

Advising Undergraduates in the Environment & Sustainability Program

Please encourage your advisees to have their senior records check in Flinn Hall BEFORE their final semester begins!

Registration for Fall 2016 courses begins April 11. Students must bring their signed advisement sheets to PSC 108 before they will be cleared for registration.

A. Helpful websites:

Self Service Carolina: To see academic information for your advisees, log into Self Service Carolina (<http://my.sc.edu>), click Faculty Services, then Student Information, then Advisee List: you will see all of your advisees with easy links to their transcripts and test scores. You can also easily email all of your advisees through this portal.

SEOE Advisement: Includes Advisement FAQs, degree checklists, and commonly requested forms <http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/seoe/undergrad/>

B. Credits: The BA in Environmental Studies degree requires 120 credits for graduation, while the BS in Environmental Science requires 128. A grade of C or higher is required for all courses used to fulfill pre-major or major requirements. Majors may enroll in required courses a maximum of two times to earn the required grade of C or higher; for the purposes of this standard of progression, withdrawal with a W does not constitute enrollment.

C. Selective Courses: Students must choose additional upper-level courses (9-10 credits in Environmental Studies, 17-18 credits in Environmental Science) from the list located in the Undergraduate Academic Bulletin. As these are interdisciplinary degrees, no more than two of those courses should come from a single discipline (excepting classes with an ENVR designator).

D. Fine Arts Requirement: The BA in Environmental Studies requires four Aesthetic and Interpretive Understanding courses (fine arts/humanities/literature), while the BS in Environmental Science requires only two. One of those courses must be on the list of AIU courses approved for the Carolina Core (see degree checklists or www.sc.edu/carolinacore for the complete list). Note that the courses must be three credits (see below).

E. “Performance” Courses: Many courses in Music, Theater, and Physical Education do not count toward the semester hours needed for graduation. In general, music and theater appreciation or history (3 credits) will count, but learning to play an instrument or to act (1 credit) will not.

F. Senior records check: Students who have completed 90 hours or are within two semesters of graduation should complete a major program card (with their advisor!) and take it to the Dean’s office, 110 Flinn Hall for a senior records check. *Students who wait until their final semester for a senior records check may find themselves short a class and therefore unable to graduate.*

- G. Transfer Credit for ENGL 102:** Under the Carolina Core, ENGL 102 has an Information Literacy component not taught at other schools. Students who take ENGL 102 elsewhere should take LIBR 101 (1 credit) to meet the INF requirement.
- H. Scholarship Holders (BS in Environmental Science only):** Beginning with students entering in Fall 2015, graduates of SC high schools with lottery scholarships (Life, Palmetto) are now eligible for the enhancement for science majors that kicks in during the sophomore year. Students who entered USC before Fall 2015 are encouraged to declare a double major in an accepted STEM field so they can receive the enhancement while pursuing the BS in Environmental Science degree.
- I. CHEM 111:** Note that MATH 115 is a required prerequisite for CHEM 111. Students will no longer be allowed to take MATH 115 and CHEM 111 at the same time. Also note that students must now register for CHEM 111 and CHEM 111L separately (the 4-credit course has been split into 3- and 1-credit courses.) Students must register for the lecture and the lab at the same time, checking one box for each on the right side of the registration screen before submitting, or they will get a 'missing pre-requisite' error message.
- J. ENVR 548:** Environmental majors have the option of taking ENVR/ECON 548 Environmental Economics. Note that this course now has a required prerequisite of ECON 222, 223 or 224.
- K. STAT 515:** Note that the prerequisite for STAT 515 has changed to a C or higher in MATH 122 or MATH 141, or both MATH 111 or higher and any statistics class.
- L. Congaree course:** The Congaree National Park field course has been permanently added to the catalog as ENVR 460. It will be a spring semester course with fieldwork in the Park in May. Prerequisites are ENVR 201/202 or permission of the instructor.
- M.** Once a student enrolls in a course, he or she must complete the course at a USC campus. For instance, if a student withdraws from Math 141, or receives a D or F, he or she must retake MATH 141 at USC Columbia or a regional campus (Sumter, Lancaster, Salkehatchie or Union) although he may opt to take MATH 142 elsewhere. Students who are struggling to pass MATH 141 or CHEM 111 should be encouraged to take the second course in the sequence (MATH 142 or CHEM 112) elsewhere (i.e. at home or Midlands Tech). Some students who have struggled to pass MATH 142 at USC Columbia found it easier and less stressful at USC Sumter; students with a car can take that course concurrently with other courses at the Columbia campus by completing a Transient Enrollment Form (available on the Registrar's website).
- N. Confidentiality:** As advisors, you should be aware that it is a violation of a student's right to privacy for you to reveal any information regarding the student's performance to anyone outside the university without expressed consent of the student. This includes addresses, phone numbers, transcript information or even their performance in your course. **Under Federal Law, parents do not have access to this information without the student's written consent.** Refer requests to the Office of the Registrar.
- O. Disabilities, Emotional Problems:**

1. Students with physical or learning disabilities should contact Student Disability Services at (7-6142)
2. For students with emotional problems (e.g., depression tendencies), refer to the Counseling and Human Development Center, Close/Hipp Building, (7-5223). For severely distressed individuals contact the Behavioral Intervention Team (7-4333).

P. Research Opportunities: PLEASE encourage students to get involved!! Help them to determine career goals, secure positions in faculty research labs, find out about summer internships and REUs, to actively participate in research opportunities within the program and university in general and to investigate study abroad or take summer field courses.

P. Placement tests: No student can register for a math course without first taking an online placement exam (or showing proof of transfer credit for prerequisite math coursework.) Students who place into MATH 141 may still take MATH 115 first to strengthen background and will receive credit. The Math department also offers an accelerated course, MATH 116, which lasts for half a semester and is specially designed for students who placed into Calculus but feel they first need a refresher to succeed in it.

Students wishing to take a foreign language at anything other than the first/beginner level must first take a placement exam in that language. Placement exams are offered on campus at the beginning of each semester. Students will not receive academic credit if they take a course lower than the level at which they placed. Students who are already proficient in a language other than English should contact the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures to inquire about exemption from the foreign language requirement.

Q. Grade Forgiveness: It is the policy of the University of South Carolina that every currently enrolled fully-admitted, degree-seeking undergraduate earning a “D+”, “D”, “F” or “WF” in a USC course may take up to two (2) undergraduate courses for a second time for the purpose of grade forgiveness. Both the first and second grades shall appear on the USC permanent record, but only the second grade will be used in computing the University of South Carolina cumulative grade point average. An explanatory notice will appear on the record. Once grade forgiveness is applied to a repeated course, the action may not be revoked.

Eligible students wishing to apply the course grade forgiveness policy to a course enrollment may do so at any time during his/her undergraduate enrollment, but no applications will be honored after the degree is awarded. Grade forgiveness can only be applied once per course for a maximum of two courses (not to exceed 8 credits) on a student's undergraduate academic record, without regard to the number of degrees sought.

For a course taken the first time before the Fall 2012 semester, the forgiven and repeated class must both be taken at the same USC campus. The grade forgiveness policy was revised for 2012-13, so that for a course taken the first time during or after the Fall 2012 semester, the original course (first attempt) and the second attempt in the same course may be taken at the USC-Columbia campus or a USC regional campus (Lancaster, Salkehatchie, Sumter or Union). This does not apply to courses taken at USC Aiken, USC Beaufort and USC Upstate. Courses transferred from other institutions are excluded from this policy.

This policy does not preclude students from repeating classes multiple times, in accordance with program requirements, but only the second attempt at the class may forgive the original grade of D+, D, F, or WF. Only a regular letter grade can replace a forgiven grade. Grades of "W", "I", "S", "U", or "AUDIT" may not replace previous grades. Grades carrying an honor code violation sanction of "X" are not eligible for grade forgiveness.

Grade forgiveness does not apply to courses taken prior to Fall 2007.