

## 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](mailto: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 Natural Sciences B.S. Degree are required to complete the following minimum program requirements:

1. Students must complete a total of 52 credit hours.
2. Students must complete a minimum of 18 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  |
|---|---------------|--|
| <b>* Course prerequisites change regularly. Students are responsible for consulting advisors and the class schedule in the student portal for prerequisite information. *</b> |               |  |
| CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements  | 34 - 40       | <a href="#">CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements</a>   |
| CLAS Graduation Requirements  | 15 - 29       | <a href="#">CLAS Graduation Requirements</a>   |
| CCST Major Requirements   | 52            |  |
| CCST Required Courses   |               |  |
| CCST 1001 Climate Change Seminar  | 1             |  |
| ENVS 1044 & 1045 Introduction to Environmental Sciences with Lab <b>or</b><br>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> |
| PSCI 2365 Politics of Climate Change  | 3             |  |
| GEOG/ENVS 3232 Weather and Climate  | 3             | <i>*Prerequisite: C- or higher in GEOG 1202 or 1044 and 1045</i>   |
| BIOL 2010 & 2011 Organisms to Ecosystems (Gen Bio) with lab <b>or</b><br>BIOL 2030 & 2031 Honors Organisms to Ecosystems (Gen Bio) with lab                                   | 4             | <i>Courses can fulfill CU Denver Core Natural/Physical Science with lab<br/>*Prerequisite: High School chemistry or CHEM 1000 recommended</i>  |
| BIOL 2020 & 2021 Molecules to Cells (Gen Bio) with lab <b>or</b><br>BIOL 2040 & 2041 Honors Molecules with Cells (Gen Bio) with lab   | 4             | <i>Courses can fulfill CU Denver Core Natural/Physical Science with lab<br/>*Prerequisite: C- or higher in BIOL 2010 &amp; 2011 or 2030 &amp; 2031</i>   |
| CHEM 2031 & 2038 General Chemistry I with lab <b>or</b><br>CHEM 2032 & 2039 Majors General Chemistry I with lab <b>or</b>   | 4 - 5         | <i>*Prerequisite: MATH1110 and High School chemistry or CHEM 1000 recommended</i>  |
| CHEM 2061 & 2068 General Chemistry II with lab <b>or</b><br>CHEM 2062 & 2069 Majors General Chemistry II with lab <b>or</b>   | 5             | <i>*Prerequisite: C- or higher in CHEM 2031 or 2032 and 2038 or 2039</i>   |
| GEOG/ENVS 4720 Climate Change: Causes, Impacts and Solutions  | 3             | <i>*Prerequisite: C- or higher in GEOG/ENVS 3232</i>   |
| Complete <b>two</b> Quantitative Methods Courses  | 6-7           | <i>*See program for courses. Check individual courses for prerequisites.</i>   |
| Complete <b>two</b> Natural Sciences Courses  | 6-7           | <i>*See program for courses. Check individual courses for prerequisites.</i>   |
| Complete <b>one</b> Policy Course   | 3             | <i>*See program for courses. Check individual courses for prerequisites.</i>   |
| Complete <b>one</b> Society Course  | 3             | <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>  |
| <b>Estimated General Electives</b>  | <b>0 - 19</b> | <i>General Elective credit hours vary based on Core &amp; CLAS Requirements. Consult with CLAS Advisor.</i>  |
| <b>Total Minimum Credit Hours:</b>  | <b>120</b>    | <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.

|                   |   |              |                   |  |           |
|-------------------|---|--------------|-------------------|--|-----------|
| <b>Year One</b>   | <b>Fall</b>   | CRS          | <b>Year One</b>   | <b>Spring</b>  | CRS       |
|                   | ENGL 1020 – Core Composition I  | 3            |                   | ENGL 2030 – Core Composition II                                    | 3         |
|                   | MATH 2830 or MATH 1110 <sup>PE</sup>                                    | 3-4          |                   | BIOL 2010 & 2011 <sup>PR C</sup> or 2030 & 2031 <sup>PR</sup>      | 4         |
|                   | ENVS 1044 & 1045 <sup>C</sup> or GEOG 1202 <sup>C</sup>                 | 3-4          |                   | PSCI 2365  | 3         |
|                   | CCST 1001   | 1            |                   | General Elective (Quantitative Course/MATH prerequisite if needed) | 3         |
|                   | CU Denver Core Arts / First-Year Seminar                                | 3            |                   | General Elective   | 3         |
|                   | <b>Total Credit Hours</b>   | <b>13-15</b> |                   | <b>Total Credit Hours</b>  | <b>16</b> |
| <b>Year Two</b>   | <b>Fall</b>   | CRS          | <b>Year Two</b>   | <b>Spring</b>  | CRS       |
|                   | BIOL 2020 & 2021 <sup>PE C</sup> or 2040 & 2041 <sup>PE</sup>           | 4            |                   | GEOG/ENVS 3232   | 3         |
|                   | CHEM 2031 & 2038 <sup>PR C</sup> or 2032 & 2039 <sup>PR C</sup>         | 4-5          |                   | CHEM 2061 & 2068 <sup>PE C</sup> or 2062 & 2069 <sup>PE C</sup>    | 5         |
|                   | CU Denver Core Behavioral Science                                       | 3            |                   | CU Denver Core Humanities  | 3         |
|                   | Upper-Division General Elective   | 3            |                   | CLAS Behavioral Science <sup>M</sup>                               | 3         |
|                   |   |              |                   | Upper-Division General Elective                                    | 3         |
|                   | <b>Total Credit Hours</b>   | <b>14-15</b> |                   | <b>Total Credit Hours</b>  | <b>17</b> |
| <b>Year Three</b> | <b>Fall</b>   | CRS          | <b>Year Three</b> | <b>Spring</b>  | CRS       |
|                   | Approved Upper-Division Natural Science Course                          | 3            |                   | Approved Upper-Division Natural Science Course                     | 3         |
|                   | Approved Upper-Division Society Course                                  | 3            |                   | Approved Upper-Division Quantitative Methods 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            |                   |  |           |
|                   | <b>Total Credit Hours</b>   | <b>17</b>    |                   | <b>Total Credit Hours</b>  | <b>14</b> |
| <b>Year Four</b>  | <b>Fall</b>   | CRS          | <b>Year Four</b>  | <b>Spring</b>  | CRS       |
|                   | GEOG/ENVS 4720  | 3            |                   | CCST 4001  | 3         |
|                   | Approved Upper-Division Quantitative Methods Course                     | 3            |                   | CU Denver Core International Perspectives                          | 3         |
|                   | Approved Upper-Division Policy Course                                   | 3            |                   | CU Denver Core Cultural Diversity                                  | 3         |
|                   | CLAS Humanities   | 3            |                   | Upper-Division General Elective                                    | 3         |
|                   | Upper-Division General Elective (Consider Internship/Directed Research) | 3            |                   | Upper-Division General Elective                                    | 3         |
|                   | <b>Total Credit Hours</b>   | <b>15</b>    |                   | <b>Total Credit Hours</b>  | <b>15</b> |

<sup>M</sup> Major Course Available    <sup>C</sup> CU Denver Core Course    <sup>PE</sup> Prerequisite Enforced    <sup>PR</sup> Prerequisite Recommended