

Environmental Studies

Campus: Itasca

Associate of Science | 60 credits
First Year

FALL SEMESTER 2025 – 14 (or 13) credits	Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
ENGL 1231 – College Composition 1 (MnTC Goal 1)	(CLR, CLW)	4	
NSCI 1220 – Environmental Science (MnTC Goals 3 & 10)	(CLR)	3	
MnTC Goal 6 – Creative Process/Interpretive Performance	(see course outline)	3	(var.)
REQUIRED GEOGRAPHY COURSE – See list and alternate year schedule below; watch semester offered.		4 (or 3)	(3/2)
SPRING SEMESTER 2026 – 16 (or 13) credits	Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
ENGL 1232 – College Composition 2 (MnTC Goal 1)	(ENGL 1231)	3	
OR ENGL 1240 – Technical Report Writing (MnTC Goal 1)	(ENGL 1231)		
GEOG 1204 – Principles of GIS		3	(1/2)
MATH 1200 - Liberal Arts Math or higher MnTC Goal 4 course	(MATH 0200)	3	
NSCI 1215 – Earth Science (MnTC Goals 3 & 10)	(CLR)	4	(3/2)
REQUIRED GEOGRAPHY COURSE – See list and alternate year schedule below; watch semester offered.		3	(3/2)

Second Year

FALL SEMESTER 2026 – 15 (or 16) credits	Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
COMM 1210 – Introduction to Communication (MnTC Goal 1)		3	
OR COMM 1215 – Public Speaking (MnTC Goal 1)			
OR COMM 1220 – Interpersonal Communication (MnTC Goal 1)			
PSYC 1325 – Psychology of Sustainability (MnTC Goals 5 & 10); <i>preferred</i>	(CLR)	3	
OR Any MnTC Goal 5 – History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences course	(see course outline)		
MnTC Goals 5 & 7 – See MnTC course list for options.	(see course outline)	3	
GEOSPATIAL OR SCIENCE ELECTIVE – Choose one course from lists below and on reverse side.		3	
REQUIRED GEOGRAPHY COURSE – See list and alternate year schedule below; watch semester offered.		3 (or 4)	(3/2)
SPRING SEMESTER 2027 – 15 (or 18) credits	Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
ENGL 2215 – American Indian Literature (MnTC Goals 6-T/A & 7)	(CLR, CLW)	3	
OR ENGL 2256 – Environmental Literature (MnTC Goals 6-T/A & 10); <i>preferred</i>	(CLR, CLW)		
OR Any MnTC Goal 6 – Humanities and Fine Arts course	(see course outline)		
GEOG 2206 – Cartography	(GEOG 1204)	3	(1/2)
PHIL 1230 – Ethics (MnTC Goals 6-T/A & 9)	(CLR, CLW)	3	
REQUIRED GEOGRAPHY COURSE (if needed to total three) – See list and schedule below.		0 (or 3)	(3/2)
GEOSPATIAL OR SCIENCE ELECTIVE – Choose a second course from lists below and on reverse side.		3	
GEOSPATIAL ELECTIVE – Choose a third course, from Geospatial list on reverse side.		3	

REQUIRED GEOGRAPHY COURSES (all three courses are required)	Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
GEOG 1220 – World Regional Geography (MnTC Goals 5 & 8); <i>offered spring, odd years</i>	(CLR)	3	
GEOG 1215 – Physical Geography (MnTC Goals 3 & 9); <i>offered fall, odd years</i>	(CLR)	3	
GEOG 1315 – Weather and Climate (MnTC Goals 3 & 10); <i>offered fall</i>		4	(3/2)

SCIENCE ELECTIVES	Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
BIOL 1561 – General Biology of Cells (MnTC Goal 3)	(CLR)	4	(3/2)
BIOL 1562 – General Biology of Organisms (MnTC Goal 3 & 10)	(BIOL 1561)	4	(3/2)
CHEM 1521 – General Chemistry 1 (MnTC Goal 3)	(MATH 1220)	4	(3/2)
CHEM 1522 – General Chemistry 2 (MnTC Goal 3)	(CHEM 1521)	4	(3/2)
GEOG 1320 – Oceanography (MnTC Goals 3 & 10) (<i>fall</i>)	(CLR)	3	
GEOG 1325 – Natural Disasters (MnTC Goals 3 & 9) (<i>fall, even years</i>)	(CLR)	3	
NSCI 1231 – Astronomy (MnTC Goals 3 & 10) (<i>spring</i>)	(MATH 0200)	4	(3/2)
PHYS 2261 – General Physics 1 (MnTC Goal 3)	(MATH 1311, concurrent okay)	4	(3/2)
PHYS 2262 – General Physics 2 (MnTC Goal 3)	(PHYS 2261)	4	(3/2)

GEOSPATIAL ELECTIVES	Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
GEOG 1201 – Map Use and Analysis (<i>fall</i>)		3	(1/2)
GEOG 2104 – Modeling Techniques in GIS (<i>spring</i>)		3	(1/2)
GEOG 2107 – Remote Sensing (<i>spring, in person, or summer, online</i>)	(GEOG 1204)	3	(1/2)

Program Description

The Environmental Studies program is designed to provide individuals with a foundation in both natural and social sciences in preparation for advanced coursework in a variety of environmental majors at the university level. Students have opportunities to analyze a range of issues within earth, environmental, biological, chemical, and physical sciences, and the inherent interrelationships placed on analyzing the complexity of contemporary environmental issues and the development of sustainable policy solutions to address the competing interests between human institutions and environmental capacity at local, regional, and global scales.

Occupational Titles

Although primarily a transfer degree, there are opportunities available. Possible position titles include Environmental Analyst, Environmental Manager, Biological GIS Technician, Ecological Data Specialist, Disaster Data Analyst, Marine Scientist, Wetlands Scientist, Land Use Planner, Environmental Protection Specialist, Environmental Health Specialist, GIS Technician, GIS Analyst, GIS Specialist, Cartographic Technician, Remote Sensing Technician, and Cartographer.

Program Learning Outcomes

Students of this program will:

1. Characterize the legal and political context for environmental policy creation and the legislative processes embedded within its development.
2. Explain the physical development of environmental and ecological landscapes within a variety of contexts and scales of analysis.
3. Create cartographic products which support environmental analyses used for policy planning and environmental decision-making.
4. Apply techniques of both natural and social sciences to gather data and evaluate diverse environmental issues.
5. Conduct research to assess environmental policies and the impacts such policies have on the environment and human institutions.
6. Apply knowledge of history, culture, science and technology to evaluate the progression and pace of environmental change and the implications of such changes to society.

Transfer and Articulation Agreements

Transfer to four-year programs at both Bemidji State University and Minnesota State University, Mankato, is facilitated by transfer agreements.

Program Faculty Contact

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