Students are admitted to UCSC with a "proposed major" in most cases, and later petition to officially declare the major. Admission to UCSC does not guarantee acceptance into a particular major. Students must be declared in a major by the end of the second year (or equivalent), so learning about and preparing for a major is a primary goal for first-year students.

**ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, B.A.**

This is a course-intensive and/or sequential program, and students who intend to pursue this major must begin taking classes for the major some time in their first year at UCSC.

Qualification requirements and/or prerequisites for the major:

There are multiple courses required to qualify for the environmental studies major; specific information about qualifying for the major will be available during Summer Orientation.

Frosh who intend to pursue this major should do the following things prior to the beginning of fall term...

- Determine your math placement by completing an assessment in ALEKS as soon as possible, and by July 23 at the very latest. See [https://mathcoach.sites.ucsc.edu](https://mathcoach.sites.ucsc.edu) for information about ALEKS. If you completed a college-level math course, or scored 3 or better on an AP calculus exam, or 5 or better on an IBH mathematics exam, you may be able to use that for placement instead of the ALEKS assessment. See [https://mathcoach.sites.ucsc.edu/courses/course-credit/](https://mathcoach.sites.ucsc.edu/courses/course-credit/) for information on placement based on college courses or AP/IBH.

...and should take these courses their first term:

- For students who place in pre-calculus or below: Math class (MATH 2 or 3 or AMS 3 or 6)
- For students who place above pre-calculus: ENVS 24: General Ecology

Sample first year plan:

- Fall: MATH 2 or 3 or AMS 3 or 6 (depending on math placement), or ENVS 24: General Ecology
- Winter: ENVS 25: Environmental Policy & Economics, and MATH 3: Precalculus or AMS 7/L: Statistical Methods, and One of: ANTH 2, SOCY 1, 10, or 15, PHIL, 22, 24, 28, or 80G
- Spring: ENVS 23: Physical and Chemical Environment, and AMS 7/L: Statistical Methods (if not taken before)

Skills important for success in this major:

- Critical reading and thinking skills, analytical writing abilities and cultural analysis as well as skills in mathematics and formal reasoning.

Other information:

- A concentration in agroecology and sustainable food systems is now offered for any of the majors in environmental studies. Contact the adviser if you are interested in this option.
- Combined majors with biology, earth sciences, and economics are available, and offer a way to specify a focus of interest within the major. Contact the adviser if you are interested in a combined major.

Links to More Information:

- [http://admissions.ucsc.edu/academics/majors/](http://admissions.ucsc.edu/academics/majors/) (general info)
- [http://registrar.ucsc.edu/catalog/programs-courses/](http://registrar.ucsc.edu/catalog/programs-courses/) (major requirements, course descriptions, etc.)
- [http://envs.ucsc.edu/undergraduate/](http://envs.ucsc.edu/undergraduate/) (program website)

Questions? Contact an Adviser!

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