

# SAMPLE Four-Year Plan

## Environmental Science Geosciences Emphasis

### FALL 2023 Requirements

The curriculum in the environmental science major is somewhat flexible in that there are some required sequences and it allows students to move through other coursework in many ways. This four-year plan illustrates one possible path a new freshman could take to complete a degree in four years. This is not an official document and is not the only way that an environmental science degree can be completed in four years. Current students should refer to their individual Academic Advising Report for specific graduation requirements. Courses in bold indicate major-based coursework that is completed in the first year.

#### First Year

| Fall Semester   | Units     | Spring Semester   | Units     |
|---|-----------|---|-----------|
| English 101 Intro to College Writing and Reading        | 3         | English 102 Intro to College Writing, Reading, Research | 3         |
| <b>Math 142 College Algebra</b>                         | 4         | <b>ENVSCI 200 Intro to Environmental Science</b>        | 3         |
| <b>ENVSCI 100 Exploration of the Env. Science Major</b> | 1         | <b>Geography 210 Physical Geography</b>                 | 4         |
| <b>Gened CORE 140 Global Perspectives</b>               | 3         | Gened CORE 130 Individual and Society                   | 3         |
| General Education elective                              | 3         | PEGNRL 192 Personal Health and Fitness for Life         | 1         |
| Intrauniversity 104 New Student Seminar                 | 1         |   |           |
| <b>Total Credits</b>                                    | <b>15</b> | <b>Total Credits</b>                                    | <b>14</b> |

**Notes:** The math and English courses you will take during your first year will depend on placement exam scores. This four-year plan reflects the math and English courses most common for students in this major. All students are encouraged to submit test scores prior to attending Warhawks SOAR (Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration).

**Opportunities:** Joining a university-sponsored club and actively participating is strongly encouraged. Involvement in a club or activity will help you develop interpersonal skills, give you the opportunity to learn and practice leadership skills, and adds to your resume. Some clubs that may be of particular interest to students with an environmental science major include Gardening Club and Students Allied for a Green Earth (SAGE).

#### Second Year

| Fall Semester  | Units     | Spring Semester                                | Units        |
|--|-----------|--|--------------|
| Geography 270 GIS I or History 190 N. Am. Env. History | 3         | Geology 301 Environmental Geology              | 3            |
| Chemistry 102 General Chemistry I                      | 5         | Natural Science or SEM approved course         | 3-4          |
| Gened CORE 110 World of the Arts                       | 3         | Geography 120 Global Climate Systems           | 4            |
| U.S. Racial/Ethnic Diversity Course                    | 3         | BS Requirement Math/Stats/CompSci course       | 3            |
|  |           | Communication 110 Intro to Human Communication | 3            |
| <b>Total Credits</b>                                   | <b>14</b> | <b>Total Credits</b>                           | <b>16-17</b> |

**Notes:** The list of approved Geosciences courses is available in the online course catalog <https://www.uww.edu/registrar/course-catalogs> and includes courses from many subject areas. Environmental Science majors choose from four unique requirement options: Geographic Information Systems, Analytical Chemistry, Ecological Field and Lab Methods, and Environmental Writing and Communication. Some courses in the unique requirements have prerequisites that are not listed on this plan and some also count as general education electives. Work with your advisor to select the option that best meets your career goals.

**Opportunities:** Undergraduate research is highly recommended for students who have an interest in attending graduate school in the future. Completing a directed research project with a faculty mentor has many benefits: it develops a student's critical thinking and writing abilities, signals to graduate school programs that a student is prepared for independent research of their own, and it can provide a student with financial support since many undergraduate research opportunities are paid.



University of Wisconsin  
Whitewater

College of Letters  
and Sciences

# Geography, Geology & Environmental Science Department Information

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[www.edu/cls/departments/geography-geology-env-sci](http://www.edu/cls/departments/geography-geology-env-sci)

## Third Year

| Fall Semester   | Units        |
|---|--------------|
| ENVSCI 300 Field and Research Methods in Env. Science | 3            |
| Geosciences approved course                           | 3            |
| Natural Science or SEM approved course                | 3-5          |
| Unique Requirement course                             | 3            |
| BS Requirement Math/Stats/CompSci course              | 3            |
| <b>Total Credits</b>                                  | <b>15-17</b> |

| Spring Semester                           | Units        |
|---|--------------|
| Geosciences approved course               | 3            |
| Geosciences approved course 300/400 level | 3            |
| Natural Science or SEM approved course    | 3-5          |
| Unique Requirement course                 | 3            |
| Gened CORE 390 World of Ideas             | 3            |
| <b>Total Credits</b>                      | <b>15-17</b> |

**Notes:** Students in this emphasis complete at least 6 units of approved Natural Science and 6 units of approved Sustainability and Environmental Management (SEM) courses.

**Opportunities:** An internship is not required for the environmental science major but is one option to fulfill the Experiential Learning requirement and can be a great opportunity for practical experience. An internship is an opportunity that provides students with hands-on experience in a potential career field, supervision and coaching from prospective employers, and the ability to learn professional norms and behaviors. In addition, completing an internship allows students to differentiate themselves in a competitive job market. Students should begin planning for an internship by the beginning of the junior year and can complete the internship in the junior or senior year.

## Fourth Year

| Fall Semester                             | Units        |
|---|--------------|
| Geosciences approved course 300/400 level | 3            |
| Geosciences approved course 300/400 level | 3            |
| Natural Science or SEM approved course    | 3-5          |
| Experiential Learning course              | 1-3          |
| PWP 371 Writing in the Sciences           | 3            |
| <b>Total Credits</b>                      | <b>13-17</b> |

| Spring Semester                           | Units        |
|---|--------------|
| ENVSCI 400 Environmental Science Capstone | 3            |
| Unique Requirement course                 | 3            |
| Electives to total 120 (if needed)        | 6-9          |
| <b>Total Credits</b>                      | <b>12-15</b> |

**Notes:** All students must earn 120 credits to earn a bachelor's degree and all requirements in this program can be completed in fewer than 120 credits. Most students have the opportunity to choose additional courses in the fourth year to expand skills, explore interests, or try something new.

**Opportunities:** LSINDP 399: Career Information in Letters and Sciences is a 1-credit course that focuses on career and graduate school opportunities; identifying skills, strengths, and work values; creating effective job search materials; developing a networking strategy; and planning for a successful post-graduation transition.

**Planning for Graduation:** Students are encouraged to apply for graduation one full semester prior to their intended graduation date. Information about commencement is on the Registrar's Office website (<http://www.uww.edu/registrar/graduation>) and the application for graduation is available to students in the WINS Student Information System.

*Curriculum effective date: Fall 2023*



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