

ECOSYSTEMS FOR HUMAN WELL-BEING

What is it?

Ecosystem services are critical to the survival of humans throughout the world, and the complex links between environmental change and human health are influenced by societal and cultural differences. **The Ecosystems for Human Well-Being minor examines the connection between ecosystems and the services they provide to communities, cultural impact on the environment, and the pathways associated with human and animal health risks.**



Why do it?

This minor will allow students to **examine the world from multiple perspectives in the context of a critical global and ethical issue: the planet's life support systems.** Students can fulfill Pathways General Education requirements in the social sciences, natural sciences, and the humanities, while taking additional courses that will prepare them for their future careers.



Who is it for?

This minor is appropriate for students from numerous disciplines across campus, and especially students with an interest in the **“One-Health” concept.** Students in STEM fields such as Environmental Science, Biological Science, and Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise will find this minor applicable to their future careers. It may also interest students in Population Health Sciences who would like additional environmental science content, and non-STEM majors seeking to fulfill their Pathways requirements in the natural sciences.

Pathways Core Concepts

- 2 - Critical Thinking in the Humanities
 - 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

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Requirements

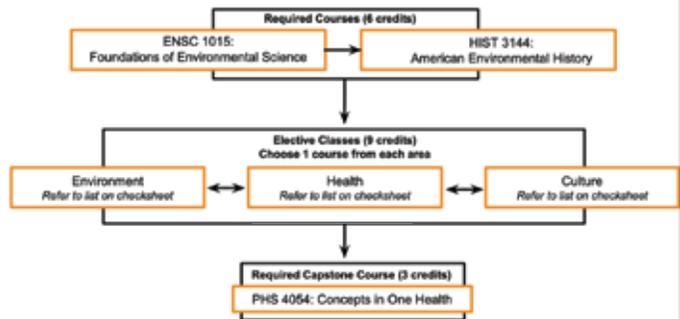
This 18-credit hour minor in Ecosystems for Human Well-Being includes one 3-hour required introductory course, one 3-hour required mid-level course, 9 hours of elective courses, and a 3-hour required integrative capstone course. The introductory course, ENSC 1015, introduces students to the interactions between the environment and human activities. In the mid-level course, HIST 3144, students will use the concepts learned in ENSC 1015 to understand the interactions between Americans and the environment from the colonial era to the present. Students then choose one course from each of three areas: Environment, Health, and Culture. The capstone course, PHS 4054: Concepts in One Health, ties everything together by allowing students to examine health problems through an understanding of the dynamic interdependence of human, animal, and environmental health.

Required courses

ENSC 1015: Foundations of Environmental Science

HIST 3144: American Environmental History

PHS 4054: Concepts in One Health



Elective courses

Students select 9 credit hours of elective courses, choosing one course from each of three categories: Environment, Health, and Culture. For a complete list of elective courses, consult the checksheet at <https://registrar.vt.edu/graduation-multi-brief/index1.html>.

- Examine a critical global and ethical issue from multiple perspectives.
- Explore the links between environmental change and human health, and the influence of societal and cultural differences.
- Learn about human impact on the environment, through topics such as resource extraction, consumption, and waste disposal.
- Discover how globalization and population growth impact ecosystem services and global health.
- Explore environmental science with a focus on health policies and practices.

www.pathways.prov.vt.edu/minors

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