**Environmental Studies & Science Majors**

**2024-25 Useful Tips for interested Students**

The field of environmental studies and environmental sciences (ES) takes a transdisciplinary approach to understand the relationship between humans and the environment. While the B.A. in **Environmental Studies** and the B.S. in **Environmental Science** have a common core, the **B.A.** curriculum allows students to focus on cultural and societal aspects of environmental issues and the **B.S.** encourages students to approach environmental problems using skills and techniques from the natural sciences.

**FALL TERM: 2024**: We encourage first year students to take

**ES 105:** Introduction to Earth Studies (MW 1:10-2:40) Carmichael

or

**ES 207/207L**- Ecology (6 credits).

***Note: You must have the same instructor for ECOLOGY Lecture and Lab***

**SPRING TERM: 2025**

First year students should take **ES 104:** Introduction to Environmental Studies (4 credits)

If you got a 4 or a 5 on the AP Environmental Science exam you will receive **4 academic credits** to apply towards your graduation credits. If you want to substitute your score for one of the introductory courses (ES 104 or ES 105), you must provide your syllabus and consult ES faculty – Kaila Thorne or Renee Godard.

**The Common Core of the ES PROGRAM**

* ES 104: Introduction to Environmental Studies (4)
* ES 105: Introduction to Earth Science (4)
* ES 207: Ecology and ES 207L (4, 2)
* ES 212: Introduction to GIS (2)
* ES 261: Political Ecology (4)
* ES 262: Research Design and Methods for Environmental Issues (4)
* ES 470: Senior Seminar in Environmental Studies (2)
* *Experiential Component*

**Diverging Paths: BA AND BS**

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| --- | --- |
| **BA Degree**  TOTAL: 12 courses | **BS Degree**  TOTAL: 12-13 courses (plus labs) |
| * **Core Curriculum (26 credits)** * Experiential Component * **STAT 140** or **STAT 251** * **One** 200-300 level Environmental Science course (see catalogue for list of options). * **Three** 200-300 level Environmental Studies courses (see catalogue for options) | * **Current Core (26 credits)** * Experiential Component * **STAT 251** or **PSY 208** **&** **STAT 324** * **Intro Chemistry** CHEM 101/101L **&** 102/102L or CHEM 105/105L (*determined by placement test)* * **One** Field-based 200-300 level ES course (see catalogue for list of options). * **Three** additional ES Science Courses (see catalogue for list of options). |

**ES minor**

Our ES minors are required to take four core courses (ES 104, ES 105, ES 207/207L and ES 261) as well as any two additional courses from the list of ES elective courses (must take lab if offered).

**Frequently Asked Questions**

***Q:*** *What kind of* ***internships*** *have ES majors pursued?*

**Pursue internship opportunities early and frequently during your academic career**! - Here are a sampling of internships our students have obtained – *Chesapeake Bay Foundation, VA; Canaveral National Seashore*, FL; *Mountain Castle Soil and Water Division*, Roanoke VA; *Blue Ridge Land Conservancy*, Roanoke, VA; *Roanoke Clean Valley Council*, Roanoke, VA; *The Nature Conservancy*, Charlottesville, VA; *VMI Laboratories*, Lexington, VA; *Sierra Club - Cumberland Chapter*, KY; *Kentucky Division of Compliance Assistance*, KY*; George Washington National Forest Service*, Roanoke, VA ; *Southern Waterview Development*, FL; *National Zoo*, DC.

***Q:*** *Can I* ***go abroad*** *and still major in ES?*

* + - * Affiliate program with [**the School for Field Studies (SFS):**](https://fieldstudies.org/) research-based experience in ecology, environmental issues, and sustainable development in environmentally sensitive areas around the world – **4 courses can transfer directly to ES major**. Locations include: Costa Rica, Kenya Tanzania, Turks and Caicos, Panama, Australia, Chile, Bhutan, Peru, and Cambodia.
* Affiliate program with **Limerick University**: traditional university setting provides 1-2 ES related courses
* ECUADOR J Term: research-based J-term travel course to Ecuador.

***Q:*** *How can I satisfy the Experiential Requirement for the ES major?*

Most of our students will complete an internship (January or Summer); but you can also get a certificate in Outdoor Leadership, participate in Ecuador J-term, Wilderness & Wildlife, or SFS abroad program, complete a research/service project (ES 391), or do a senior thesis (ES 480)