

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 B.A. 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.

Code	Title	Units
Lower-Division Requirements		
EDU 2025	Introduction to Disability Studies	3
ESI 2050	Introduction to Environmental Studies	3
MTH 2003	Introduction to Statistics ¹	3

Choose one (1) from the following (beyond GE): 4

BIO 1005	Ecology and Conservation (GE)
and BIO 1005L	and Ecology and Conservation Lab (GE)
BIO 2011	Ecological and Evolutionary Systems (GE)
and BIO 2011L	and Ecological and Evolutionary Systems Lab (GE)

Upper-Division Requirements

BUS 4075	Sustainability in Action	3
ESI 3010	Seminar in Environmental Studies (3 units required)	3
ESI 4020	Advanced Environmental Studies	3
ESI 4070	Internship/Practicum in Environmental Studies	2
SOC 4035	Environmental Sociology	3
Choose one (1) course from each group below:		10-16

Cultural Studies

ENG 4046	Romantic Literature
ENG 4048	Postcolonial Literatures
HIS 3035	History of Surfing and Surf Culture
HIS 3060	Wilderness in the American Mind

Public Issues

POL 4035	Global Governance
POL 4050	Issues of Global Human Rights
POL 4055	Protest and Social Movements in World Politics

Theology

BIB 3043	The Bible, Environment, and Creation Care: Ecological Interpretation of Scripture
THE 3040	Theology of Creation Care

Writing

ENG 3021	Creative Writing: Poetry
ENG 3022	Creative Writing: Fiction
ENG 3023	Creative Writing: Creative Nonfiction
ENG 3065	Professional Writing
ENG 4000	Writing for the Community

Additional Requirement

Choose one (1) course from the following: 0-3

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

Mandatory Minor Required

Total Units 37-46

¹ MTH 3063 may be substituted for MTH 2003.

Mandatory Minor Requirement

Any minor offered at PLNU fulfills the mandatory minor requirement for the degree.

Suggested Minors

Biology and STEM

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

- Biology: Cell and Molecular Biology Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2024-2025/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/cnss/bio/biology-cell-molecular-biology-minor/>)
- Biology: Environmental Biology Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2024-2025/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/cnss/bio/biology-environmental-biology-minor/>)
- Biology: Organismal Biology Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2024-2025/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/cnss/bio/biology-organismal-biology-minor/>)
- Computer Science Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2024-2025/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/cnss/mics/computer-science-minor/>)

Cultural Studies

Understanding where our current ideas about environmental and social justice come from is vital to having agency for positive change. Environmental Studies majors with the following minors 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, and public relations.

- Biblical Studies Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2024-2025/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/sotcm/tug-theology/biblical-studies-minor/>)
- Christian Studies Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2024-2025/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/sotcm/tug-theology/christian-studies-minor/>)
- Cinema Studies Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2024-2025/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/cah/com/cinema-studies-minor/>)
- French Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2024-2025/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/cah/ljwl/french-minor/>)
- History Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2024-2025/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/cah/hps/history-minor/>)
- Literature Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2024-2025/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/cah/ljwl/literature-minor/>)
- Philosophy Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2024-2025/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/sotcm/tug-theology/philosophy-minor/>)
- Spanish Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2024-2025/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/cah/ljwl/spanish-minor/>)

Design

Good design can capture the imagination and bring about powerful change. With one of the following minors, 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, and branding.

- Graphic Design Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2024-2025/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/cah/art/graphic-design-minor/>)
- Visual Art Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2024-2025/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/cah/art/visual-art-minor/>)

Social Impact

Social service impacts the way the world works. With a social impact minor, 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, and public administration.

- Christian Mission and Intercultural Ministry Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2024-2025/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/sotcm/tug-theology/christian-mission-intercultural-ministry-minor/>)
- International Development Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2024-2025/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/fsb/tug-business/international-development-minor/>)
- Nonprofit Organization Management Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2024-2025/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/fsb/tug-business/nonprofit-organization-management-minor/>)
- Nutrition Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2024-2025/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/chs/kin/nutrition-minor/>)
- Public Policy Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2024-2025/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/cah/hps/public-policy-minor/>)
- Public Relations Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2024-2025/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/fsb/tug-business/public-relations-minor/>)
- Science and Christian Faith Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2024-2025/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/sotcm/tug-theology/science-christian-faith-minor/>)
- Sociology Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2024-2025/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/cnss/ssfs/sociology-minor/>)
- Vocational Ministry Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2024-2025/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/sotcm/tug-theology/vocational-ministry-minor/>)
- Youth and Family Ministries Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2024-2025/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/sotcm/tug-theology/youth-family-ministries-minor/>)

Writing and Communication

A clearly communicated idea has the most impact. With a writing and communication minor, 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, and branding.

- Communication Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2024-2025/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/cah/com/communication-minor/>)
- Media Communication Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2024-2025/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/cah/com/media-communication-minor/>)
- Multimedia Journalism Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2024-2025/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/cah/ljwl/multimedia-journalism-minor/>)
- Writing Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2024-2025/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/cah/ljwl/writing-minor/>)