Advising Advice for New Students Majoring in Environmental Studies

During the first semester in the fall, first-year students will take First-year Seminar and some will take Comp. I. Because the average load is 16 credits and each course is worth four credits, this still leaves space for two or three courses. Here is what we recommend:

Strong students should try to take both Chem. I and General Biology during their first semester, which are core requirements for the major no matter which concentration you choose.

However, please note that all students hoping to major in ENS will need to take the chemistry placement test during orientation to determine if they are ready for Chem. I. The test is designed to help your advisor direct you into the chemistry course most appropriate for you, and everyone needs to take it.

If the test shows you are not ready for Chem. I it is usually because of rusty math skills or no previous experience with chemistry. In this case you should take Intro. to Environmental Chem. (CHM 105). This introductory course is not required for the major, but necessary to get you ready for Chem. I (CHM 116) and General Biology (BIO 116). Enrollment in General Biology requires either concurrent enrollment in Intro to Env. Chem or placement into Chem I.

Taking one of these chemistries is a good idea in your first fall semester and should be a high priority. The reason for this is that Chem. I is only offered in the fall. If you wait until sophomore year this begins to put you a little behind especially if you take Intro. Env. Chem. in fall of sophomore year and Chem. I in fall of junior year.

General Biology tends to fill in the fall faster than the chemistries and may not be available. That's all right because multiple sections of General Biology are offered every semester including in the spring.

Whether you are a strong or not so strong student, Intro. to Environmental Studies is another core requirement for the major that you should take as soon as possible. Multiple sections are offered each semester, but you should take it your first year if possible because it is a prerequisite for other courses.

During the first year, strong students should also consider taking statistics or calculus, a core requirement within the major. Both are offered in multiple sections each semester. You must take either statistics or calculus to fill the requirement. Both are required if you want to receive a B.S. instead of a B.A. in Environmental Studies. Statistics is considered a little easier conceptually, and more practical for use in environmentalism. Within statistics you have your choice between taking a 100 level section that covers the discipline in general, or

a 200 level course designed for natural science students. Stronger students should consider the 200 level course even if you are a first-year student.

If you received a test score of 3, 4, or 5 on an AP course in Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Statistics, or Calculus, you do not have to take the introductory course at Warren Wilson and it will count towards the major.

As for further advising, your First-year Seminar instructor will be your initial advisor. If you are a transfer student you will be assigned an advisor according to which major you checked on the application. These advisors will get you started, but you should probably change to an ENS advisor before you register for spring courses in November. Before then you should find out who the advisor is for the specific concentration that interests you, and fill out a change of advisor form with the new advisor's signature.