

Science



Penn State Behrend offers four options within the Science major to permit specialization: Environmental Studies, General Science, General Science Education Precertification, and Earth and Space Science Education Precertification. All options allow the opportunity to add a minor or take courses in complementary fields such as business, education, and political science.

The Environmental Studies option focuses on helping students understand the processes at work on the Earth and develop a background in the social, economic, and political issues that dominate environmental discussions today. A core course sequence includes the fundamentals of geographic information systems, a dominant research tool in earth sciences. Northwestern Pennsylvania and Lake Erie offer an outstanding setting for research and internship opportunities.

The General Science option allows students to frame their studies to meet diverse career goals rooted in science. Students who choose this option use electives to broaden their career horizon: science journalism, public policy and politics, or business are just a few possibilities.

The General Science Education Precertification option and the Earth and Space Science Education Precertification

options are designed for students who want to pursue teaching certification at the secondary level. Students earn a four-year degree in Science, and then acquire teaching skills and certification at another college or university. This generally takes one year.

Why Major in Science?

The BS degree in Science provides a broad education in science. The interdisciplinary curriculum is designed for students whose education and career goals are not immediately met by one of the traditional majors in the sciences.

After completing foundation courses in calculus, chemistry, computer science, the life sciences, and physics, students select additional science courses from designated areas. Supporting courses permit students to earn a minor in several possible complementary fields.

Career Planning

The Academic and Career Planning Center (ACPC) assists students with career and life planning. You may schedule appointments with the ACPC staff to discuss career interests, skills, values, and goal setting, as well as how to find career information, internships, full-time jobs, and graduate schools. Students are encouraged to utilize the services of the ACPC.

Careers in Science

A science degree can be a gateway to many professions, both in and out of the laboratory.

Some scientists are dedicated to understanding the fundamentals of the universe or the earth system. Others work in applied science, using basic knowledge to work in accounting, business, communications, defense, engineering, law, management, medicine, and related fields.

In this flexible major, your career options are limited only by your imagination, talent, and perseverance.

Who to Contact?

School of Science
4951 College Drive
Erie, PA 16563-1501
814-898-6105

behrend.psu.edu/sciencebs

Typical course sequence for the Bachelor of Science in:

Science

Semester 1	Credits
Rhetoric and Composition	3
Calculus with Analytic Geometry	4
Chemical Principles I	3
Experimental Chemistry I	1
Arts course	3
First-Year Seminar	1
Total Credits	15

Semester 3	Credits
Biology: Populations and Communities	4
Effective Speech	3
Introductory Physics I	4
Environmental Studies Option course ¹	3
Foreign Language I	4
Total Credits	18

Semester 5	Credits
Social and Behavioral Science course	3
Effective Writing	3
Environmental Studies Option course ¹	3
Biology: Molecules and Cells	4
General Physics: Fluids and Thermal Physics	2
Total Credits	15

Semester 7	Credits
Research, Internship, Field School or Study Abroad	2-4
Senior level Environmental Studies Option course ¹	3
Senior level Environmental Studies Option course ¹	3
Senior level Environmental Studies Option course ¹	3
Statistics	3
Total Credits	14-16

Semester 2	Credits
Humanities course	3
Calculus with Analytic Geometry II	4
Chemical Principles II	3
Experimental Chemistry II	1
Biology: Basic Concepts and Biodiversity	4
Total Credits	15

Semester 4	Credits
Health and Physical Activity	1.5
Introduction to Programming Techniques	3
Introductory Physics II	4
Foreign Language II	4
Mapping Our Changing World (example)	3
Applied Geographic Information Systems (example)	1
Total Credits	16.5

Semester 6	Credits
Arts course	3
Environmental Studies Option course ¹	3
Humanities course	3
Senior level Environmental Studies Option course ¹	3
Fundamentals of Organic Chemistry I	3
Total Credits	15

Semester 8	Credits
Health and Physical Activity	1.5
Environmental Studies Option course ¹	3
Social and Behavioral Science course	3
Senior level Environmental Studies Option course ¹	3
Biological Experimental Design	3
Total Credits	13.5

¹The major consists of four options. Students choose one of the following options for their area of emphasis: (1) Environmental Studies Option, (2) General Science Option, (3) General Science Precertification for Secondary Education Option, and (4) Earth and Space Science Precertification for Secondary Education Option.

*This is meant to be representative of a typical course sequence for the Environmental Studies Option. Schedules will vary by student, depending on areas of interest. See bulletins.psu.edu/bluebook for specific requirements.