ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Some of our greatest challenges and opportunities are associated with whether our growing human population can meet its needs without degrading environmental systems and making it impossible for future generations to meet their needs. Global environmental issues like climate change are making the future very different from the past and any student hoping to succeed in this new world must understand the science, economics, and politics of the environment.

Environmental Studies is an interdisciplinary program with courses in Biology, Earth Science, History, Economics, and Global Studies addressing the past, current, and future issues of population growth, food, water, energy, pollution, and underlying geology and associated policies. A student can receive an A.A., A.S.T. degree, a Certificate of Completion in Field Methods, or a Skills Completion Award in Field Methods.

Every discipline and segment of the economy is affected by the environment. Coursework in this area is, therefore, critical to success regardless of your major. Courses focus on the science, economics, politics, and history of how humans interact with Earth's biological and geological systems.

Courses include face to face and online lectures, on campus and field-based labs, and project-based courses. Most courses in the program satisfy IGETC requirements and are transferable.

Programs of Study

Associate Degree for Transfer

- Environmental Science, Associate in Science for Transfer (AS-T) (https://catalog.sbcc.edu/academic-departments/environmental-studies/environmental-science-as-t/)

Associate Degree

- Environmental Studies, Associate of Arts (AA) (https://catalog.sbcc.edu/academic-departments/environmental-studies/environmental-studies-aa/)

Credit Courses

Environmental Studies (ENVS)

ENVS 110 Humans And The Biological Environment (3 Units)
Hours: 54 (54 lecture)
Growth and variations in populations of organisms and their interactions with the physical environment. Characteristics of living natural resources and changes caused by expanding human populations and technological developments. Satisfies SBCC General Education requirement in Natural Sciences when combined with ENVS 111. (Required for the Environmental Studies major.)
SBCC General Education: SBCCGE Area A Lecture
Transfer Information: Cal-GETC Area 5B, CSUGE Area B2, IGETC Area 5B, SBCCGE Area 5, CSU Transferable, UC Transferable
C-ID: ENVS 100.

ENVS 111 Environmental Field Studies (1 Unit)
Corequisites: ENVS 110.
Hours: 54 (54 lab)
Field studies designed to demonstrate general ecological/environmental principles through exposure to and analysis of many different communities and sites of environmental concern.
SBCC General Education: SBCCGE Area A Lab
Transfer Information: Cal-GETC Area 5C, CSUGE Area B3, IGETC Area 5C, CSU Transferable, UC Transferable
UC Transfer Limit: No credit for ENVST 111 unless taken after or concurrently with 110.

ENVS 112 American Environmental History (3 Units)
Same as: HIST 112
Hours: 54 (54 lecture)
Examines American attitudes and actions toward the environment by Indians and European immigrants, from the colonial period to the present. Analyzes current environmental problems in the context of American development.
SBCC General Education: SBCCGE Area B, SBCCGE Area C
Transfer Information: Cal-GETC Area 3B, Cal-GETC Area 4, CSUGE Area C2, CSUGE Area D6, IGETC Area 3B, IGETC Area 4F, SBCCGE Area 3, SBCCGE Area 4, CSU Transferable, UC Transferable

ENVS 115 Environmental Geology (3 Units)
Same as: ERTH 115
Hours: 54 (54 lecture)
Introduction to the problems of volcanism, earthquakes, fire, floods, landslides and other geologic hazards; air and water pollution, hazardous materials and land use planning. Applications to the Santa Barbara area emphasized. Required of all Environmental Studies majors.
SBCC General Education: SBCCGE Area A Lecture
Transfer Information: Cal-GETC Area 5A, CSUGE Area B1, IGETC Area 5A, SBCCGE Area 5, CSU Transferable, UC Transferable
C-ID: GEOL 130.

ENVS 115L Environmental Geology Laboratory (1 Unit)
Same as: ERTH 115L
Corequisites: ENVS 115 or ERTH 115.
Hours: 54 (54 lab)
Laboratory approach to topics covered in ENVST 115, with emphasis on rock and mineral identification, hazard assessment, geologic resource management, and land use planning. In-lab field trips.
SBCC General Education: SBCCGE Area A Lab
Transfer Information: Cal-GETC Area 5C, CSUGE Area B3, IGETC Area 5C, CSU Transferable, UC Transferable
C-ID: GEOL 130L.

ENVS 116 Energy and Natural Resources (3 Units)
Same as: ERTH 116
Hours: 54 (54 lecture)
Study of formation, exploration, development and judicious use of natural resources in relation to present and future energy requirements, including electricity, conservation, fossil fuels, solar, geothermal, nuclear and hydrogen. Required of Environmental Studies majors.
Transfer Information: Cal-GETC Area 5A, CSUGE Area B1, IGETC Area 5A, SBCCGE Area 5, CSU Transferable, UC Transferable

ENVS 200 Projects In Sustainability (2 Units)
Hours: 36 (36 lecture)
Students work in groups to develop projects that make the college and local community more sustainable. Lectures, discussions and workshops provide the student with current knowledge in environmental science, sustainable practices, and real-world skills needed to implement practical solutions to local environmental and social problems.
Transfer Information: CSU Transferable

ENVS 295 Internship in Environmental Studies (2-4 Units)
Hours: 210 (210 lab)
Student must have completed 12 units at SBCC, with a GPA of 2.5 and a minimum of 2 units in Environmental Studies. Structured internship program in which students gain experience with work on campus or in the community, related to Environmental Studies.
Transfer Information: CSU Transferable