Earth and Environmental Studies, BA

Life and the future of human civilization depend on people who think broadly from a science-driven perspective about how we interact with our planet. Pursue earth and environmental studies to link your interest in science and the environment with complementary fields like sustainability, advocacy and public policy.

Program Description

The BA program in earth and environmental studies provides a foundational understanding of the evolution of the earth system with an emphasis on the planetary context for sustainable human societies.

The degree program includes broad training in the physical sciences, especially process-oriented geosciences that focus on Earth's life-sustaining surface environment. Advanced courses focus on topics including:

- climate change
- earth's water, energy and material resources
- impact of land-use change on human civilization
- physical, chemical and biological process interactions that define Earth's evolution

This is designed as a liberal arts program with an emphasis on basic scientific literacy, not as a preparatory degree program for graduate study in the natural sciences.

Students currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts in earth and environmental studies may not pursue a concurrent degree with the BS in earth and space exploration, the Bachelor of Science in earth and space exploration (astrophysics), the Bachelor of Science in earth and space exploration (astrobiology and biogeosciences), the Bachelor of Science in earth and space exploration (exploration systems design) or the Bachelor of Science in earth and space exploration (geological sciences) due to the high level of overlap in curriculum. Students should speak with their academic advisor for any further questions.
At a Glance

- **College/School:** The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- **Location:** Tempe campus
- **Additional Program Fee:** Yes
- **Second Language Requirement:** Yes
- **First Required Math Course:** MAT 170 - Precalculus
- **Math Intensity:** Moderate

Required Courses (Major Map)

2021 - 2022 Major Map
Major Map (Archives)

Admission Requirements

General University Admission Requirements:
All students are required to meet general university admission requirements.
[Freshman](#) | [Transfer](#) | [International](#) | [Readmission](#)

Change of Major Requirements

A current ASU student has no additional requirements for changing majors.

Students should refer to [https://changemajor.apps.asu.edu](https://changemajor.apps.asu.edu) for information about how to change a major to this program.

Transfer Options

ASU is committed to helping students thrive by offering tools that allow personalization of the transfer path to ASU. Students may use [MyPath2ASU™](#) to outline a list of recommended courses to take prior to transfer.

ASU has transfer partnerships in Arizona and across the country to create a simplified transfer experience for students. These pathway programs include exclusive benefits, tools and resources, and help students save time and money in their college journey. Students may learn more about these programs by visiting the admission site: [https://admission.asu.edu/transfer/pathway-programs](https://admission.asu.edu/transfer/pathway-programs).

Global Opportunities

Global Experience
Not only is the physical environment varied across the globe, so is the human treatment of it. Studying abroad allows students to gain a deeper understanding of the global environment, how culture affects the environment, and how to best communicate environmental research to a diverse audience. Programs are offered in a variety of countries around the world: https://goglobal.asu.edu/

**Career Opportunities**

With a breadth of knowledge and experience and the acquired skills to integrate various domains of knowledge, graduates are prepared for a variety of careers that position them to help find solutions to tomorrow's environmental and sustainability challenges. Recent environmental awareness in business and government has also resulted in new employment opportunities (e.g., environmental coordinators, directors and managers).

Sample careers include:

- environmental reporting
- education
- management
- public planning
- environmental administrative staff

Sample career settings include:

- governmental agencies
- museums
- nongovernmental organizations
- nonprofit organizations
- publishing
- regulatory agencies
- utilities

Graduates are also well prepared for admission to strong professional schools in fields outside the natural sciences.

Career examples include but are not limited to those shown in the following list. Advanced degrees or certifications may be required for academic or clinical positions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career</th>
<th>*Growth</th>
<th>*Median Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Climate Change Analyst ⬤ ⬤</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>$73,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary Teacher ⬤</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>$60,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Analyst ⬤</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>$64,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupation</td>
<td>Growth Rate</td>
<td>Salary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Protection Specialist</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>$73,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Restoration Planner</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>$73,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Sciences Professor</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>$84,740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Chief</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>$78,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Ranger</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
<td>$42,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Teacher</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>$62,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle School Teacher</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>$60,810</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Data obtained from the Occupational Information Network (O*NET) under sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration (USDOL/ETA).

🌞 Bright Outlook  🌿 Green Occupation

**Contact Information**

School of Earth and Space Exploration | ISTB4 795
sse-advising@asu.edu | 480-965-5081