

ENVS 201 (C1): Developing an Environmental Studies Learning Pathway - DRAFT

Delivery Mode: [Individualized study online](#)

Credits: 3

Area of Study: Social Science

Prerequisite: None.

Precluded: ENVS 201 is only open to registration by students who have declared Environmental Studies as their major.

Faculty: [Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences](#)

Challenge: ENVS 201 does not have Challenge for Credit option.

NOTE: For students who have declared Environmental Studies as their major, ENVS 201 should be one of the first, if not the first, course they take for credit toward their BES degree. This is a required pass/fail course for all BES program students and is not eligible for credit transfer at other universities or as one of the required electives for the BES degree.

Overview

The Bachelor of Environmental Studies (BES) degree program at Athabasca University (AU) supports you to design an interdisciplinary curriculum of study grounded in the liberal arts and focused on the environment that aligns with your goals in the environmental sector. This flexibility allows you, as an AU BES program student, to create a program of study that is uniquely tailored to your needs, interests, and passions. In this course, students are provided with a series of learning activities to help them identify and interrogate their intellectual passions and interests in the environmental sector. Students become familiar with the BES program regulations and are tasked with developing a program of study for the first 60 credits toward their BES degree. Following, students begin developing an e-portfolio to document their current knowledge, skills, and achievements related to the environment and chart the future direction of their studies.

Course Learning Outcomes

On completion of the learning activities for ENVS 201, students will

- demonstrate familiarity with the BES program regulations;
- identify their passions and/or interests related to environmental studies;

- outline the major skills and knowledge required to secure a position in the environmental field that aligns with their passions and interests;
- develop a program of study for the first 60 credits of their BES degree and map the alignment of the courses with the BES program regulations;
- begin developing an e-portfolio pertinent to their BES degree; and
- apply feedback to improve their work.

Course Outline

ENVS 201 is divided into seven units:

Unit 0: Context for the Course

Unit 1: Your Bioregion

Unit 2: Environmental Challenges and Active Hope

Unit 3: Environmental Inspiration

Unit 4: Gaining Competencies to Realise my Passions

Unit 5: Creating a BES Study Plan

Unit 6: Developing an E-Portfolio

Evaluation

To receive [credit](#) for ENVS 201, students must satisfactorily complete two tutor check-ins and the following six learning activities.

Activity	Weight
Learning Activity 1: What defines the place where I live?	Pass/Fail
Learning Activity 2: What are the key environmental challenges facing society?	Pass/Fail
Learning Activity 3: What or who gives me inspiration and hope?	Pass/Fail
Learning Activity 4: What are my environmental passions and interests?	Pass/Fail
Tutor Check-In 1	Pass/Fail
Learning Activity 5: What courses should I take to achieve my goals and realize my passions?	Pass/Fail
Learning Activity 6: Beginning a BES e-portfolio	Pass/Fail



Tutor Check-In 2	Pass/Fail
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Materials

All course materials are available online.

This course includes the use of an e-portfolio platform called PebblePad, where students will post their responses to some of the learning activities. This platform is external to Brightspace, and students are given instructions on how to access it.

