ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

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pcc.edu/programs/environmental-studies

DESCRIPTION

The overarching goal of the Environmental Studies (ESR) program at Portland Community College (PCC) is to prepare environmentally literate students who make informed, evidence-based decisions about the environmental issues affecting their communities. The fields of environmental studies and science are interdisciplinary, integrating the sciences with the study of human society, law and policy in order to address our most pressing environmental issues. The Environmental Studies program prepares students to pursue degrees in both environmental science and environmental studies. Environmental science is a field that integrates biological and physical science and uses scientific practices to investigate environmental systems, problems and solutions. Environmental studies is a field that investigates coupled human-natural systems, requiring an understanding of environmental processes as well as social systems including law, policy, sociology, economics, planning and natural resource management.

The ESR program offers a variety of courses including sustainability courses (ESR 140 and ESR 141), general education lab science courses for non-majors (ESR 171, ESR 172, and ESR 173), and courses for students planning to major in either environmental science or environmental studies (ESR 150, ESR 200, ESR 201, ESR 202, and ESR 204). PCC students have the option of pursuing the Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer (AAOT) or the Associate of Science Transfer (AS) degree to complete courses in preparation for a bachelor's degree in environmental studies or environmental science (if transferred to a four-year program at a college or university). For students planning to major in environmental science, the AS will provide more flexibility than the AAOT, and allows students to complete both their Associate degree and the required lower-division courses for the major.

Students must check the specific requirements of the major and bachelor's program to which they intend to transfer; please review the transfer guides for environmental studies and environmental science:

PSU Environmental Studies: https://www.pdx.edu/transfer-center/environmental-studies-advising-guide

PSU Environmental Science: https://www.pdx.edu/transfer-center/environmental-science-advising-guide

For students intending to transfer to Portland State University to major in Environmental Studies or Environmental Science, the following course sequence is recommended: ESR 150 and ESR 200 (first fall at Rock Creek or spring term at Southeast), ESR 201 (first or second winter term at Rock Creek) and ESR 202 (second fall term at Rock Creek). For information regarding the Environmental Studies major transfer program, please contact Valance Brenneis at valance.brenneis@pcc.edu.