

Conservation & Resource Studies Major Snapshot

Department of Environmental Science, Policy, & Management

Overview

The Conservation and Resource Studies (CRS) major is a self-designed interdisciplinary program for students interested in environmental issues and areas of interaction among natural resources, population, energy, technology, societal institutions, and cultural values. Students draw on the course offerings of the entire campus and appropriate community resources in the development of individual programs of study.

The major's orientation is toward flexibility and an individualized educational approach to understanding the structure and dynamic functions of complex environmental systems within our society and biosphere. It encourages interaction among students, faculty, and community. The major's offerings are designed to help each student formulate an area of interest, but are not in any way meant to limit the range of options available. Sample topics include environmental justice and education; sustainable development of world populations; energy and environmental policy; conservation and culture; global environmental politics; and ecological restoration and policy.

Advising for the major is available in the college's Office of Instruction & Student Affairs in 260 Mulford Hall. Students may drop in or schedule an appointment during advising hours: Mon - Fri, 9am-12pm and 1-4pm. Visit [the CRS Major website](#) for more detailed information.

Research Opportunities

In addition to the UC Berkeley [Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program \(URAP\)](#), Rausser students can also apply for [the Sponsored Projects for Undergraduate Research \(SPUR\)](#).

Honors Program

Students with a GPA of 3.6 or higher may enroll in [the Rausser College of Natural Resources Honors Program \(H196\)](#) once they have reached upper division standing. To fulfill the program requirements, students design, conduct, and report on an individual research project working with a faculty sponsor.

Environmental & Other Career Options

Graduates are well-prepared for careers in fields such as environmental consulting, education, health, or law; community, urban, or regional planning; and other related areas of environmentalism in public agencies, non-profit conservation organizations, and private companies. Graduates are well-qualified for a variety of graduate programs, including law school.

Getting a Degree

To earn a Bachelor of Science from U.C. Berkeley in Conservation and Resource Studies, students must fulfill unit and GPA requirements, university and campus requirements, college requirements, and major requirements. Please [see the major advisor](#) for more details about the major requirements.

University & Campus Requirements

- ☐ [Entry Level Writing](#)
- ☐ [American History & Institutions](#)
- ☐ [American Cultures](#)

College and University Unit Requirements

- ☐ Two courses in [Reading & Composition \(8 units\): R1A and R1B](#)
- ☐ 120 Total Units
- ☐ 36 Upper Division Units, 15 of which must be completed in Rausser College (ENVECON, ENERES, ESPM, NUSCTX, PLANTBI)

GPA Requirements

Students must maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA, a 2.0 GPA in their CRS upper division major requirements, and not receive a grade below C- in their major requirements (lower and upper division courses).

Lower Division Requirements (note: all courses must be taken for a letter grade)

Highlighted Courses are offered for Spring 2026

One ESPM Environmental Science Core Course:

[ESPM 2: The Biosphere](#) [3]

[ESPM 15: Introduction to Environmental Sciences](#) [3]

[ESPM 6: Environmental Biology](#) [3]

[ESPM C46: Climate Change and the Future of California](#) [4]

[ESPM 10: Environmental Issues](#) [4]

One ESPM Social Science Core Course:

[ESPM 5: From Farm to Table: Food Systems in a Changing World](#) [4]

[ESPM C22AC: Fires: Past, Present, and Future Interactions with the People and Ecosystems of California](#) [4]

[ESPM C11 \(L&S C30U\): Americans and the Global Forest](#) [4]

[ESPM 50AC: Introduction to Culture and Natural Resource Management](#) [4]

[ESPM C52: History of Native American Land, Colonialism, and Heritage Preservation](#) [3]

[ESPM 60: Environmental Policy, Administration, and Law](#) [4]

One course in General Biology with lab from the following list:

☐ [Biology 1A: Molecular & Cellular Biology](#)

☐ Biology 11: Introduction to the Science of Living Organisms.

☐ [Biology 1B: Plants/Ecology/Evolution](#),

NOTE: Biology 1B is recommended.

Breadth courses chosen from the [Seven-Course Breadth Guidelines](#)

☐ One course (3-4 units) in [Social and Behavioral Science](#) or [International Studies](#)

☐ One course (3-4 units) in [Physical Science](#)

☐ One course (3-4 units) in [Arts and Literature](#), [Historical Studies](#), or [Philosophy and Values](#)

One Calculus or Statistics course:

☐ [Math 16A](#), [16B](#), [51](#) or [52](#) [Formerly listed as MATH 1A and MATH 1B]

☐ [STAT 2](#), [STAT 20](#), [STAT C8](#), [STAT C131A](#); [Poli Sci 3](#)

☐ [ESPM 90: Introduction to the CRS Major](#).

Students design an "Area of Interest" statement and declare the major in this class.
This course should be taken spring of sophomore year or fall of junior year.

☐ **Two Preparatory Courses to the Area of Interest (6-8 units) (optional)**

Chosen in consultation with your advisor. Prerequisites for Area of Interest classes may be applied here.

Upper Division Requirements

15 upper division units must be taken in the Rausser College of Natural Resources (EEP, ERG, ESPM, NST, PMB)

□ **ESPM 100** (Fall only) Environmental Problem Solving (4)

□ **ESPM 194A: Senior Seminar in Conservation & Resource Studies (2)**

Recommended in the final semester at Berkeley. This requirement may be replaced by ESPM 195 (Senior Thesis) or ESPM H196 (College Honors Research). See major advisor for more details.

□ **Eight student-designed Area of Interest Classes (for a minimum of 24 units).** These classes are selected and approved in ESPM 90 as a part of the Area of Interest Statement.

Sample topics include, but are not limited to:

Marine Resource Management; Sustainable Agriculture in the Developing World; Environmental Justice & Education; Wildlife Conservation & Management; Energy & Environmental Policy; Population & Conservation Policy; Urban Environmental Law; Public Health & Environmental Pollution; Sustainable Landscape Design; Community Organization for Resource Conservation; Bioethics & Technology; Tropical Conservation & Medical Epidemiology; Urban Environmental Education; Environmental Business.

1.	5.
2.	6.
3.	7.
4.	8.

Area of Interest Requirements:

(1) A minimum of 8 faculty-approved upper division courses are required (at least 24 semester units total).

(5) A maximum of two AOI courses (6-8 units) may be structured field studies (e.g. Moorea or Summer Forestry Camp)

(2) No AOI course may be taken prior to reaching sophomore status (30 semester units).

(6) Each course must be an upper division and taken for a letter grade. Each must be 2 units or above.

(3) At least 6 of the 8 courses must be taken on the Berkeley campus (Forestry Camp courses = UCB courses).

(7) A minimum of 24 units in AOI coursework must be completed.

(4) A maximum of two courses may be taken through the Education Abroad Program.

(8) ESPM 195, 196, 197, 198 and 199 courses will not be accepted as one of your 8 AOI courses.