

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES MAJOR & MINOR



UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM GUIDE
ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-23

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES @ CLARK

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES OVERVIEW

Global Environmental Studies (GES) majors study the relations between society and environment. The major is structured so that students can critically understand how economic, cultural and political processes transform the earth's environment and develop skills to respond to these transformations. Completing the GES major involves taking classes that explore the relationship between society and environment from different disciplinary perspectives. This means that although the major is administered by the School of Geography, GES majors can take classes that count towards the major in other programs, including: Biology; Economics; Environmental Science; International Development, Community and Environment; Management; Philosophy; Physics; Political Science; Psychology; Sociology; and Visual & Performing Arts.

Completing the GES major requires student to take 12 courses with GES attributes. The major is structured so that students build foundational knowledge in their core courses, and then move on to develop one of three specialized sets of skills. Your selection of classes and specialization should be undertaken in collaboration with your GES advisor. Given the breadth of the GES major, it is imperative that students actively construct their major, understanding why they are taking particular classes and identify specific learning outcomes for the major.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THE MAJOR

- ❖ Build foundational knowledge in society-environment relations from different disciplinary perspectives
- ❖ Develop a specialized skill set that is applicable to particular scholarly and vocational areas
- ❖ Understand both conventional and critical perspectives on society-environment relations
- ❖ Build an awareness of the ways in which peoples can actively manage and change their environments

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GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES MAJOR & MINOR

DECLARING A MAJOR OR MINOR IN GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

The first step for students considering a major or minor in Global Environmental Studies is to visit the University Academic Catalog. The next step is to set up an appointment with the [Administrator of Degree Programs](#), who will help you in this preliminary stage and will arrange for you to meet with the Program Director for comprehensive academic advice. Both the Administrator of Degree Programs and the Program Director can assist you in choosing an Advisor (a professor to be determined by mutual agreement between you and the Advisor).

University Academic Catalog for the [GES Major](#)

University Academic Catalog for the [GES Minor](#)

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ADDITIONAL RULES

Substitutions

All majors must complete 12 GES-attributed courses unless they have received approval from their faculty advisor and the Chair of the Undergraduate Studies Committee to substitute a non-GES course into their program.

To substitute a non-GES course to count towards a GES requirement, the student must obtain approval of the faculty advisor by completing the *Petition to Replace a GES Requirement* form.

If a student has approval to count a non-GES course towards one of the GES requirements, then the student is still required to complete 12 GES courses total.

Pass/Fail

Credits with a grade of "Pass" can count towards the GES major or minor only in the case of Internships to fulfill the Capstone requirement. Other types of credits that are registered as Pass/No Record do not count towards the major or minor.

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ADDITIONAL COMPONENTS

RESEARCH/INTERNSHIP CREDITS

Students are urged to take advantage of internship opportunities. Learn about opportunities by visiting our [Careers and Internships website](#), reading Geography's Resources on our Moodle page, or contacting Career Services at 508.793.7258 or careers@clarku.edu. If students satisfy the requirements for the internship to count as an academic credit at Clark, then the internship can count as a Specialization Course or Capstone toward the Major, subject to the approval of the Advisor.

TRANSFER CREDITS

Transfer credits are evaluated on a case-by-case basis for major or minor credit. If you have transferred to Clark from another university, or if you have taken courses elsewhere that you want to count as a major or minor requirement, then consult the [Academic Advising Center](#) to assist with the process.

STUDYING ABROAD

The GES program encourages students to spend at least one semester studying abroad, which is an added reason to consult your advisor early in your program. For more information, contact the Study Abroad office at 508.793.7363 or studyabroad@clarku.edu.

DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

The geography department nominates Geography, GES, and ESS students each year to receive an array of departmentally-funded awards to recognize academic achievement. Additionally, the department nominates one graduating student for each of the University awards in the appropriate fields. To learn more about this, visit our [website](#).

RESEARCH FUNDING

Clark has many opportunities for funding for internships, research, and projects. More information about the types of funding opportunities available to Clark students, along with application instructions and deadlines, can be found on the [Career Connections Center Funding Opportunities Website](#).

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The Peter J. Condakes Research Fellowship supports undergraduate students who have an interest in environmental concerns and are conducting summer research with a geography faculty member. This fellowship is open to continuing undergraduate majors in geography, global environmental studies, and environmental science majors (earth system science track only). The recipients of this fellowship will receive a stipend of up to \$1,500 to support a summer research project. Applicants must have already completed GEOG 141 at the time of applying. The fellowship is awarded up to two students each year.

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

GES students participate in research presentations on and off campus. Students are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities as the platforms are great for sharing research, networking with colleagues, and practicing presentation skills.

- [ClarkFest](#)
- [AAG Conference](#) (American Association of Geographers)
- [NESTVAL](#) (The New England-St. Lawrence Valley Geographical Society)
- [AGU Conference](#) (American Geophysical Union)

DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS

The geography department hosts events that students of all programs are welcome and encouraged to attend.

- Colloquium Speaker Series
- Annual Wallace W. Atwood Lecture
- Practicing Geography Week

See our [website](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) pages for updates and listings of upcoming events.

STUDENT LIFE

Clark Undergraduate Geography Association (CUGA)

CUGA is the voice of Geography, GES, and Environmental Science ESS majors, with student representation on the undergraduate studies committee and the opportunity to attend departmental meetings. CUGA representatives are able to vote and give their ideas and opinions on various topics that concern undergraduate majors. CUGA members attend field trips and periodically have group gatherings to discuss topics of interest such as research, internships,

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courses and future jobs. If you are interested in joining CUGA, email clarkcuga@gmail.com to learn more.

INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS

Human Environment Regional Observatory (HERO)

The [Human-Environment Regional Observatory](#) program is a unique undergraduate-graduate-faculty experience that engages in research on human-environment relationships in Massachusetts. HERO Fellows conduct hands-on research under the mentorship of Clark University faculty. The research conducted by HERO Fellows often leads to scholarly publications, presentations at academic conferences across the USA, and awards and honors.

RESOURCES

Moodle

The School of Geography Moodle page is a unique resource to all undergraduate students in the department. If you are a Geography/GES/ESS major or minor, you will have access to this page that serves as a hub for online resources, job/internship postings, research opportunities, program materials, event postings, and more.

This page can be accessed by logging into Moodle with your Clark credentials, going to "My Courses", and selecting "GEOG_ug Undergraduate School of Geography". If you are enrolled in one of our programs and you do not see this on your Moodle page, contact the [Administrator of Degree Programs](#).

GIS Help Desk

Each year the Geography department hires one or more undergraduate students to staff our GIS Help Desk, which is a departmental resource that provides free, one-on-one tutoring to students seeking assistance in GIS. The GIS Help Desk is in the Geography Main Office (Jefferson 220) and runs during the week. The hours change each semester, so check our [website](#) for the schedule. The Help Desk runs when classes are in session and sometimes during finals.

Map Library

The [Guy H. Burnham Map & Aerial Photograph Library](#) is a spatial data information center of global scope. The collection consists of 230,000 maps, 7,800 aerial photographs, 1500 CD-ROMs, as well as atlases, journals, globes, map reference materials, tourist information and monographs. The information concerns cartography, history of cartography, computerized cartography, map and

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imagery interpretation, remote sensing and GIS. The library provides service to the faculty, students, and staff of Clark University, as well as the general public. Resources can now be found in the Goddard Library.

Clark Labs

Since 1987, [Clark Labs](#) has been developing the TerrSet GIS and Image Processing software which professionals use in a wide range of industries in more than 180 countries. Many students find part-time employment at Clark Labs.

School of Geography Newsletters

The department releases digital newsletters. Each feature highlights past events and announces upcoming events. These newsletters compile updates from departmental faculty, doctoral students, graduate students, undergraduate students, alumni, and staff. Newsletters are available in our [digital archive](#).

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FORMS

This section has forms. Most of these forms are kept for departmental records, but some of them must be submitted to the Registrar's office, etc. All forms below are required unless otherwise noted.

MAJOR DECLARATION FORM

This form is used when you are ready to formally declare a major, minor, or concentration. In GES, if you plan to declare the major, you will need to have a faculty advisor in the department. If you have questions about this or need help finding a faculty advisor, contact the [Administrator of Degree Programs](#). If you plan to declare a GES minor, you are required to have a faculty advisor.

Once you have obtained your new faculty advisor's signature, return this completed form to the Administrator of Degree Programs, who will make a copy for departmental records and then will send it over to the Registrar's Office to be processed.

This form is on the [Registrar's Website](#), or you can pick one up in the Geography office.

Return to: Administrator of Degree Programs

CAPSTONE FORM (REQUIRED FOR MAJORS ONLY)

This form is to notify the department of your plans to satisfy the capstone requirement. You must have this form signed twice: once before registering for the credit that will satisfy this requirement, and again before the last day of the semester in which the credit is completed.

Must be completed by: This form must be completed before registering for the capstone, and then a second time before the last day of the semester in which the credit is completed.

RESEARCH/INTERNSHIP CREDIT APPROVAL FORMS (OPTIONAL)

These forms are used if you plan to pursue an internship or research opportunity for academic credit e.g. to satisfy a capstone requirement. The first step is to read the [Academic Credit Internship Program Description](#), then fill out the Academic Internship Application online. Next, you will download the following forms from the [Career Connections Center](#) website and complete them by the deadline listed: Internship Supervisor Agreement Form, Policies and Procedures Agreement Form, Signatures sheet, and internship timesheet.

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Must be completed by: Deadline set on [Career Connections Center](#) website

Return to: Career Connections Center

PETITION TO REPLACE A GES REQUIREMENT (OPTIONAL)

This optional form is necessary if you plan to petition to include a non-GES course in your program curriculum. Some examples of when this request would be appropriate are:

- 1) if you took a non-GES course that you would like to count towards a specific GES requirement
- 2) if you are a double major and you took a course that overlaps with a required GES course (i.e. research methods)

This form must be signed by your faculty advisor and the Chair of the Undergraduate Studies Committee. It is preferable that you complete this form before enrolling in the non-geography course.

Return to: Administrator of Degree Programs

CHANGE OF ADVISOR FORM (OPTIONAL)

This optional form is necessary only if you wish to switch to a new faculty advisor within the program. This form can be found on the [Academic Advising Website](#), or you can pick one up in the Geography office.

Return to: Administrator of Degree Programs

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CAPSTONE FORM

Please submit this completed form to the Administrator of Degree Programs twice: once before registering for the credit, and again after completion of the credit.

STUDENT NAME: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

INTENDED GRADUATION YEAR: _____ FACULTY ADVISOR: _____

CURRENT LEVEL (at time of first form submission):

- First Year
- Sophomore
- Junior
- Senior

NAME OF 200-LEVEL CREDIT, PROJECT, INTERNSHIP, etc.: _____

INITIAL DATE OF SUBMISSION: __/__/__

SIGNATURE OF PROFESSOR WHO INTENDS TO AWARD THE CREDIT: _____

(Print Name): _____

SIGNATURE OF FACULTY ADVISOR APPROVAL: _____

SIGNATURE OF STUDENT: _____

FINAL DATE OF SUBMISSION: __/__/__

SECOND SIGNATURE OF PROFESSOR WHO HAS AWARDED THE CREDIT: _____

SECOND SIGNATURE OF FACULTY ADVISOR: _____

SECOND SIGNATURE OF STUDENT: _____

This form is meant to stay in departmental files, but may be forwarded to the Registrar's Office for confirmation of the credit. Blank Capstone forms can also be downloaded online or picked up in the Geography Main Office (Jefferson 220).

GEOGRAPHY @ CLARK

PETITION TO REPLACE GES REQUIREMENT

The Director of Global Environmental Studies or Chair of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, in agreement with the student's faculty advisor, may approve a non-GES course to count toward a GES major or minor requirement. Transfer and study abroad credits must be pre-approved by Academic Advising or the Study Abroad office. Students may be asked to submit course syllabi or a letter from an advisor/instructor for consideration. Please submit this signed form to the Administrator of Degree Programs. This form will be kept on file with student's Major/Minor Worksheet.

STUDENT NAME: _____ ID NUMBER: _____

FACULTY ADVISOR: _____

COURSE SUBSTITUTION: Check the box if supporting materials are attached

NUMBER & TITLE OF PROPOSED NON-GES REPLACEMENT COURSE:

INSTRUCTOR NAME: _____ DEPARTMENT: _____

PETITION TO REPLACE THE FOLLOWING GES REQUIREMENT:

- Core Course, specify core _____
- Skills Course
- Research Methods Course (rarely accepted, typically only in cases of double-majors)
- Specialization Course (can be 100 level **only if** student has already taken enough 200-levels)

REASON FOR PETITION: _____

- Please check this box if the non-GES course will count as one of the 12 course credits towards the major or 8 course credits toward the minor.

Student Signature: _____ Date: __/__/__

(This section to be completed by department faculty)

Faculty Advisor Signature: _____ Date: __/__/__

GES Dir./ USC Chair Signature: _____ Date: __/__/__

Course to fulfill GES requirement

APPROVED DENIED

Course to count as GES course credit

APPROVED DENIED

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