

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, B.A.

What kind of environmental ethic would you have if you lived with compassion for other humans? This is the question that Point Loma Nazarene University equips students to answer in its Environmental Studies program. Jesus tells us that the two commandments which encompass all others are love God and love your neighbor (Matthew 22:37-39). Yet we often miss the connection that loving God and neighbor has with the natural world. Cultural geographer Carolyn Finney claims it is necessary for humans to “understand how our unhealthy relationships with the natural environment are intimately linked to our unhealthy relationships with each other.” PLNU’s Environmental Studies program makes that link by providing cultural context along with foundational scientific knowledge. Our goal is that students leave the program with compassion for all of creation and other humans, created by listening to and understanding the context of the human story across cultures; with foundational knowledge of ecosystems and the human relationship to them; with communication skills in writing, media, and verbal avenues; and with the agency to use these traits to serve in the world.

Students with an Environmental Studies BA find careers in diverse fields that address human relationships with the natural world. From public relations and fundraising to design and engineering, Environmental Studies majors find jobs that rely on compassion, knowledge, and the ability to communicate well. Situated as a truly interdisciplinary major at PLNU with contributions across diverse disciplines, the focus of the program is to provide the cultural context, scientific foundation, and communication skills as they relate to humans and the environment. Different from many environmental sciences and other environmental studies programs, PLNU’s Environmental Studies program prepares students for multiple career paths by offering foundational courses in biology, the social and political sciences, and the arts and humanities, along with focused concentrations of study, ranging from creative writing or literature to media arts or public policy, which provide depth of expertise as well as breadth of perspective.

Environmental Studies at PLNU: we put the human element into the environment.

Program Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the program in Environmental Studies will be able to:

1. Synthesize scientific and humanistic studies through practical environmental application.
2. Locate, evaluate, and effectively use information to address environmental concerns.
3. Identify and articulate sociocultural dynamics as they relate to the natural world.
4. Present analyses to formal audiences, demonstrating appropriate strategies for audience engagement and oral communication.
5. Identify and secure post-graduate studies or careers in environmental fields.

Concentrations

Choose one of the following required concentrations:

- Biology (p. 1)
- Cultural Studies (p. 2)

- Design (p. 3)
- Social Impact (p. 3)
- Writing and Communication (p. 4)

Biology Concentration

A strong background in the biology and chemistry of environmental systems empowers environmental justice with the ability to evaluate and use scientific data. With a concentration in biology, an Environmental Studies major can bring her biological expertise to educate and inform environmental social action. Careers include: sustainability officer, lab management, science writer.

Code	Title	Units
Lower-Division Requirements		
BIO 1002	Environment and People (FE)	4
BIO 2011 and BIO 2011L	Ecological and Evolutionary Systems (FE) and Ecological and Evolutionary Systems Laboratory (FE)	4
CHE 1001	Chemistry and Society (FE)	4
ESI 2050	Introduction to Environmental Studies	3
LIT 2000	Literature and Culture (FE) ¹	2
PHL 2011	Ethics (FE)	3
Choose one (1) course from the following:		3-4
EDU 2025	Introduction to Disability Studies	
POL 1090	The Politics of Race, Class, and Gender (FE)	
SOC 2001	Cultural Anthropology (FE)	
SWF 1000	Living Justly in Contemporary Society (FE)	
Upper-Division Requirements		
BIO 3063 and BIO 3063L	Conservation Ecology and Conservation Ecology Laboratory	4
BUS 4075	Sustainability in Action	3
ESI 4020	Advanced Environmental Studies	3
ESI 4070	Internship in Environmental Studies	2
THE 3005	Christian Faith and the Natural Sciences (FE)	3
Choose one (1) course from each group:		10-12
Social Justice:		
BIB 3043	The Bible, Environment, and Creation Care: Ecological Interpretation of Scripture	
POL 4035	Global Governance	
SOC 4035	Environmental Sociology	
SOC 4044	Globalization and Culture	
THE 3040	Theology of Creation Care	
Writing:		
WRI 3021	Creative Writing: Poetry	
WRI 3022	Creative Writing: Fiction	
WRI 3023	Creative Writing: Creative Nonfiction	
WRI 3065	Professional Writing	
WRI 4000	Writing for the Community	
Cultural Studies:		
HIS 3060	Wilderness in the American Mind	
LIT 4046	Romantic Literature	
LIT 4048	Postcolonial Classics and Theory	
Language:		
FRE 2050	Intermediate French I	

FRE 2051	Intermediate French II	
FRE 3003	French Conversation	
SPA 2050	Intermediate Spanish Conversation I	
SPA 2051	Intermediate Spanish Conversation II	
SPA 3000	Civic Engagement: Conversation, Culture, and Community	
Approved immersion experience in another language		
Elective Courses		
Choose six (6) units from the following: ²		6
BIO 3012	Applied Plant Biology	
BIO 3023	Introduction to Oceanography	
and BIO 3023L	and Introduction to Oceanography Laboratory	
BIO 3033	Marine Biology	
and BIO 3033L	and Marine Biology Laboratory	
BIO 3040	Field Biology: Neotropical Ecology	
BIO 4010	Vertebrate Biology	
and BIO 4010L	and Vertebrate Biology Laboratory	
BIO 4030	Animal Behavior	
and BIO 4030L	and Animal Behavior Laboratory	
BIO 4073	Experimental Marine Ecology	
and BIO 4073L	and Experimental Marine Ecology Laboratory	
BIO 4083	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (GIS)	
Choose one (1) course from the following:		3
ACC 2000	Principles of Accounting for Non-Business Majors	
MTH 2003	Introduction to Statistics	
MTH 3063	Calculus Based Statistics with R	
Total Units		57-60

¹ Select the course section for "Nature Writing."

² Courses and their corresponding lab (if applicable) must be taken concurrently.

Cultural Studies Concentration

Understanding where our current ideas about environmental and social justice come from is vital to having agency for positive change. Environmental Studies majors with a cultural studies concentration will be able to identify, critique, challenge, or champion cultural stories and themes about humanity's relationship with the environment. Careers include: teaching, nonprofit management, public relations.

Code	Title	Units
Lower-Division Requirements		
BIO 1002	Environment and People (FE)	4
CHE 1001	Chemistry and Society (FE)	4
ESI 2050	Introduction to Environmental Studies	3
LIT 2000	Literature and Culture (FE) ¹	2
PHL 2011	Ethics (FE)	3
Choose one (1) course from each group:		7-8
Biology:		
BIO 1005	Ecology and Conservation (FE)	
and BIO 1005L	and Ecology and Conservation Laboratory (FE)	
BIO 2011	Ecological and Evolutionary Systems (FE)	
and BIO 2011L	and Ecological and Evolutionary Systems Laboratory (FE)	

Social Impact:

EDU 2025	Introduction to Disability Studies	
POL 1090	The Politics of Race, Class, and Gender (FE)	
SOC 2001	Cultural Anthropology (FE)	
SWF 1000	Living Justly in Contemporary Society (FE)	
Upper-Division Requirements		
BUS 4075	Sustainability in Action	3
ESI 4020	Advanced Environmental Studies	3
ESI 4070	Internship in Environmental Studies	2
LIT 3000	Literary Analysis	3
LIT 4046	Romantic Literature	3
THE 3005	Christian Faith and the Natural Sciences (FE)	3
Choose two (2) courses from the following:		3-4
HIS 3035	History of Surfing and Surf Culture	
HIS 3060	Wilderness in the American Mind	
HIS 3070	California History	
Choose one (1) course from each group:		10-12
Social Justice:		
BIB 3043	The Bible, Environment, and Creation Care: Ecological Interpretation of Scripture	
POL 4035	Global Governance	
SOC 4035	Environmental Sociology	
SOC 4044	Globalization and Culture	
THE 3040	Theology of Creation Care	
Writing:		
WRI 3021	Creative Writing: Poetry	
WRI 3022	Creative Writing: Fiction	
WRI 3023	Creative Writing: Creative Nonfiction	
WRI 3065	Professional Writing	
WRI 4000	Writing for the Community	
Language:		
FRE 2050	Intermediate French I	
FRE 2051	Intermediate French II	
FRE 3003	French Conversation	
SPA 2050	Intermediate Spanish Conversation I	
SPA 2051	Intermediate Spanish Conversation II	
SPA 3000	Civic Engagement: Conversation, Culture, and Community	
Approved immersion experience in another language		
Elective Courses		
Choose two (2) courses from the following or three (3) if a 305x course is chosen:		8-11
HIS 3068	Modern China Through Film	
HIS 3072	Two Years Before the Mast and the History of Coastal California	
LIT 2052	World Literatures: Ancient and Medieval Literatures	
LIT 3050	Diverse Voices of World Literature (FE)	
LIT 3051	Diverse Voices of Cinema (FE)	
LIT 3052	Diverse Voices of American Literature (FE)	
LIT 3053	Diverse Voices of Women Writers (FE)	
LIT 4000	American Literature to 1900	
LIT 4045	17th Century English Literature	

LIT 4061	Shakespeare
SPA 3010	Latin American Culture and Civilization
SPA 3020	Mexican American Literature and Culture
SPA 3080	Genre/Period Studies in Hispanic Literature or Film
Total Units	61-68

¹ Select the course section for "Nature Writing."

Design Concentration

Good design can capture the imagination and bring about powerful change. With a concentration in design, Environmental Studies majors gain valuable skills in presenting information and arguments in a visually pleasing format to reach a wide audience for environmental change. Careers include: graphic design, science illustration, biodesign, branding.

Code	Title	Units
Lower-Division Requirements		
ART 1003	Two-Dimensional Design	3
ART 2003	Graphic Design I: Visual Symbolism	3
BIO 1002	Environment and People (FE)	4
CHE 1001	Chemistry and Society (FE)	4
ESI 2050	Introduction to Environmental Studies	3
LIT 2000	Literature and Culture (FE) ¹	2
PHL 2011	Ethics (FE)	3
Choose one (1) course from each group:		7-8
Biology:		
BIO 1005	Ecology and Conservation (FE)	
	and BIO 1005L and Ecology and Conservation Laboratory (FE)	
BIO 2011	Ecological and Evolutionary Systems (FE)	
	and BIO 2011L and Ecological and Evolutionary Systems Laboratory (FE)	
Social Impact:		
EDU 2025	Introduction to Disability Studies	
POL 1090	The Politics of Race, Class, and Gender (FE)	
SOC 2001	Cultural Anthropology (FE)	
SWF 1000	Living Justly in Contemporary Society (FE)	

Upper-Division Requirements

ART 3015	Introduction to Interactive Web Design	3
BUS 4075	Sustainability in Action	3
ESI 4020	Advanced Environmental Studies	3
ESI 4070	Internship in Environmental Studies	2
THE 3005	Christian Faith and the Natural Sciences (FE)	3
Choose one (1) course from each group:		10-12
Social Justice:		
BIB 3043	The Bible, Environment, and Creation Care: Ecological Interpretation of Scripture	
POL 4035	Global Governance	
SOC 4035	Environmental Sociology	
SOC 4044	Globalization and Culture	
THE 3040	Theology of Creation Care	
Writing:		
WRI 3021	Creative Writing: Poetry	
WRI 3022	Creative Writing: Fiction	
WRI 3023	Creative Writing: Creative Nonfiction	

WRI 3065	Professional Writing
WRI 4000	Writing for the Community
Cultural Studies:	
HIS 3060	Wilderness in the American Mind
LIT 4046	Romantic Literature
LIT 4048	Postcolonial Classics and Theory
Language:	
FRE 2050	Intermediate French I
FRE 2051	Intermediate French II
FRE 3003	French Conversation
SPA 2050	Intermediate Spanish Conversation I
SPA 2051	Intermediate Spanish Conversation II
SPA 3000	Civic Engagement: Conversation, Culture, and Community
Approved immersion experience in another language	

Elective Courses

Choose six (6) units from the following (one course must be 3000-level or higher):		6
ART 1015	Drawing I	
ART 2002	Introduction to Computer Graphics	
ART 2026	Photography: Digital	
ART 3003	Graphic Design II: Typography	
ART 3030	Illustration I	
ART 3031	Illustration II	
ART 3033	Graphic Design III: Branding and Identity Programs	
ART 4050	Interactive Web Design	

Total Units **59-62**

¹ Select the course section for "Nature Writing."

Social Impact Concentration

Social service impacts the way the world works. With a social impact concentration, Environmental Studies majors will understand the structures and policies that govern our culture and find avenues of service that will let them be a powerful force for environmental change in the world. Careers include: law, urban planning, social work, public administration.

Code	Title	Units
Lower-Division Requirements		
BIO 1002	Environment and People (FE)	4
CHE 1001	Chemistry and Society (FE)	4
EDU 2025	Introduction to Disability Studies	3
ESI 2050	Introduction to Environmental Studies	3
LIT 2000	Literature and Culture (FE) ¹	2
PHL 2011	Ethics (FE)	3
SOC 2001	Cultural Anthropology (FE)	3
SWF 1000	Living Justly in Contemporary Society (FE)	3
Choose one (1) sequence from the following:		
BIO 1005	Ecology and Conservation (FE)	
	and BIO 1005L and Ecology and Conservation Laboratory (FE)	
BIO 2011	Ecological and Evolutionary Systems (FE)	
	and BIO 2011L and Ecological and Evolutionary Systems Laboratory (FE)	

Upper-Division Requirements

BIB 3043	The Bible, Environment, and Creation Care: Ecological Interpretation of Scripture	3
or THE 3040	Theology of Creation Care	
BUS 4075	Sustainability in Action	3
ESI 4020	Advanced Environmental Studies	3
ESI 4070	Internship in Environmental Studies	2
POL 4035	Global Governance	4
SOC 4035	Environmental Sociology	3
THE 3005	Christian Faith and the Natural Sciences (FE)	3
Choose one (1) course from each group:		9
Writing:		
WRI 3021	Creative Writing: Poetry	
WRI 3022	Creative Writing: Fiction	
WRI 3023	Creative Writing: Creative Nonfiction	
WRI 3065	Professional Writing	
WRI 4000	Writing for the Community	
Cultural Studies:		
HIS 3060	Wilderness in the American Mind	
LIT 4046	Romantic Literature	
LIT 4048	Postcolonial Classics and Theory	
Language:		
FRE 2050	Intermediate French I	
FRE 2051	Intermediate French II	
FRE 3003	French Conversation	
SPA 2050	Intermediate Spanish Conversation I	
SPA 2051	Intermediate Spanish Conversation II	
SPA 3000	Civic Engagement: Conversation, Culture, and Community	
Approved immersion experience in another language		
Elective Courses		
Choose six (6) units from the following:		6
COM 2031	Argumentation and Debate (FE)	
COM 3030	Persuasion	
COM 3040	Organizational Communication	
COM 3090	Introduction to Public Relations	
COM 3095	Media Literacy	
COM 4005	Public Relations Cases and Campaigns	
COM 4060	Rhetorical Theories and Models	
ECO 3015	Theories of Economic Development	
JRN 4030	Multimedia Journalism	
POL 2090	World Regional Geography	
POL 3060	Urban Politics	
POL 4038	International Law	
POL 4050	Issues of Global Human Rights	
SOC 3005	Social Stratification	
SOC 3050	Urban Sociology	
SOC 3060	Race and Ethnicity	
SOC 4020	Social Change	
SOC 4070	Medical Sociology	
SOC 4080	Restorative Justice	
Total Units		61

¹ Select the course section for "Nature Writing."

Writing and Communication Concentration

A clearly communicated idea has the most impact. With a writing and communication concentration, Environmental Studies majors will develop the skills to share their ideas and stories both in writing and verbally. Clear communicators can take the complexity of many environmental issues and present them so that a wide audience can understand. Careers include: editing, writing, screenwriting, journalism, branding.

Code	Title	Units
Lower-Division Requirements		
BIO 1002	Environment and People (FE)	4
CHE 1001	Chemistry and Society (FE)	4
ESI 2050	Introduction to Environmental Studies	3
JRN 2050	Introduction to Journalism	3
LIT 2000	Literature and Culture (FE) ¹	2
PHL 2011	Ethics (FE)	3
WRI 2020	Introduction to Creative Writing	3
Choose one (1) course from each group:		7-8
Biology:		
BIO 1005	Ecology and Conservation (FE)	
and BIO 1005L	and Ecology and Conservation Laboratory (FE)	
BIO 2011	Ecological and Evolutionary Systems (FE)	
and BIO 2011L	and Ecological and Evolutionary Systems Laboratory (FE)	
Social Impact:		
EDU 2025	Introduction to Disability Studies	
POL 1090	The Politics of Race, Class, and Gender (FE)	
SOC 2001	Cultural Anthropology (FE)	
SWF 1000	Living Justly in Contemporary Society (FE)	
Upper-Division Requirements		
BUS 4075	Sustainability in Action	3
ESI 4020	Advanced Environmental Studies	3
ESI 4070	Internship in Environmental Studies	2
POL 4035	Global Governance	4
THE 3005	Christian Faith and the Natural Sciences (FE)	3
WRI 3065	Professional Writing	3
WRI 4000	Writing for the Community	3
Choose one (1) course from each group:		7-9
Social Justice:		
BIB 3043	The Bible, Environment, and Creation Care: Ecological Interpretation of Scripture	
SOC 4035	Environmental Sociology	
SOC 4044	Globalization and Culture	
THE 3040	Theology of Creation Care	
Cultural Studies:		
HIS 3060	Wilderness in the American Mind	
LIT 4046	Romantic Literature	
LIT 4048	Postcolonial Classics and Theory	
Language:		
FRE 2050	Intermediate French I	
FRE 2051	Intermediate French II	

FRE 3003	French Conversation
SPA 2050	Intermediate Spanish Conversation I
SPA 2051	Intermediate Spanish Conversation II
SPA 3000	Civic Engagement: Conversation, Culture, and Community
Approved immersion experience in another language	
Elective Courses	
Choose six (6) units from the following:	
COM 2031	Argumentation and Debate (FE)
COM 3000	Narrative and Documentary Film
COM 3030	Persuasion
COM 3050	Electronic Media in Communication
COM 3090	Introduction to Public Relations
COM 3095	Media Literacy
COM 4005	Public Relations Cases and Campaigns
JRN 3010	Advanced Reporting
JRN 3012	Television News Writing
JRN 3013	Television News Production
JRN 3014	Computer-Assisted Reporting
JRN 3040	Media Law and Ethics
JRN 3045	Editing
JRN 3050	Special Topics in Journalism
JRN 3055	Public Relations Writing
JRN 4013	Advanced Television News Production
JRN 4030	Multimedia Journalism
JRN 4040	Magazine Editing and Concepts
WRI 3021	Creative Writing: Poetry
WRI 3022	Creative Writing: Fiction
WRI 3023	Creative Writing: Creative Nonfiction
WRI 4020	Advanced Writing Workshop
Total Units	63-66

¹ Select the course section for "Nature Writing."

Possible Minors

- Biology: Environmental Biology Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2023-2024/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/cnss/bio/biology-environmental-biology-minor/>)
- French Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2023-2024/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/cah/ljwl/french-minor/>)
- History Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2023-2024/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/cah/hps/history-minor/>)
- International Development Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2023-2024/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/fsb/tug-business/international-development-minor/>)
- Literature Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2023-2024/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/cah/ljwl/literature-minor/>)
- Media Communication Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2023-2024/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/cah/com/media-communication-minor/>)

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- Multimedia Journalism Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2023-2024/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/cah/ljwl/multimedia-journalism-minor/>)
- Nonprofit Organization Management Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2023-2024/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/fsb/tug-business/nonprofit-organization-management-minor/>)
- Public Relations Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2023-2024/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/fsb/tug-business/public-relations-minor/>)
- Spanish Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2023-2024/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/cah/ljwl/spanish-minor/>)
- Sustainability Studies Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2023-2024/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/cah/ljwl/sustainability-studies-minor/>)
- Writing Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2023-2024/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/cah/ljwl/writing-minor/>)

Possible Double Majors

- International Studies, B.A. (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2023-2024/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/cah/hps/international-studies-ba/>)
- Literature, B.A. (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2023-2024/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/cah/ljwl/literature-ba/>)
- Multimedia Journalism, B.A. (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2023-2024/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/cah/ljwl/multimedia-journalism-ba/>)
- Writing, B.A. (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2023-2024/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/cah/ljwl/writing-ba/>)