engage with conservation firsthand.
- Discover your passions
  - Enroll in a Sophomore Seminar. Big Ideas Course or Discovery Course.
  - Assist faculty and grad students in their research through URAP or SURF-SMART.
  - Apply for a research position during the school year through the SPUR program and get academic credit.
- Engage locally and globally
  - Contribute to a community organization with an American Communities Engaged Scholarship course.
  - Experience life at another UC or college on a visitor and exchange program.
  - Check out the Moorea program for fieldwork opportunities abroad.

**THIRD YEAR**
- Explore your major
  - Focus on upper division requirements and electives.
  - Take ESPM 100 during the fall semester.
  - Ask your college advisor about the Raussner College Honors Program.
  - If your schedule permits, enroll in unique courses like ESPM 150: Environmental Writing.
- Connect and build community
  - Help other students as a Raussner College Peer Advisor or Student Ambassador.
  - Consider becoming a Golden Bear Orientation Leader.
  - Seek mentorship from your professors, faculty, and graduate student instructors.
  - Connect with CRS alumni through the Raussner College Alumni Association.
- Discover your passions
  - Apply for a Raussner College Travel Grant to fund travel for academic conferences or research.
  - Find research and funding opportunities in the OURS database, SPUR, or URAP.
  - Check out research by your peers at a college poster session.
- Engage locally and globally
  - Work on energy and climate change solutions as part of Cal Energy Corps.
  - If interested in environmental policy, look into UCDC or Cal in the Capital.
  - Apply your skills in projects for Solar Spring Break or the Green Initiative Fund.
  - Apply to California Ecology and Conservation with the UC Natural Resource System.

**FOURTH YEAR**
- Explore your major
  - Do a degree check to ensure you are on track to graduate.
  - Complete any remaining area of interest courses and remaining college and campus requirements.
  - Take ESPM 194A during the spring semester.
- Connect and build community
  - Join a professional association such as the Society for Conservation Biology.
  - Connect with alumni groups and Cooperative Extension Specialists, and build your network as you prepare to graduate.
- Discover your passions
  - Teach your own DeCal course.
  - Present your research at a college poster session or submit it to the Berkeley Scientific Journal.
  - Keep pursuing your interests through a fellowship like the Shinnoby Fellowship or by taking a gap year.
- Engage locally and globally
  - Explore service opportunities after graduation, such as Peace Corps, Teach for America, or U.S. Department of State.
  - Attend a conference such as the Clinton Global Initiative: University Conference. Look into travel grants from the college and ASUC.
- Reflect and plan your future
  - Take advantage of career and pre-health advising for Raussner College students.
  - Explore career fields through the Career Connections Series or a winter externship.
  - Learn about graduate and professional school.
  - Think about doing an Internship and attend an Internship Fair.
- Conduct information interviews.
  - Discuss graduate school options with advisors and professors.
  - Update your resume and LinkedIn profile.
  - Attend career and graduate school fairs like the Environmental and Sustainability Career Fair.
  - Utilize job search tools from the Career Center.
  - Ask professors and graduate student instructors for recommendation letters.
  - Meet employers at Employer Info Sessions and On-Campus Recruiting.
  - Apply to jobs, graduate school, and other opportunities.

**WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?**
- CRS graduates pursue careers in environmental consulting, education, health, law, urban planning, and other areas of environmentalism in public agencies, nonprofit conservation organizations, and private companies.

**Jobs and Employers**
- Art Teacher, The Estria Foundation
- Biological Technician, US Fish and Wildlife
- Conservation Assoc., MD Geological Survey
- Environmental Inspector, City of San Jose
- Fellow, Americorps
- Field Assistant Intern, EPA
- Investment Banking Analyst, Mizuho Lab Asst., UC Office of the President Marketing Manager, Sempio Foods Research Assistant, UC Berkeley Resource Specialist, USDA

**Graduate Programs**
- Ecology, PhD
- Energy and Resources, PhD
- Landscape Architecture, Masters
- Philosophy & Religious Studies, Masters
- Zoology, PhD

**Examples gathered from the First Destination Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.**

**Updated Last: 04/14/22**