

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 program 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 30 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 minimum of 46 credit hours and of those 33 upper division (3000- level and above) credit hours must be from the approved courses.
2. 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.
3. A minimum of 30 credit hours must be completed in courses taught by faculty in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, at CU Denver.
4. Only three credits of Travel Study may be counted toward graduation requirements.
5. Undergraduate students may count up to 6 credit hours of independent study or internship (any combination of relevant independent study, internship, or directed research coursework) towards elective credit in the major as approved by the program director. 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.

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		CLAS Graduation Requirements
CCST Major Requirements	46	33 credit hours must be upper-division
CCST Required Courses		
CCST 1001 Climate Change Seminar	1	
ENVS 1044 & 1045 Introduction to Environmental Sciences with Lab or CCST 1060 Global Climate Change or GEOG 1202 Introduction to Physical Geography	3 - 4	*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).
GEOG/ENVS 3232 Weather and Climate	3	*Prerequisite: C- or higher in GEOG 1202 or 1044 and 1045
Foundations of Climate Society		
COMM 2082 Introduction to Environmental Communication	3	
HIST 3616 Global History of Energy	3	
GEOG/ENVS 4720 Climate Change: Causes, Impacts and Solutions	3	*Prerequisite: C- or higher in GEOG/ENVS 3232
PBHL 3020 Introduction to Environmental Health	3	
PHIL 3430 How to Think Green: Environmental Ethics or PBHL 3500 Climate Justice	3	
PSCI 2365 Politics of Climate Change	3	
Complete one Quantitative Methods Course	3-4	*See program for courses. Check individual courses for prerequisites.
Complete one Qualitative Methods Course	3	*See program for courses. Check individual courses for prerequisites.
Complete one Natural Sciences Course	3-4	*See program for courses. Check individual courses for prerequisites.
Complete one Policy Course	3	*See program for courses. Check individual courses for prerequisites.
Complete two Society Courses	6	*See program for courses. Check individual courses for prerequisites.
CCST 4001 Climate Change Capstone or CCST 3939 Internship	3-4	*Prerequisite: C- or higher in CCST 1001 and senior standing (for 4001)
Estimated General Electives	34 - 40	General Elective credit hours will vary. Students are highly encouraged to explore and complete additional programs including certificates, minors, double-majors, and dual-degrees. Consult with CLAS Academic Advisor.
Total Minimum Credit Hours:	120	30 credit hours must be upper-division

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 certificates, minors, double-majors, or dual-degrees.

Year 1 - Fall	CRS
ENGL 1020 – Core Composition I	3
MATH 2830 or MATH 1110 ^{PE}	3-4
ENVS 1044 & 1045 ^C or GEOG 1202 ^C or CCST 1060	3-4
CCST 1001	1
CU Denver Core Arts / First-Year Seminar	3
Total Credit Hours	13-15

Year 1 - Spring	CRS
ENGL 2030 – Core Composition II	3
COMM 2082	3
PSCI 2365	3
General Elective (MATH/ECON prerequisite if needed)	3
General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	15

Year 2 - Fall	CRS
GEOG/ENVS 3232	3
Approved Upper-Division Quantitative Methods Course	3
CU Denver Core Behavioral Science	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	15

Year 2 - Spring	CRS
HIST 3616	3
Approved Upper-Division Natural Science Course	3
CU Denver Core Humanities	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	15

Year 3 - Fall	CRS
PBHL 3020	3
Approved Upper-Division Qualitative Methods Course	3
CU Denver Core Social Science	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	4
Total Credit Hours	16

Year 3 - Spring	CRS
PHIL 3430 or PBHL 3500	3
Approved Upper-Division Society Course	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	15

Year 4 - Fall	CRS
GEOG/ENVS 4720 ^{PE}	3
Approved Upper-Division Policy Course	3
CU Denver Core International Perspectives	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	4
Total Credit Hours	16

Year 4 - Spring	CRS
CCST 4001 ^{PE} or CCST 3939	3-4
Approved Society Course	3
CU Denver Core Cultural Diversity	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	15-16

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