

# PATHWAYS MINORS

# CLIMATE AND SOCIETY

## What is it?

Climate change is a growing global threat with complex societal, environmental, and economic impacts. This minor provides students with the opportunity to **explore and understand the science, causes, impacts, and policy of climate change at the local, regional, and international levels** from different perspectives. The minor brings together coursework from the physical/natural sciences, environment and ecosystems, and human dimensions and policy, as well as the option to explore additional coursework on methodological approaches that will provide students with the capacity to understand and analyze climate change impacts on society and the environment.



## Why do it?

This minor will equip students with the **skills to identify, interpret, and critically analyze scientific information**. Students will develop the skills and knowledge needed to not only understand the science, causes, and impacts of climate change, but also understand the actions needed to mitigate and/or adapt to climate change from both environmental and social perspectives.



## Who is it for?

Students from a **wide range of fields**, including but not limited to: environmental resource management, environmental science, forestry, agricultural sciences, smart and sustainable cities, water resources, policy and management, meteorology, international public policy, human development, geography, civil and environmental engineering, and environmental conservation and society.

### Pathways Core Concepts

- 1a - Advanced Discourse
  - 3 - Reasoning in the Social Sciences
  - 4 - Reasoning in the Natural Sciences
- Additional concepts possible depending on elective choices

### Pathways Integrative Concepts

- Ethical Reasoning
- Intercultural and Global Awareness

# PATHWAYS MINORS

# CLIMATE AND SOCIETY

## Requirements

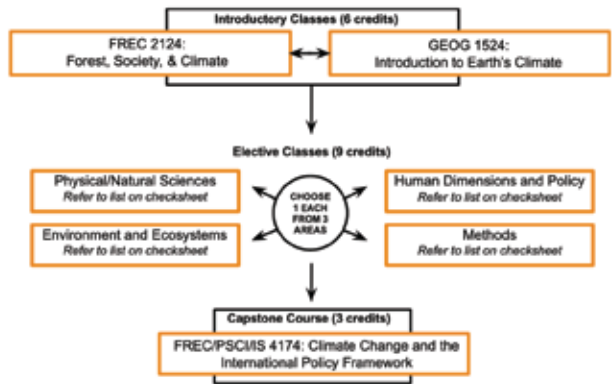
This 18-credit hour minor in Climate and Society includes two 3-hour required introductory courses introducing students to the climate system and the human/climate relationship, 9 hours of elective courses chosen from 4 broad themes which explore the complexities of the topic, and a 3-hour required integrative capstone course that pulls all of the threads of the minor together.

## Required courses

FREC 2124: Forest, Society, & Climate

GEOG 1524: Introduction to Earth's Climate

FREC/PSCI/IS 4174: Climate Change and International Policy Framework



## Elective courses

Students select 9 credit hours of elective courses, selecting one course from three of the following four themes: Physical/Natural Sciences, Environment and Ecosystems, Human Dimensions and Policy, and Methods. At least 3 credits must be outside the student's major. At least 3 credits must be at the 3000 level or above. For a complete list of elective courses, consult the checksheet at <https://registrar.vt.edu/graduation-multi-brief/index1.html>.

- Learn the knowledge and skills needed to understand the science, causes, and impacts of climate change.
- Develop the capacity to explore and assess a global challenge from different dimensions (scientific, social, environmental, economic, and political).
- Learn about the law and policy of climate change, exploring policies to mitigate and adapt to it.
- Explore the role, aim, and history of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- Develop and practice the skills necessary to participate in global diplomacy and negotiations surrounding the causes and potential solutions to the issue of climate change.

[www.pathways.prov.vt.edu/minors](http://www.pathways.prov.vt.edu/minors)

Contact: Dr. Carol Franco  
[carol@vt.edu](mailto:carol@vt.edu)



PATHWAYS GENERAL EDUCATION