

SUSTAINABILITY, SOCIETY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL GEOGRAPHY, B.A.

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: University Park

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Arts degree in Sustainability, Society, and Environmental Geography, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements	24
Requirements for the Major	60-63

9 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 6 credits of GQ courses; 3 credits of GWS courses.

3 of the 24 credits for Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements are included in the Requirements for the Major, General Education, or Electives and 0-12 credits are included in Electives if world language proficiency is demonstrated by examination.

Requirements for the Major

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>).

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
EMSC 100S	Earth and Mineral Sciences First-Year Seminar ¹	3
GEOG 210	Geographic Perspectives on Environmental Systems Science	3
GEOG 230	Geographic Perspectives on Environment, Society and Sustainability	3
GEOG 340	Thinking Sustainably	3
GEOG 344	Sustainability Methods	3
GEOG 390	Professional Development Seminar in Geography	1
GEOG 440	Environment, Society, and Sustainability Capstone	3
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 3-4 credits in Statistics:		3-4
STAT 100	Statistical Concepts and Reasoning	
STAT 200	Elementary Statistics	
STAT 240	Introduction to Biometry	

STAT 250	Introduction to Biostatistics	
STAT 401	Experimental Methods	
Select 3-4 credits in Mathematics (MATH 33 preferred):		3-4
MATH 21	College Algebra with Analytic Geometry with Applications I	
MATH 22	College Algebra With Analytic Geometry and Applications II	
MATH 26	Plane Trigonometry and Applications of Trigonometry	
MATH 33	Mathematics for Sustainability (preferred)	
MATH 34	The Mathematics of Money	
MATH 35	General View of Mathematics	
MATH 36	Insights Into Mathematics	
MATH 37	Finite Mathematics	
MATH 38	Elementary Linear Algebra	
MATH 41	Trigonometry and Analytic Geometry	
MATH 81	Technical Mathematics I	
MATH 82	Technical Mathematics II	
MATH 83	Technical Calculus	
MATH 110	Techniques of Calculus I	
MATH 140	Calculus With Analytic Geometry I	
MATH 140G	Calculus with Earth and Mineral Sciences Applications I	
MATH 140H	Honors Calculus with Analytic Geometry I	
MATH 141	Calculus with Analytic Geometry II	
MATH 141G	Calculus with Earth and Mineral Sciences Applications II	
MATH 141H	Honors Calculus with Analytic Geometry II	
Select 3 credits in Engaged Scholarship:		3
EMSC 299	Foreign Studies	
EMSC 470W	Undergraduate Collaborative Research in Earth and Materials Sciences	
GEOG 199	Foreign Studies	
GEOG 294	Research Project	
GEOG 296	Independent Studies	
GEOG 299	Foreign Studies	
GEOG 399	Foreign Studies	
GEOG 493	Service Learning	
GEOG 494	Research Project in Geography	
GEOG 494H	Research Project in Geography	
GEOG 495	Internship	
GEOG 495B	Geography Teaching Internship	
GEOG 496	Independent Studies	
GEOG 499	Foreign Studies	
Select 3 credits of 300-level Geography: ²		3
GEOG 310	Introduction to Global Climatic Systems	
GEOG 314	Biogeography and Global Ecology	
GEOG 320	Fundamentals of Urban Geography	
GEOG 324	Place, Space and Culture	
GEOG 326	Geographies of the Economy: Power and Place	
GEOG 328	War, Peace, and Diplomacy: Understanding Contemporary Geopolitics	
GEOG 330N	Political Ecology	

Select 12 credits of 400-level Geography:	12
GEOG 414	Principles and Applications in Landscape Ecology
GEOG 420Y	Comparative Urbanism
GEOG 424W	Geography of the Global Economy
GEOG 426W	Gendered Worlds
GEOG 428W	Political Geography
GEOG 430	Human Use of Environment
GEOG 431	Geography of Water Resources
GEOG 432	Energy Policy
GEOG 433	Geographies of Justice
GEOG 434	Politics of the Environment
GEOG 437W	Energy Geographies and Policy
GEOG 438W	Human Dimensions of a Changing Climate
GEOG/AFR 444	Resource Governance in Africa

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better

Select 17-18 credits of approved minor, certificate, concurrent major,¹ 7-18 or other approved courses in consultation with an adviser, from department list. Students may apply 6 credits of ROTC courses. Courses in this section may not double-count with General Education, prescribed, additional, BA requirements, or electives in order to maintain 120-credit total. If courses for a concurrent major, primary minor, or certificate are used elsewhere, additional credits are needed in this section to equal 17-18.

¹ The following substitutions are allowed for students attending campuses where the indicated course is not offered or who start in colleges other than EMS or DUS at University Park: CAS 100A/CAS 100B/CAS 100C or CAS 138T or ENGL 202A/ENGL 202B/ENGL 202C/ENGL 202D can be substituted for EMSC 100S.

² Course counts for major only; does not double-count in General Education requirements.

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/>) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Quantification (GQ):** 6 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 9 credits

Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Arts (GA):** 3 credits
- **Health and Wellness (GHW):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 3 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 3 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 3 credits

Integrative Studies

- **Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain):** 6 credits

Exploration

- **GN**, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- **GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses.** This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- **United States Cultures:** 3 credits
- **International Cultures:** 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

B.A. Degree Requirements

World Language (0-12 credits): Student must attain 12th credit level of proficiency in one world language in addition to English. This proficiency must be demonstrated by either examination or course work. See the Placement Policy for Penn State World Language Courses (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/advising-planning-degree-program/course-placements/placement-policy-world-language-courses/>).

B.A. Fields (9 credits): Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts, World Languages, Natural Sciences, Quantification (may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major; world language credits in this category must be in a second world language in addition to English or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the first language). Credits must be selected from the list of approved courses.

World Cultures (0-3 credits): Select 3 credits from approved list. Students may count courses in this category in order to meet other major, minor, elective, or General Education requirements, except for the University Cultural Diversity (US/IL) requirement.