

MINOR IN CLIMATE CHANGE STUDIES

Students who complete this minor will gain an understanding of the implications of climate change on both biophysical and social systems, developing an awareness of climate change science, mitigation, and adaptation strategies relevant to their major discipline.

Students will complete courses that inform:

1. What is climate change, why is it now a serious problem, and what can we do about it?
2. What are the key responses and feedbacks of earth systems to climate change?
3. What are the key issues for understanding how groups of people respond to and are affected by climate change?

Alongside the required courses, students will have the flexibility to choose additional courses from 1 to 3 prefixes that align with their interests, enhancing their depth of understanding climate change.

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion, students will be able to:

1. Identify why and how the climate is changing, and how scientists study these physical changes.
2. Analyze biophysical responses and feedbacks to climate change, including nature's role in mitigating climate change, and the impacts to/adaptation of ecosystems.
3. Recognize and evaluate responses and feedbacks to climate change in social systems (e.g., policy and economic responses, justice and equity implications, and changes to social structures and systems).
4. Analyze and evaluate knowledge for a specific dimension of climate change (e.g., forecasting, policy making, economic impacts, or env. Justice impact, natural resource planning).
5. Generate applications of information for a decision-making context in a specific dimension of climate change (e.g., forecasting, policy making, economic impacts, or env. justice, natural resource planning).