2025-2026 UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG | COURSES OF STUDY

Environmental Studies

Division of Science and Mathematics

- B.A. Major: 48-49 hours
- **■** Minor: 26-29 hours
- Major/minor GPA required for graduation: 2.25

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

- Capstone: Biology Research Methods (BIO 455) (W)
- Research: Biology Research Methods (BIO 455) (W)

Description of Major: Environmental studies is a field that integrates the natural sciences with other disciplines. Through critical thinking and the use of the scientific method, environmental studies evaluates the complex relationships between humans and the environment.

Mission: The mission of the environmental science program at McKendree University is to educate students about issues related to environmental stewardship, conservation, and the use of natural resources. Through the development of critical thinking skills and the application of varying teaching approaches, students will gain the knowledge and skills necessary to affect positive change in their communities as well as the world at large. This includes the ability to participate actively in policy decisions related to environmental issues, to communicate scientific knowledge to the public, and to develop expertise about the ecosystems that we interact with daily.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Practice scientific inquiry using the scientific method.
- Effectively communicate to broad audiences, including individuals with scientific and nonscientific backgrounds.
- Integrate historical, ethical, sociological, and scientific knowledge as it applies to current environmental issues and propose solutions.
- Develop professional skills associated with their career goals.

Preparation: The environmental studies program prepares students to enter careers or pursue graduate work in a variety of fields, including those in environmental science, business, policy, law, and public health.

Students must earn a C- or better in all courses applied to the major or minor. No more than four credit hours of internship may be applied towards the major.

BACHELOR OF ARTS

MAJOR R	EQUIREMENTS 48-49	9 crs.
CORE REQUIREMENTS		2 crs.
BIO 108	BIOLOGY CORNERSTONE	1
BIO 111	PRINCIPLES OF ORGANISMAL	
	AND POPULATION BIOLOGY	5
BIO 202	SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION (W)	3
BIO 250	INTRODUCTION TO	
	ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE	3
BIO 300	BIOSTATISTICS	3
BIO 455	BIOLOGY RESEARCH METHODS (W)	2
CHE 100	CHEMISTRY IN THE MODERN WORL	D 3
ES 110	EARTH AND ASTRONOMICAL SCIEN	CE 3
HIS	UNITED STATES	
275/375	ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY	3
PHI 208	ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS	3
SOC 150	INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY	3

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CHOOSE	ONE OF THE FOLLOWING 3	-4 crs.
BIO 303	ECOLOGY	4
BIO 320	CONSERVATION BIOLOGY	3
BIO 325	FIELD BOTANY	4
BIO 335	FISH BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATIO	N 4
BIO 350	ANIMAL BEHAVIOR	3
CHOOSE	ONE OF THE FOLLOWING	3 crs.
SOC 315	COMMUNITY AND URBAN LIVE	3
SOC 357	INEQUALITY AND	
	ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY	3
ELECTIVE	S	l0 crs.
Students n	nust take at least 10 credit hours from t	he
	list of courses without double-dipping fr	
the course	,, 0,	
BIO 303	ECOLOGY	4
BIO 320	CONSERVATION BIOLOGY	3
BIO 325	FIELD BOTANY	4
BIO 335	FISH BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATIO	N 4
BIO 350	ANIMAL BEHAVIOR	3
ECO 333	ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS	3
ENG 255	LITERATURE AND	
	THE ENVIRONMENT	3
ENS 470	INTERNSHIP	3-4
PSI 309	PUBLIC POLICY	3
REL 355	RELIGION AND CONCERN FOR	
	THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT (W)	3
SOC 315	COMMUNITY AND URBAN LIFE	3
SOC 357	INEQUALITY AND	
	ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY	3

ENVIRON	IMENTAL STUDIES	
MINOR R	EQUIREMENTS 2	7-30 crs.
CORE REC	QUIREMENTS	21 crs.
BIO 108	BIOLOGY CORNERSTONE	1
BIO 111	PRINCIPLES OF ORGANISMAL	
	AND POPULATION BIOLOGY	5
BIO 202	SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION (V	V) 3
BIO 250	INTRODUCTION TO	
	ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE	3
ES 110	EARTH AND	
	ASTRONOMICAL SCIENCE	3
PHI 208	ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS	3
SOC 150	INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY	3
TWO COL	JRSES FROM THE FOLLOWING	6-9 crs.
BIO 303	ECOLOGY	4
BIO 320	CONSERVATION BIOLOGY	3
BIO 325	FIELD BOTANY	4
BIO 335	FISH BIOLOGY AND CONSERVAT	ION 4
BIO 350	ANIMAL BEHAVIOR	3
BIO 455	BIOLOGY RESEARCH METHODS (W) 2
ENS 470	INTERNSHIP	3-4
ENS 480	INDEPENDENT STUDY	1-4
ECO 333	ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS	3
ENG 255	LITERATURE AND THE ENVIRON	MENT 3
PSI 309	PUBLIC POLICY	3
REL 355	RELIGION AND CONCERN FOR	
	THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT (V	N) 3
SOC 315	COMMUNITY AND URBAN LIFE	3
SOC 357	INEQUALITY AND	
	ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY	3
HIS	UNITED STATES	
275/375	ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY	3



2025-2026 UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG | COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Environmental Studies (ENS)

ENS 280-289 SPECIAL TOPICS IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES	3
ENS 380-389 SPECIAL TOPICS IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES	3
ENS 470 INTERNSHIP	3-8
ENS 480 INDEPENDENT STUDY	1-4

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