

# Bachelor of Environmental Studies

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*Student Handbook*

## **Address**

Faculty of Environmental Studies  
Health, Nursing and Environmental Studies Building  
York University 4700 Keele Street  
Toronto, ON  
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# Introduction

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## Tracking Your Progress Through the BES Program

It is critical that Bachelor of Environmental Studies (BES) students attend a **mandatory** group advising meeting each year with the BES Student Success Coordinator held in February and March. At the meeting, students discuss program objectives, future course selections, program options as well as how to complete a program checklist.

The program checklist is **extremely** important—it is a tool used by students to track their degree progress and to ensure they meet their BES degree requirements including their declared Area of Concentration. Each student is required yearly to complete a BES program checklist in full and submit to the BES Student Success Coordinator by the end of April.

After attending the mandatory group advising session, students who need additional assistance can schedule an individual appointment with the Student Success Coordinator. Appointments will only be allowed for students who have attended a group advising session. Failure to submit a properly completed program checklist for approval may result in a delay in course registration for the Fall/Winter session. It may also **prohibit** students from enrolling in their desired or required courses.

In their final year of study, students must:

- attend the mandatory group advising session
- complete the BES Program Checklist
- book an individual appointment with the BES Student Success Coordinator (appointments will only be allowed for students who have attended one of the group advising sessions)
- complete the program checklist in full, prior to the individual appointment with the BES Student Success Coordinator.

Advising appointments can be made through the Student Success Coordinator, room 134 HNES or by phone at 416-736-2100 ext 33510 or by email at [anntsir@yorku.ca](mailto:anntsir@yorku.ca).

Students who fail to complete the following requirements will be blocked from enrolment and registration for the Fall/Winter session.

The requirements are:

1. attend a group advising appointment
2. submit a completed BES program checklist Course Load

Environmental Studies students are subject to the following course load constraints: Students with substantial academic difficulties and/or financial responsibilities are advised to take fewer courses than indicated for that session.

- Fall/Winter session (Sep–Apr): Students are advised to take no more than 30 credits. 36 credits maximum (18 credits per term) may be taken, upon program checklist approval and review by the Student Success Coordinator.
- Summer session (May–Aug): maximum of 15 credits.

### **Simultaneous Enrolment Guidelines/Policy**

The Faculty of Environmental Studies does not permit students to enrol in courses that are conflicting with each other. Students cannot enroll in two or more courses in the same term that are offered on the same day and time.

Students who undertake such schedules should be advised that there will be no special arrangements and/or support by Course Directors. Course Directors are under no obligations to grant any extensions for assignments/exams and/or tests that conflict as a result of double course enrolment. Students are expected to be in class regularly, hand in assignments on time and write the exam/test on its scheduled time. A petition to undertake such schedules in which course conflicts occur or to seek accommodation for such conflicts will not be supported by the Faculty.

### **Pathway to Success**

The Pathway to Success Program is designed to support students' academic success through a series of prescribed workshops and seminars that complement the Bachelor in Environmental Studies (BES) Program. The aim is to provide assistance early in the student's academic career to help them succeed and enjoy the full benefits of completing their BES degree at York University. Students whose mid-term marks are below a grade of "C" in each course of their first year of study, or students whose cumulative grade point average (GPA) falls below "C" (4.00) after their first year, will be required to complete the FES Pathway to Success Program.

Through this program, each student's approach to enhancing their academic skills will be individualized according to the student's needs for academic support. Some of the workshops and seminars prescribed may be taken through the University Learning Skills Services and the Library. If you want to learn more about this program, contact the Student Success Coordinator for more information at [anntsir@yorku.ca](mailto:anntsir@yorku.ca)

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## Honours Double Major, Honours Major/Minor

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In addition to taking courses in the BES program, BES students have the opportunities to specialize in a specific subject or combination of subjects. The area of primary concentration is known as the major. An area of secondary concentration (if any) is known as the minor. In such cases, a request must be made following the steps listed at [registrar.yorku.ca/program/change](http://registrar.yorku.ca/program/change). This request is subject to approval based on your current academic standing. Each program sets the requirements for each double Major or Minor program with options available in the Faculties of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, Fine Arts, Health, and Science and Engineering. BES students should consult the York University Undergraduate Calendar at ([registrar.yorku.ca](http://registrar.yorku.ca)) for specific program requirements.

### General requirements

Regardless of the type of combination degree that is sought, honours double major or an honours major/minor, all students will have a "home" Faculty that will issue their degree. Students enrolled in the Faculty of Environmental Studies will receive a BES degree upon successful completion of their program; students in the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies will receive a BA; students in the Faculty of Fine Arts will receive a BFA or BA; students in the Faculty of Health will receive a BA or BSc; and students in the Faculty of Science and Engineering will receive a BSc.

Students must maintain Honours standing by achieving a minimum cumulative grade point average of 5.0 (C+) over all courses taken at York. Students whose cumulative grade point average is below 5.0 (C+) during the course of their studies may proceed in an Honours program, on warning, provided they meet the specific year level progression requirements described in this booklet. The Faculty of Environmental Studies degree requirements and program regulations apply to those students whose home Faculty is FES.

### Double major requirements in Environmental Studies

Students whose home Faculty is in Liberal Arts and Professional Studies and/or the Faculty of Health who want to pursue a major in Environmental Studies are required to complete 42 credits in Environmental Studies:

- ENVS 1000 6.0 Earth in Our Hands

- two full-courses (12 credits) in the "foundations" series at the 2000 level (2100 6.0, 2200 6.0, 2300 6.0 or 2400 6.0)
- ENVS 2009 3.0 Qualitative Methods in Environmental Studies
- OR ENVS 3010 3.0 Quantitative Methods in Environmental Studies
- 9 credits at the 3000 level
- 12 credits at the 4000 level

### **Minor requirements in Environmental Studies**

Students whose home Faculty is in Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, Fine Arts, Health and Science and Engineering who want to pursue a minor in Environmental Studies are required to complete 30 credits in Environmental Studies:

- ENVS 1000 6.0 Earth in Our Hands
- two full-courses (12 credits) in the "foundations" series at the 2000 level (2100 6.0, 2200 6.0, 2300 6.0 or 2400 6.0)
- 6 credits at the 3000 level or higher
- 6 credits at the 4000 level

Students should be aware that in order to complete the requirements of the Honours Double Major or Honours Major/Minor programs it may be necessary to complete more than 20 full courses (120 credits). Note: In a major/minor program a course can count only once towards a major or minor credit.

## Second Major/Minor options for BES students

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Those interested in earning a BEd concurrently with their BES should refer to the Concurrent Education Program, below.

### Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies

Students in the BES program may apply to pursue an Honours Double Major program or an Honours Major/Minor program in many disciplines in the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, along with their Major in Environmental Studies. Second major programs are available with any seven- or eight-course major discipline. Minors may be pursued in several programs. For detailed information on requirements and application forms, please consult the departmental offices and York University Calendar at the [Registrarial Services website](#).

### School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design

BES students may apply to do a Minor in any of the disciplines within the Faculty of Fine Arts with the exception of the design program. Students should consult the York University Calendar and visit the [School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design](#) for information on specific programs.

### Faculty of Health

Environmental Studies students pursuing an Honours Major in Environmental Studies may combine their program with an Honours Double Major or an Honours Major/Minor program with the Faculty of Health. Honours Double Major and Honours Minor options may be pursued with the Faculty of Environmental Studies in the following Faculty of Health BA programs:

#### Honours Double Major Options

- Kinesiology and Health Science
- Psychology

#### Honours Minor Options

- Global Health
- Health Policy
- Health Management
- Health Informatics
- Kinesiology and Health Science
- Psychology

## **Faculty of Science**

BES students who want to integrate their interest in Environmental Studies with science may apply to pursue an Honours Minor with the following Faculty of Science programs:

- Biology
- Earth and Atmospheric Science
- Chemistry
- Math
- Physics and Astronomy

Students who intend to apply to any of these programs must complete the required pre-requisite courses in high school and take their University first-year Environmental Science course from FSE instead of the ENVS 1500 course offered in FES. For detailed information, please consult the York Undergraduate Calendar at [www.science.yorku.ca/programs](http://www.science.yorku.ca/programs).

## **Concurrent Education Program**

### **Faculty of Education**

The Faculty of Education at York University offers the BEd degree in both a consecutive program and a concurrent program, where students who are enrolled in the BES program may apply to co-register in the Faculty of Education.

BES students may apply to enter the concurrent program in their third year of studies or directly (pre-education direct entry) from high school. Candidates admitted to the Concurrent Education program would add a minimum of two years to their undergraduate studies. Successful candidates then work to complete their BES program in addition to completing their education studies for a bachelor of education degree.

### **Admission Requirements for the Concurrent Education Program**

- Students can apply to the Concurrent BEd from high school (Pre-Education Direct Entry) or after completing 60 or 90 credits of university study,
- Must have a minimum C+ overall average or Honours standing, and be admitted to and continuing in an undergraduate program (in this case, Environmental Studies).
- Students are carefully selected on the basis of academic achievement, oral communication abilities, experience and personal characteristics

relevant to the teaching profession. The BEd degree is awarded only in conjunction with an academic degree (in this case, Environmental Studies).

For further information, please visit [Bachelor of Education Concurrent Program](#).

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## BES Placement

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The placement course is offered during the summer session (May–August) and is open to 3rd year students who meet the eligibility requirements.

### Placement Course Description

The Environmental Studies placement (hereinafter “placement”) is an experiential education course designed to provide Honours Bachelor of Environmental Studies (BES) students or Community Arts Practice Certificate students with the opportunity to apply their classroom learning in a workplace environment. Through these placement opportunities, students will gain confidence in field-related knowledge, general employability skills, and valuable work experience. When pre-course requirements are fulfilled, eligible students will enrol for either three or six credits depending on the number of hours approved for the placement. While the placement course will be offered during the summer term each year, there are specific requirements outlined below that must be completed before enrolling in the course.

To be eligible for the program, students must:

- Be enrolled as a full time student in their 3rd year of study in the Honours Bachelor of Environmental Studies Program;
- Have successfully completed between 60–90 credits (or will complete 60 credits by April of their third year);
- Have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of a B;
- Have completed the mandatory workshops (see below); and
- Must have a pre-approved placement secured

Notes: Students are advised to utilize the following York University sponsored resources, in addition to individual efforts, to help them locate possible placements:

- The Career Centre at York
- FES job list serve
- Attend annual career winter fair (January) hosted by the Career Centre
- Attend annual volunteer fair (Fall, normally November) hosted by the Career Centre
- And/or obtain guidance from the Course Director; and/or Certificate Coordinators (e.g., Community Arts Program, Urban Ecologies, Sustainable

## Energy, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing, General Certificate in Refugee Migration Studies)

Students who pursue approved placements may receive 3 or 6 credits towards their degree upon the successful completion of the placement. Approved placements require a minimum of 120 hours of work and are generally 8–12 weeks in duration (3 credits) or a minimum of 240 hours of work over 8–12 weeks (6 credits). Course/tuition fees will be subject to student's fee status and as approved by York University. Placements will be carried out during the summer semester from May to August.

This course also relies on mandatory workshops which will be offered by the Career Centre (provided in-house for BES students) which will be announced in the winter term. .

In order to receive academic credit, students must enroll and register on-line for the course, using the York Enrolment System, go out on a pre-approved placement and fulfil the deliverables of the course. Students will be graded on a pass/fail which will be recorded on the student's transcript; so , the grade will not be included in the calculation of the student's grade point average.

Students are able and encouraged to participate in paid placements. However, financial compensation is not guaranteed by York University and students should be aware that the majority of placements providers do not provide financial compensation. Students are also responsible for any incurred costs associated with the placement (e.g., licensing, travel) or any additional requirements (e.g., vaccinations). Workplace, Safety and Insurance Board has information on "unpaid trainees" which is relevant.

### **BES certificate programs**

While working towards the completion of their BES degree, students may opt to pursue a certificate in addition to their degree program. Students can choose from one of five certificates in Environmental Studies: Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing (GIS), Community Arts Practice (CAP), Refugee and Migration Studies (GRSM), Sustainable Energy (SE) or Urban Ecologies (UE). In order to do so, students are required to complete a number of required and elective courses, in addition to completing other degree requirements. Contact the Office of Students and Academic Services, room 137 HNES or the Student Success Coordinator, for more information about applying to these certificate programs.

## **Minimum requirements for multiple certificates**

Students may acquire more than one certificate during the course of their studies provided that at least 18 credits in each certificate program are unique to the specific certificate.

## **Residency requirements**

York University's residency requirement for undergraduate certificate programs is 18 credits for certificate programs requiring up to 36 credits, and 50% of the required credits for certificates comprising more than 36 credits. Normally, for undergraduate certificate programs requiring 18 credits or less, all credits are completed at York.

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## Recent publications by our faculty members

- Blaser, M., de Costa, R., McGregor, D., & Coleman, W. D. (Eds.). (2013). *Indigenous Peoples and Autonomy: Insights for a Global Age*. Vancouver: UBC Press.
- Sandberg, L. A., Wekerle, G. R., & Gilbert, L. (2013). *The Oak Ridges Moraine Battles: Development, Sprawl, and Nature Conservation in the Toronto Region*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- Victor, P. A. (Ed.). (2013). *The Costs of Economic Growth*. Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar Publishing.