EARTH, SOCIETY, & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY: SOCIETY AND THE ENVIRONMENT (SAE), BSLAS

for the degree of Bachelor Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Earth, Society, & Environmental Sustainability, Society and the Environment Concentration

The Earth, Society, & Environmental Sustainability, Society and the Environment BSLAS is not currently accepting applications. Suspension of admissions effective Spring 2027. This program has been replaced by the Environmental Sustainability: Society and the Environment, BSLAS (http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/las/environmental-sustainability-bslas/society-and-the-environment/).

All students wishing to attend graduate school in any field should discuss necessary supplementary course work with their advisor as early as possible.

A Major Plan of Study form must be completed and submitted to the LAS Student Affairs Office before the end of the fifth semester (60-75 hours). Study abroad courses may be substituted for major and minor requirements with approval of advisor.

Departmental distinction: Students who maintain grade point averages of at least 3.3 in all courses within the major and who undertake a faculty-guided individual research project for credit in the major are recommended for graduation with distinction.

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- **Distinction**: A minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.3, and have also completed an approved independent study project, approved senior thesis, or approved capstone.
- **High Distinction**: A minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5, and have also completed an approved independent study project, approved senior thesis, or approved capstone.
- **Highest Distinction**: A minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.7, and also completed an approved senior thesis or approved research capstone.

Graduation Requirements

Minimum hours required for graduation: 120 hours.

Minimum required major and supporting course work: Normally equates to 46-55 hours. Twelve hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the major must be taken from this campus. Substitutions may be made with advisor approval.

University Requirements

The university and residency requirements can be found in the Student Code (https://studentcode.illinois.edu/article3/part8/3-801/) (§ 3-801) and in the Academic Catalog (http://catalog.illinois.edu/general-information/degree-general-education-requirements/).

General Education Requirements

Follows the campus General Education (Gen Ed) requirements (https://courses.illinois.edu/gened/DEFAULT/DEFAULT/). Some Gen Ed requirements may be met by courses required and/or electives in the program.

Code	Title	Hours
Composition I		4-6
Advanced Composition		3
Humanities & the Arts (6 hours)		6
Natural Sciences & Technology (6 hours)		6
Social & Behavioral Sciences (6 hours)		6
fufilled by ECON 102 and PS 100 or PS 101		
Cultural Studies: Non-Western Cultures (1 course)		3
Cultural Studies: US Minority Cultures (1 course)		3
Cultural Studies: Western/Comparative Cultures (1 course)		3
Quantitative Reasoning (2 courses, at least one course must be Quantitative Reasoning I)		6-10
fulfilled by STAT 100 and and any other course approved as Quantitative Reasoning I or II		
Language Requirement (Completion of the fourth semester or equivalent of a language other than English is required)		0-20

Orientation and Professional Development

Code	Title	Hours
LAS 101	Design Your First Year Experience	1
OR		
LAS 100 & LAS 101	Success in LAS for International Students and Design Your First Year Experience	3
OR		
LAS 102	Transfer Advantage	1

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
ESE coursework		**10**
ESE 200	Earth Systems	3
ENSU 300	Environmental Sustainability	3

ESE 379	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems	4
Advanced Courses		**18-24**
A minimum of six 300- and 400-level courses (from the lists below), totaling at least 18 credit hours, and in an academically coherent program approved by the advisor, are required. At least three of these six advanced courses must be listed or cross-listed as an ESE or ENSU course.		
Capstone and Experiential		
ESE 389	Environment and Sustainability Field Expedition	3
ESE 401	ESE Capstone	3
ESE 497	Special Topics in ESE	1 to 4
Earth's Biosphere & Ecology		
ESE 439	Biogeography	3
HORT 430	Children and Nature	2
IB 362	Marine Biology	3
IB 411	Bioinspiration	3
IB 440	Plants and Global Change	3
IB 444	Insect Ecology	3
IB 451	Conservation Biology	4
IB 452	Ecosystem Ecology	3
IB 453	Community Ecology	3
IB 461	Ornithology	4
NRES 348	Fish and Wildlife Ecology	3
NRES 419	Env and Plant Ecosystems	3
NRES 420	Restoration Ecology	4
Earth's Physical Systems, Resources, & Hazards		
ABE 436	Renewable Energy Systems	3
ATMS 420	Atmospheric Chemistry	4
CEE 330	Environmental Engineering	3
CHEM 360	Chemistry of the Environment	3
ENSU 302	Air Pollution to Global Change	3
ESE 320	Water Planet, Water Crisis	3
ESE 333	Earth Materials and the Env	4
ESE 411	Geomorphology	4
ESE 445	Earth Resources Sustainability	3
ESE 470	Introduction to Hydrogeology	4
ESE 486	Environmental Consulting	3
GEOL 380	Environmental Geology	4
GEOL 450	Investigating the Earth's Interior	3
GEOL 451	Environmental Geophysics	4
GEOL 460	Geochemistry	3
GGIS 401	Watershed Hydrology	3
GGIS 406	Fluvial Geomorphology	4
GGIS 408	Humans and River Systems	4
MSE 489	Matl Select for Sustainability	3
NRES 351	Introduction to Environmental Chemistry	3
Environment & the Human Response		
AGCM 330	Environmental Communications	3
HK 408	Environmental Health	3
ENGL 476	Topics in Literature and the Environment	3
ENSU 301	Soc Impacts Weather & Climate	3
ESE 311	Environmental Issues Today	3
ESE 360	Environmental Writing	3
ESE 467	Multimedia Environmental Communications	3
ESE 477	Advanced Environmental Writing	3
ESE 498	Environmental Writing for Publication	3
GGIS 350	Sustainability and the City	3
GGIS 384	Population Geography	3
GGIS 495	Advanced Topics in Geography	3 or 4
GGIS 496	Climate & Social Vulnerability	3
LA 430	Children and Nature	2
LA 450	Ecology for Land Restoration	4
NRES 340	Environ Social Sci Res Meth	3
NRES 472	Environmental Psychology	4
SOC 447	Environmental Sociology	3
Sustainability, Policy, and Global Change		
ACE 310	Natural Resource Economics	3
ACE 406	Environmental Law	3
ACE 411	Environment and Development	3
ATMS 307	Climate Processes	3
ATMS 447	Climate Change Assessment	3
ATMS 449	Biogeochemical Cycles	4
CPSC 336	Tomorrow's Environment	3
CPSC 415	Bioenergy Crops	3
CPSC 431	Plants and Global Change	3
ENSU 303	Sustainable Business I	4
ENSU 310	Renewable & Alternative Energy	4
ENSU 410	Sustainable Organizations	4
ESE 410	Green Development	4
ESE 465	Transportation &Sustainability	3
ESE 466	Environmental Policy	3
ESE 482	Challenges of Sustainability	3
ETMA 311	Humanity in the Food Web	3
NPRE 480	Energy and Security	3
NRES 325	Natural Resource Policy Mgmt	3
NRES 439	Env and Sustainable Dev	3
UP 446	Sustainable Planning Seminar	4
UP 456	Sustainable Planning Workshop	4
UP 480	Sustainable Design Principles	2
Visualizing the Earth System		
ATMS 305	Computing and Data Analysis	3
ESE 380	Geographic Information Systems II	4
ESE 421	Earth Systems Modeling	4
GGIS 371	Spatial Analysis	4
GGIS 407	CyberGIS & Geospatial Data Science	4
GGIS 412	Geospatial Technologies & Society	3
GGIS 460	Aerial Photo Analysis	3
GGIS 476	Environmental Remote Sensing	3
GGIS 477	Introduction to Remote Sensing	3
GGIS 479	Advanced Topics in GIS	4
NRES 427	Modeling Natural Resources	4
NRES 454	GIS in Natural Resource Mgmt	4

Society and the Environment Concentration Requirements		
Cognate Course Work		**9**
PS 100	Intro to Political Science	3
or PS 101	Intro to US Gov & Pol	
STAT 100	Statistics	3
ECON 102	Microeconomic Principles	3
Introductory Social Sciences: Select 2 courses:		**6-8**
ANTH 101	Introduction to Anthropology	3
ANTH 102	Human Origins and Culture	3
GGIS 101	Global Development & Environment	3
GGIS 104	Social and Cultural Geography	4
SOC 100	Introduction to Sociology	4
Introductory Earth's Physical Systems, Resources, & Hazards. Select 1 course:		**3-4**
GEOL 100	Planet Earth	3
GEOL 107	Physical Geology	4
ESE 103	Earth's Physical Systems	4
ESE 117	The Oceans	3
ESE 118	Natural Disasters	3
ESE 120	Severe and Hazardous Weather	3
ESE 140	Climate and Global Change	3

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Sample Sequence

This sample sequence is intended to be used only as a guide for degree completion. All students should work individually with their academic advisors to decide the actual course selection and sequence that works best for them based on their academic preparation and goals. Enrichment programming such as study abroad, minors, internships, and so on may impact the structure of this four-year plan. Course availability is not guaranteed during the semester indicated in the sample sequence.

Students must fulfill their Language Other Than English requirement by successfully completing a fourth level of a language other than English. This may require up to four semesters of language depending on high school coursework or placement. See the corresponding section on the Degree and General Education Requirements page *(*http://catalog.illinois.edu/general-information/degree-general-education-requirements/*).*

First Year

First Semester	**Hours**
LAS 101	1
General Education course	3
ESE 200	3
Language Other Than English (3rd level)	4
Composition I or General Education course	4
	15

Total Hours 15

First Year

Second Semester	**Hours**
ECON 102	3
General Education course or Composition I	3
General Education course	3
Language Other Than English (4th level)	4
PS 100	3
	16

Total Hours 16

Second Year

First Semester	**Hours**
ESES Introductory Earth's Physical System Course	3
Introductory Social Science course	3
Introductory Social Science course	3
General Education course	3
Free Elective course	3
	15

Total Hours 15

Second Year

Second Semester	**Hours**
STAT 100	3
ENSU 300	3
General Education course	3
General Education course	3
Free Elective course	3
	15

Total Hours 15

Third Year

First Semester	**Hours**
ESE 379	4
Advanced ESE or ENSU course	4
General Education course	3
Free Elective course	3
	14

Total Hours 14

Third Year

Second Semester	**Hours**
Advanced ESE or ENSU course	3
General Education course	3
General Education course	3
Free Elective course	3

Free Elective course	3
	15

Total Hours 15

Fourth Year

First Semester	**Hours**
Advanced ESE or ENSU course	3
Advanced course from list	3
Free Elective course	3
Free Elective course	3
Free Elective course	3
	15

Total Hours 15

Fourth Year

Second Semester	**Hours**
Advanced course from list	3
Advanced course from list	3
Free Elective course	3
Free Elective course	3
Free Elective course	3
	15

Total Hours 15

Total Hours: 120

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1. Be able to recognize, critique and implement commonly accepted Sustainability models and ideas in a wide variety of settings, using systems thinking to link social and natural science concepts.
2. Have a fundamental understanding of social science concepts; being able to recognize and apply appropriate social science methods.
3. Use quantitative methods to describe, understand and evaluate theoretical and applied issues in environmental and sustainability study; this includes direct calculation, working with data, and using quantitative models.
4. Be able to critically evaluate and then communicate environmental and sustainability concepts to both specialized and wide audiences.
5. Students will demonstrate professional competence in environmental and sustainability practice by executing appropriate laboratory and field techniques, applying Geographic Information Science tools and software, and selecting and employing suitable quantitative and qualitative analytical methods.

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School of Earth, Society & Environment (https://www.earth.illinois.edu/)

Earth, Society & Environment faculty (https://earth.illinois.edu/directory/faculty/)
Earth, Society & Environment advising (https://esec.illinois.edu/academics/undergraduate-programs/undergraduate-advising/)

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (https://las.illinois.edu/)

Overview of College Admissions & Requirements: Liberal Arts & Sciences (http://catalog.illinois.edu/schools/las/academic-units/)