Program Description

The Earth, Society & Environmental Sustainability program responds to the growing demand for courses that concentrate on the key issues associated with sustainability and the environment. Students may choose from two concentrations: Society and Environment (for those with a natural science background or focus) or Society in the Earth System (for students with a social sciences or general background). Students then have the opportunity to specialize in several different areas, including Sustainable Business, Environmental Informatics, and Sustainable Societies. Students interested in the program must apply to the University of Illinois as a transfer student.

Admission Requirements

Currently, the online BS degree in Earth, Society & Environmental Sustainability is only available to transfer students who have completed a semester or more of college level courses. If you are interested in our program but have never attended college, please contact our office to discuss the preparatory coursework you should complete prior to applying at the University of Illinois.

The minimum transfer requirements are:

- GPA of 2.7
- 3 full years of a language other than English in high school, OR 2 progressive semesters of a language other than English in college (i.e., French I and French II)

The key university requirement is that you need to complete at least 60 hours of coursework at the University of Illinois. We have designed the program so that major requirements can be fulfilled entirely online. Many of the general education requirements may be completed online as well.

When considering transferring to our bachelor’s program, it is critically important that you get credit for your previous academic work. Upon acceptance to the University of Illinois, your transcript will be evaluated by University Admissions. If you would like to figure out which degree requirements you have already met, we urge you to first visit the Transferology website. Transferology.org hosts a vast database describing how many courses transfer between institutions. The process of transferring courses from your previous institution to the University of Illinois is called articulation, and it can be quite complex. If you have one or more courses not listed in Transferology.org, we urge you to begin collecting the syllabi for those courses. The syllabi must be written in English to be evaluated by the University of Illinois.
Degree Requirements

The ESES program offers a unique combination of structure and flexibility not found in most programs at the University of Illinois. Since most students are not accustomed to the level of choice we present our majors, the ESES program employs an academic advisor ready to assist you in the customization of your degree.

ESES Introductory Core: Required Courses (7 hours)
- ESE 200: Earth’s Physical Systems
- ESE 379: Intro to GIS Systems

Concentration Courses (Either SAE Society and the Environment or SES Science of the Earth System (15-18 hours)

ESES Introductory Core Breadth Coursework (12-14 hours)

ESES Advanced Courses (9-12 hours)

NOTES:
- A minimum of 120 hours of course work is required for graduation, including twelve hours of advanced (400 level or approved 300 level) courses that must be taken on this campus.
- Minimum of 60 hours of course work must be completed at the University of Illinois.
- All foreign language requirements for the College of LAS must be satisfied.
- A Major Plan of Study form must be completed and submitted to the LAS Student Affairs Office, ideally by the end of the fifth semester (60–75 hours).
- Study abroad courses may be substituted for major and minor requirements with approval of advisor.
- There are two ESES minor options, the ESES minor and the Environmental Fellows Program minor.
- Double majoring is generally allowed, as per the College of Liberal Arts and Science’s guidelines, with the following exception. Undergraduate students may not major in both ESES and in a major directed by one of three departments (Geology, Geography, and Atmospheric Science) that make up the School without the explicit approval of the ESES advisor.
- Departmental Distinction: Students who maintain grade point averages of at least 3.3 in all courses within the major and who fulfill the Capstone requirement with a faculty-guided individual research project are recommended for graduation with distinction.

Program Contacts

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Program URL: https://www.earth.illinois.edu/students/eses_online_overview