Portland Community College

Environmental Studies (ESR)

Looking for a Science Class?

These Environmental Studies (ESR) courses are approved general education courses.

- These courses are geared towards students who want to apply science to their everyday lives but do not plan to major in environmental studies or science. If you eat, vote, shop, or use electricity, these courses will help you be more informed about everyday topics and choices.
- They also count towards the Sustainability Focus Award: www.pcc.edu/programs/focus-awards/sustainability/.
- *Prerequisites for all courses: WR 115, RD 115 and MTH 20*

ESR 140 (Introduction to Sustainability)
Do you want to learn about the theories, principles, and practices of sustainability? This class focuses on the triple bottom line (ecological and environmental integrity, human health and well-being, and economic viability) and how to move forward to a more sustainable future.

Lab Courses
The ESR 17X courses include laboratories. Currently, all labs are virtual. When classes are back face-to-face, labs may include field work and off-campus experiences. You can take the classes individually or in any order and do not need to start with ESR 171.

ESR 171 (Biological Perspectives)
Do you want to learn about food justice, invasive species, and ecosystem restoration? These are just a few topics covered in this biology-based environmental science course. The class covers ecosystem functions, biodiversity, human population issues, agricultural practices, and environmental ethics.

ESR 172 (Chemical Perspectives)
Do you want to learn about dead zones, pesticides, and chemicals in your personal care products? Those are just a few topics covered in this chemistry-based environmental science course. The class covers water and water pollution, environmental hazards and human health, pests and pest control, solid waste, hazardous waste, and air pollution.

ESR 173 (Geological Perspectives)
Do you want to learn about earthquakes, nuclear energy, and the science of climate change? Those are just a few topics covered in this geology-based environmental science course. The class covers principles of geosciences, soil resources, hydrogeology, nonrenewable and renewable energy resources, and global climate change.

For More Information

Environmental Studies (ESR) Program
www.pcc.edu/programs/environmental-studies/