INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

Environmental Sciences (ES) is a broad, interdisciplinary major that examines the impact of human activities on natural systems. Students learn how to apply tools and techniques from a variety of disciplines such as biology, ecology, chemistry, toxicology, geology, hydrology, meteorology, geography, engineering, statistics, behavioral science, policy analysis, economics, and law.

All ES majors complete a senior thesis in which they investigate an environmental issue, design and execute independent research, and present their results in oral and written form.

THE ES CURRICULUM

ES has three concentrations: Biological Science, Social Science or Physical Science. For all concentrations, lower division coursework emphasizes basic science in a rigorous curriculum drawn from biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics, economics and environmental science.

For upper division courses, students take electives in their area of interest and courses in research methodology and environmental modeling to prepare for the senior research seminar. This yearlong course is the capstone of the major where students design and conduct their own research with guidance from faculty.

WHAT MAKES ES SUCH A GREAT MAJOR IS ITS INTERDISCIPLINARY NATURE AND THE STRUCTURED EXECUTION OF A SENIOR THESIS OF YOUR CHOOSING.

– Aileen Lavelle, ES Student & Peer Advisor

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

- Apply to the Sponsored Project for Undergraduate Research (SPUR) program to pursue joint research with a faculty member.
- Get 1:1 mentoring from graduate students with Berkeley Connect in ESPM.
- Conduct field research in the Sierra Nevada at Forestry Field Camp or in French Polynesia through the Moorea Program.
- Join a student group such as the Environmental Sciences Student Association.
**ENVIROMENTAL SCIENCES**

Bachelor of Science

### FIRST YEAR
- **Explore your major**
  - Familiarize yourself with ES major requirements.
  - Meet with the ES major advisor to sketch out a four-year plan.
  - Talk to a peer advisor about life at Rausser College.
- **Connect and build community**
  - Take advantage of the Rausser Student Resource Center.
  - Get involved with Berkeley Connect in ESPM.
  - Join a student group like the Environmental Sciences Student Association.
- **Discover your passions**
  - Discover new interests in a Freshman Seminar or DeCal course like ESPM 98.
  - Attend the Undergraduate Research and Scholarships Fair in October.
  - Learn about research opportunities for Rausser students.
  - Apply for a research position through SPUR.
- **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.
  - Engage with campus sustainability issues via the Student Environmental Resource Center.
- **Reflect and plan your future**
  - Visit the Career Center and Career Counseling Library.
  - Check out the Career Center Yearly Planner.
  - Sign up for Handshake and CareerMail.
  - Check out the Environmental Sciences Career Snapshot.

### SECOND YEAR
- **First Year**
  - Complete lower division prerequisites and declare the major if currently undeclared.
  - Consider a minor, certificate, or course thread.
  - Meet with the ES major advisor if you plan to study abroad.
- **Connect and build community**
  - Take advantage of the Rausser Student Resource Center.
  - Get involved with Berkeley Connect in ESPM.
  - Join a student group like the Environmental Sciences Student Association.
- **Discover your passions**
  - Enroll in a Sophomore Seminar, Big Ideas Course or Discovery Course.
  - Assist faculty in their research through URAP.
  - Consider a course thread in Humanities & Environment or Sciences and Society.
- **Engage locally and globally**
  - Work with a community organization in an American Cultures Engaged Scholarship course.
  - Experience life at another UC or college on a visitor and exchange program.
  - Check out the Moors program for fieldwork opportunities abroad.
  - Apply your skills in projects for Solar Spring Break or the Green Initiative Fund.
- **Reflect and plan your future**
  - Take advantage of career and pre-health advising for Rausser students.
  - Explore career fields through the Career Connections Series or a winter internship.
  - Learn about graduate and professional school.
  - Think about doing an internship and attend an internship fair.

### THIRD YEAR
- **Complete the statistics requirement no later than the fall semester.**
- **Start brainstorming research topics for your senior thesis and reach out to potential faculty mentors.**
- **Take ESPM 100E during the spring semester, which culminates in a proposal for your senior thesis research topic.**
- **Take ESPM 175 and find a faculty mentor for your senior thesis.**
- **Do a degree check to ensure you are on track to graduate.**
- **Complete any “bucket list” courses and remaining major, college, and campus requirements.**
- **Present your research at the ES Symposium to your peers, friends, and family.**

### FOURTH YEAR
- **Take your own DeCal course.**
- **Participate in the college Honors Program.**
- **Present your research at a poster session or submit to the Berkeley Scientific Journal.**
- **Keep pursuing your interests through a fellowship or by taking a gap year.**
- **Teach your own DeCal course.**
- **Attend a conference such as the Clinton Global Initiative: University Conference.**
- **Look into travel grants from the college and ASUC.**
- **Help farm and forest communities in California through GradsByCorps.**

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### WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?
ES graduates are well-prepared for careers in fields such as environmental consulting, education, health, or law, as well as community, urban, or regional planning and other related areas of environmentalism. Graduates are well-qualified for a variety of graduate programs, including environmental policy and management, law school, medical school, and environmental engineering.

### Jobs and Employers
- **Analyst Consultant, Accenture Biological Tech., Dept. of Agriculture Biologist Intern, UCSF Business Associate, Next Jump Consultant, NASA Data Analyst, Lucid Software Environmental Compliance Intern, Recology Environmental Scientist, AmeriCorps Forestry Tech., Collins Company GIS Data Specialist, City of San Mateo Naturalist, Aquarium of the Bay Software Ops. Specialist, Nuro**

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### Graduate Programs
- **Civil Engineering, PhD**
- **Ecology, PhD**
- **Environmental Science, Masters**
- **Forestry, PhD**
- **Law, JD**
- **Molecular Biology, PhD**
- **Public Health, Masters**
- **Public Policy Analysis, Masters**

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

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