

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Climate Change Studies program prepares students with a comprehensive understanding of climate change; analytical and interdisciplinary skills for climate change research and practice; and an understanding of global perspectives, community engagement, and justice in climate change. The Climate Change Studies program offers B.S. and B.A. degrees and three tracks (e.g., natural sciences, society, and policy) that include a range of courses across multiple departments, colleges, and schools at CU Denver.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) supports students to graduation using a shared advising system. CLAS students have two academic advisors with whom they should meet regularly to discuss academic and degree progress: a CLAS Academic Advisor and a major advisor.

For questions related to CU Denver Core Curriculum, CLAS, general graduation requirements, university/college academic policies, or campus resources contact:

CLAS Academic Advising

clas_advising@ucdenver.edu

Visit the CLAS Advising website [here](#)

North Classroom (NC) 1030
303-315-7100

For questions related to major requirements, major course prerequisites, or evaluation of transfer coursework in your major contact:

Climate Change Studies Major Advising

[CLAS Major Advisor Contact Information](#)

Visit the department website [here](#)

North Classroom (NC) 3016
303-315-7525

GENERAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

All CU Denver CLAS students are required to complete the following minimum general graduation requirements to be eligible to apply for graduation:

1. Complete a minimum of 120 credit hours
2. Achieve a minimum 2.0 CU cumulative grade point average (GPA)
3. Complete a minimum of 45 upper-division (3000- to 4000-level) credit hours
4. Complete all CU Denver Core, CLAS, and major requirements
5. Complete a minimum of 30 CLAS credit hours with letter grades at CU Denver

*The following are **maximum** credit hours that can apply toward the minimum 120 credit hours required for graduation:*

- 16 credit hours Pass/Fail
- 12 credit hours of Independent Study/Directed Research
- 12 credit hours of internship credit
- 8 credit hours of physical education credit

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

Students are responsible for meeting with the major advisor to confirm major requirements. In addition to completing all CU Denver Core and CLAS requirements, students completing the Climate Change Studies Policy B.A. Degree are required to complete the following minimum program requirements:

1. Students must complete a total of 47 credit hours.
2. Students must complete a minimum of 33 upper division (3000- level and above) credit hours from approved courses.
3. Students must earn a minimum grade of C- (1.7) in all courses that apply to the major and must achieve a minimum cumulative major GPA of 2.0. Courses taken using P+/P/F or S/U grading cannot apply to major requirements.
4. Students must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours with CU Denver faculty.
5. Only three credits of Travel Study may be counted toward graduation requirements.
6. Undergraduate students may count up to 6 credit hours of independent study or internship (any combination of CCST 3840 Independent Study, CCST 3939 Internship, CCST 4840 Independent Study, or CCST 4880 Directed Research) towards elective credit in the major as approved by the undergraduate coordinator. Students may not receive more than three credit hours per independent study section. No more than three credit hours of independent study may be taken with the same instructor or in the same term.
7. CCST 3939 Internship: Community/Professional Experience is optional, but highly recommended.

LYNXCONNECT RESOURCES

Are you interested in learning about internship, study abroad, career, and research opportunities for this major? Visit the CU Denver LynxConnect, located in Tivoli Student Union (TV) Suite 339, and browse the LynxConnect [website](#) for more information.

Degree Requirements	Credits	Notes
* Course prerequisites change regularly. Students are responsible for consulting advisors and the class schedule in the student portal for prerequisite information. *		
CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements	34 - 40	CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements
CLAS Graduation Requirements	15 - 29	CLAS Graduation Requirements
CCST Major Requirements	47	
CCST Required Courses		
CCST 1001 Climate Change Seminar	1	
ENVS 1044 & 1045 Introduction to Environmental Sciences with Lab or GEOG 1202 Introduction to Physical Geography	3 - 4	<i>*Prerequisite/Corequisite: ENVS 1044 (for 1045) and ENVS 1045 (for 1044). Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Natural/Physical Sciences (depending on whether lab or non-lab is completed).</i>
GEOG/ENVS 3232 Weather and Climate	3	<i>*Prerequisite: C- or higher in GEOG 1202 or 1044 and 1045</i>
Foundations of Climate Policy		
COMM 2082 Introduction to Environmental Communication	3	
PSCI 2365 Politics of Climate Change	3	
HIST 3616 History of Global Energy	3	
ECON 4540 Environmental Economics	3	<i>*Prerequisite: C- or higher in ECON 2022</i>
GEOG/ENVS 4720 Climate Change: Causes, Impacts and Solutions	3	<i>*Prerequisite: C- or higher in GEOG/ENVS 3232</i>
Complete one Environmental Justice Course	3	<i>*See program for courses. Check individual courses for prerequisites.</i>
Complete one Quantitative Methods Course	3-4	<i>*See program for courses. Check individual courses for prerequisites.</i>
Complete one Qualitative Methods Course	3	<i>*See program for courses. Check individual courses for prerequisites.</i>
Complete one Natural Sciences Course	3-4	<i>*See program for courses. Check individual courses for prerequisites.</i>
Complete one Society Course	3	<i>*See program for courses. Check individual courses for prerequisites.</i>
Complete two Policy Courses	6	<i>*See program for courses. Check individual courses for prerequisites.</i>
CCST 4001 Climate Change Capstone	3-4	<i>*Prerequisite: C- or higher in CCST 1001 and senior standing</i>
Estimated General Electives	4 - 24	<i>General Elective credit hours vary based on Core & CLAS Requirements. Consult with CLAS Advisor.</i>
Total Minimum Credit Hours:	120	<i>45 credit hours must be upper-division</i>

SAMPLE ACADEMIC PLAN OF STUDY

The following academic plan is a *sample* pathway to completing degree requirements for this major. Students should tailor this plan based on previously completed college coursework (e.g., AP, IB, CLEP, dual/concurrent enrollment, and transfer credit), course availability, and individual preferences related to course load, schedules, or add-on programs such as minors or double-majors.

Year One	Fall	CRS	Year One	Spring	CRS
	ENGL 1020 – Core Composition I	3		ENGL 2030 – Core Composition II	3
	MATH 2830 or MATH 1110 ^{PE}	3-4		COMM 2082	3
	ENVS 1044 & 1045 ^C or GEOG 1202 ^C	3-4		PSCI 2365	3
	CCST 1001	1		General Elective (MATH/ECON prerequisite if needed)	3
	CU Denver Core Arts / First-Year Seminar	3		General Elective	3
	Total Credit Hours	13-15		Total Credit Hours	15
Year Two	Fall	CRS	Year Two	Spring	CRS
	GEOG/ENVS 3232	3		HIST 3616	3
	Approved Upper-Division Environmental Justice Course	3		Approved Upper-Division Quantitative Methods Course	3
	CU Denver Core Behavioral Science	3		CU Denver Core Humanities	3
	Upper-Division General Elective	3		Upper-Division General Elective	3
	General Elective	3		General Elective	3
	Total Credit Hours	15		Total Credit Hours	15
Year Three	Fall	CRS	Year Three	Spring	CRS
	Approved Upper-Division Qualitative Methods Course	3		ECON 4540 ^{PE}	3
	Approved Upper-Division Society Course	3		Approved Upper-Division Natural Science Course	3
	CLAS Second Language Semester I	5		CLAS Second Language Semester II	5
	CU Denver Core Social Science	3		CLAS Communicative Skills	3
	General Elective	3		General Elective	3
	Total Credit Hours	17		Total Credit Hours	17
Year Four	Fall	CRS	Year Four	Spring	CRS
	GEOG/ENVS 4720 ^{PE}	3		CCST 4001	3
	Approved Policy Course	3		Approved Upper-Division Policy Course	3
	Upper-Division General Elective (Consider Internship/Directed Research)	1-3		CU Denver Core International Perspectives	3
	General Elective	3		CU Denver Core Cultural Diversity	3
	General Elective	3		General Elective	3
	Total Credit Hours	13-15		Total Credit Hours	15

^M Major Course Available ^C CU Denver Core Course ^{PE} Prerequisite Enforced ^{PR} Prerequisite Recommended