


What is the ES  
Outside  
Concentration?



# General Overview

Students are required to take 16 upper division units from a department outside of Environmental Studies → this is called the Outside Concentration or Area C

The purpose of this requirement is for students to specialize in a specific discipline/topic of interest.



# Difference between the B.A. vs. B.S. Outside Concentration

For ENVST B.A. , the outside concentration can be taken from any department on campus.

For ENVST B.S. , the outside concentration must be taken from only STEM departments, including:


- Chemistry & Biochemistry
- EEMB/MCDB
- Earth Sciences
- Geography
  - only courses listed under the [Physical Geography B.S. major sheet](#)
- Math
- Statistics
- Physics
- Psych & Brain Sciences

\*Engineering can also be used for the B.S. Area C, but few students do



# One Department vs. Interdisciplinary Option

- There are two different options for the outside concentration
  - 1. Take all 16 upper division units from one department outside of ES
  - 2. Take upper division classes from multiple departments outside of ES under a specific theme
- Example of a one department outside concentration
  - An ES B.S. student want to go into ecology field research after graduating, so they decide to take 16 units of EEMB upper division coursework.
- Example of an interdisciplinary outside concentration
  - An ES B.A. student wants to go into environmental planning, so they decide to take 16 upper division units of a combination of courses from Art History and Geography, where each class has something to do with urban/environmental planning.
  - When they petition this for their Area C, their outside concentration theme is “Environmental/Urban Planning”



# Things to Consider with the One-Department Option for Area C

There are a number of impacted departments that can make it difficult for students to get into **16 upper division units**. Impacted departments include:

- Political Science, Communications, Sociology, Psych and Brain Sciences, Biology

A handful of departments require significant numbers of prerequisites to take **upper division** courses. These departments include:

- Statistics, Economics, Physics, Math, Biology

**PREREQUISITES!!!**

- Make sure that you meet the prerequisites for courses in the **upper division**



# Things to Consider with the Interdisciplinary Option for the Outside Concentration

The courses you take must have a coherent & specific theme.

- Strong examples of Outside Concentration themes
  - Human-Environmental Health, Environmental/Urban Planning, Environmental Law and Policy, Wildlife Conservation and Restoration, Social Justice and Inequality
- Poor examples of Outside Concentrations are
  - Vague
  - Wordy

If you'd like to see some other examples of outside concentration themes, check out our Suggested Emphasis Worksheet on the website:

- [Suggested Emphasis Worksheet](#)

**Keep in mind:** your outside concentration does not have to have an environmental focused theme (ex: feminist theory, cultural perceptions of race, etc.), but it does have to still be coherent & specific.

# Can I have my interdisciplinary outside concentration Pre-Approved?

Yes! If you have mapped out 4 classes that you'd like to take and want to see if your theme will be approved, you can submit a Petition via our "[Petition Degree Requirements page](#)" on the website.

Make sure to check "Preliminary Petition Request" if this is for a pre-approval petition!

**REQUEST TO PETITION DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**  
***Environmental Studies Program, UCSB***

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Use this form to request substituting UCSB or transfer coursework (including abroad units) towards any part of the Environmental Studies or Hydrologic Science major. Common requests include declaring an interdisciplinary outside concentration or applying transfer credit towards specific lower or upper-division major requirements. Visit the College of L&S to petition GE, University and other exceptions to policy: [www.duels.ucsb.edu/advising/petitions](http://www.duels.ucsb.edu/advising/petitions)

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Complete the following information and return the petition to the ES Advisors in 4312 or 4313 Bren Hall. Approval time averages three weeks and notification will be sent to your UCSB email address and posted to GOLD. **Note:** To be considered courses must be posted to one's *Course History* on GOLD as completed, transferred, or currently enrolled units. *Check here  if this is a Preliminary Petition Request (i.e. proposed courses for Area C)*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Perm#** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Last First*

**UCSB Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_@ucsb.edu **Phone #** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

**Major(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Expected Date of Graduation:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Include B.A. or B.S. and any Double Major or Official Minor Qtr. and Year*

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Note: Some classes you planned to take may not be offered regularly, so you may have to find alternative classes to fill your Area C. If this is the case, you can always email advising and ask us if the alternative class you found still fits with the theme we pre-approved in the petition/submit a petition with 5-6 classes in case 1-2 of them are not offered by the time you graduate.



# Can Minors/Double Majors Count for my Outside Concentration?


Yes for majors!

- For B.A. majors, if you pursue a double major in any department on campus, that will automatically count for your outside concentration.
- For B.S. majors, if you pursue a double major in one of the STEM department on campus, that will automatically count for your outside concentration.
- NOTE: There is a college rule that only 8 units of coursework can overlap between majors; ENVST Area C is the exception. The whole Area C can overlap + 8 additional units

Most of the times, yes for minors!

- If you are pursuing a minor where all of the courses are taken from one department, it will automatically count towards your outside concentration
  - If you are a B.S. major, only STEM minors will automatically count towards your Area C (ex: Earth Science, Statistics)
- If you are doing an interdisciplinary minor where you have the option to take ES classes to fulfill the minor, consult with an ES advisor to see how we can make the minor count towards your Area C (it won't be automatic!)
  - Examples of interdisciplinary minors some ES students pursue:
    - Spatial Science; Poverty, Social Justice, and Inequality; Architecture and Urban History; American Indian and Indigenous Studies





# Can third-party field studies program count towards my outside concentration?

Yes!


- If you do UCNRS or a third party field studies semester long program (ex: WRFI, SFS), this will satisfy your entire outside concentration (for both B.S. or B.A.)
- If you do Wildlands Studies (a 6 week program), this will count for 15/16 units towards your outside concentration (for both B.A. and B.S.). You will have to take at least one more unit at UCSB of upper division coursework similar to your Wildlands Program to fully complete your outside concentration
  - If you're a B.S. major, the last 1 unit must come from a STEM department.
- If you do a 2 week Wildlands Studies program/shorter field studies program, this will count towards a portion of your Area C and the remaining units must be taken with coursework similar to your Wildlands Program.



## Can study abroad courses count towards my Outside Concentration?

Yes! All 16 units (or some) of your Area C can be satisfied by abroad coursework. Keep in mind that the general rules still apply towards abroad coursework– all 16 units have to either be taken from one department or form a coherent theme (just like if you were to do it at UCSB).

B.S. majors must take only STEM courses abroad to have them count towards their Area C!



# Do I need to petition my Outside Concentration? When should I submit my petition?

If you are completing an interdisciplinary outside concentration, you will need to submit a Petition request via the "[Petition Degree Requirements](#)" page, outlining ALL 16 units worth of coursework you intend to count towards your Area C.

- We can only complete this petition request if you are at least enrolled in all 16 units of outside concentration coursework. We need it to be in your Course History for us to complete the petition!

If you are doing a field studies program/EAP coursework to satisfy all/some of your outside concentration, you will need to submit a petition request.

- Again, we can only accept the petition once all 16 units of coursework you plan to use for your outside concentration is in your Course History
  - Your EAP/field studies coursework must have already transferred back for us to submit this petition.



# Most Common Area C Mistake

## Waiting until the last minute!!!

- It is nearly impossible to get 4 upper division courses in another department during your very last quarter at UCSB.
- Don't accidentally prolong your time at UCSB and make sure you start early in thinking about and taking your Outside Concentration classes



## Any other questions?

Feel free to reach out to ES academic advising either via appointment or email.

To book an appointment, click [here](#).

To email us, email [advising@es.ucsb.edu](mailto:advising@es.ucsb.edu)