Environmental Science Degree

Associate of Science

Environmental science focuses on issues that are of relevance to all citizens of the United States and all countries. With growth and development comes the need for people trained in environmental sciences that can deal with environmental issues. Sustainable development is a local and regional concern, especially as Nevada's growth continues to lead the nation. The associate of science degree in environmental science is specifically designed to transfer seamlessly into the environmental science curriculum at the University of Nevada, Reno. It will also prepare students for transfer into similar programs at other four-year institutions.

Degree Outcomes

Students completing the degree will:

- Perform both laboratory and field experiments using the scientific method, which requires observation, hypothesis testing, data collection, and the application of basic biological and chemical principles to explain results.
- Demonstrate effective oral and written communication, teamwork and collaboration in scientific, mathematical and other settings.
- Utilize primary and secondary sources in the scientific literature to obtain information pertaining to environmental science.
- Explain the impacts of different environmental pollutants and critically evaluate various pollution mitigation efforts in the context of regional and global policies, economics, and politics.
- Analyze the impact of human activities on biodiversity, and how patterns of biodiversity have shaped human activities, employing the ecological, evolutionary, and geological factors that control patterns of biodiversity and extinction.

General Education Requirements

Diversity (3 credits)

Recommended: Choosing NRES 211 will also satisfy 3 credits in the Core Requirements.

English 6 credits

Required: ENG 101 and 102 or ENG 113 and 114

Fine Arts 3 credits

Recommended: ART 100, 160, 260, 261; DAN 101; HUM 101, 102, 105, 106, 271; MUS 121, 122, 125, 225, 226; THTR 100, 105, 180, 210

Humanities 3 credits

Recommended: CH 201

Mathematics 6 credits

Recommended: MATH 181 or 176 is recommended for students majoring in environmental science at UNR.

Science 12 credits

Required: BIOL 190/190L; CHEM 121 and 122 or CHEM 201 and 202

Social Science 6 credits

Recommended: CH 202

Required: ECON 102

U.S. and Nevada Constitutions 3 credits

Recommended: CH 203

Total General Education Requirements 39 Credits

Core Requirements

BIOL 191/191L	Introduction to Organismal Biology/Lab	4
GEOG 210	Introduction to Geotechnology	3
GEOL 101	Physical Geology	4
NRES 100	Principles of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences	3
NRES 210	Environmental Pollution	3
NRES 211	Conservation, Humans and Biodiversity	3

Total Core Requirements 20 Credits

Elective Requirements

Choose one from the following:

BIOL 251	General Microbiology	4
CHEM 220	Introduction to Organic Chemistry	4
GEOG 121	Climate Change: The Science Basis	4
PHYS 151	General Physics I	3
	– or –	
PHYS 180	Physics for Scientists and Engineers I	4

Total Elective Requirements 3-4 Credits

Total Degree Requirements 62-63 Credits

Suggested Course Sequence

First Year	Course #	Title	Credits
		1st Semester	
Social Science	ECON 102	Principles of Microeconomics	3
Fine Arts	Elective	Choose from list	3
English	ENG 101	Composition I	3
Mathematics	MATH 126	Pre-Calculus I	3
Core	NRES 100	Principles of Natural Resources & Environmental Sciences	3
		Total	**15**
		2nd Semester	
Science	BIOL 190/190L	Introduction to Cell & Molecular Biology/ Laboratory	4
Science	CHEM 121	General Chemistry I	4
Social Science	Elective	Choose from list	3
English	ENG 102	Composition II	3
Mathematics	MATH 176	Elements of Calculus	3
		Total	**17**
Second Year	**Course #**	**Title**	**Credits**
		1st Semester	
Science	CHEM 122	General Chemistry II	4
Humanities	Elective	Choose from list	3
Core	GEOL 101	Physical Geology	4
Core	NRES 210	Environmental Pollution	3
		Total	**14**
		2nd Semester	
Elective		Choose from list	3-4
U.S. and Nevada Constitutions	Elective	Choose from list	3
Core	BIOL 191/191L	Introduction to Organismal Biology/Lab	4
Core	GEOG 210	Introduction to Geotechnology	3
Core/Diversity	NRES 211	Conservation, Humans and Biodiversity	3
		Total	**16-17**
		Degree Total	**62-63**