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 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. However, successful earth and environmental studies graduates are well prepared for green energy career opportunities such as:

- education
- environmental reporting
- natural resource management
- public planning
- sustainability

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 BS in earth and space exploration (astrophysics), the BS in earth and space exploration (astrobiology and biogeosciences), the BS in earth and space exploration (exploration systems design), or the BS 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)

[2020 - 2021 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://changingmajors.asu.edu/request](https://changingmajors.asu.edu/request) 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 the Transfer Map search 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.

Global Opportunities

Global Experience

With over 250 programs in more than 65 countries (ranging from one week to one year), study abroad is possible for all ASU students wishing to gain global skills and knowledge in preparation for a 21st-century career. Students earn ASU credit for completed courses, while staying on track for graduation, and may apply financial aid and scholarships toward program costs. https://mystudyabroad.asu.edu/

Career Opportunities

With a breadth of knowledge and experience and the acquired skills to integrate various domains of knowledge, graduates of the earth and environmental studies program are prepared for a variety of careers that help find solutions to tomorrow's environmental and sustainability challenges. Chief among these are careers in the following settings:

- consultancy
- education
- governmental agencies
- industry
- museums
- nongovernmental organizations
- nonprofit organizations
- publishing
- regulatory agencies
- utilities
Recent environmental awareness in business and government has also resulted in new employment opportunities (e.g., environmental coordinators, directors and managers). 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>11.1%</td>
<td>$69,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary Teacher</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>$57,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Protection Specialist</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>$69,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Restoration Planner</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>$69,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Sciences Professor</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>$76,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Management Officer</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>$76,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Ranger</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
<td>$37,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Teacher</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>$59,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle School Teacher</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>$57,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil Conservationist</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>$61,480</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

Schedule an advisor appointment
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