Food Systems

The food systems minor, hosted by the Department of Environmental Science, Policy & Management (ESPM) at the College of Natural Resources (CNR), is an interdisciplinary program of study that explores the role of food within the environment and society. Drawing from diverse fields as far ranging as ecology, sociology, the humanities, nutrition, history, and economics, the food systems minor critically examines issues of contemporary food and agriculture from a whole-systems perspective.

Students take five courses, one of which can be lower division and one of which can overlap with their major. A required community engagement project during the junior or senior year allows students to bring together what they have learned in a real-world setting.

Students who complete the minor will gain a broad and interdisciplinary understanding of critical themes and concepts related to the social, political, economic, environmental, cultural, nutritional, and public health issues of contemporary food and agriculture systems both domestically and internationally.

General Guidelines
Courses must be taken for a letter grade unless the course is only offered on a Pass/No Pass basis. The student must achieve at least a C (2.0) average in the courses taken in satisfaction of a minor program. Students may take one lower division course to count toward the major requirements and may overlap one course, lower or upper division, with their major requirements. The five courses taken for the major, two core courses, two elective courses, and the experiential learning course must total at least 15 units.

All minors must be declared no later than one semester before a student's Expected Graduation Term (EGT). If the semester before EGT is fall or spring, the deadline is the last day of RRR week. If the semester before EGT is summer, the deadline is the final Friday of Summer Sessions. To declare a minor, contact the department advisor for information on requirements, and the declaration process.

The requirements of the minor include:

1. Two Core Courses
Choose two courses, from two different categories listed below.

**Natural Sciences**

- ESPM 118 Agricultural Ecology [3]
- ESPM 120 Soil Characteristics [3]
- ESPM 177A Sustainable Water and Food Security [4]
- PLANTBI 180 Environmental Plant Biology [2]

**Social Sciences**

- GEOG 130 Food and the Environment [4]
- SOCIOL 169F Cultural Perspectives of Food [3]

**Food and Community Health**

- NUSCTX 10 Introduction to Human Nutrition [3] (*)

**Pass/No Pass**

- Introduction to Human Nutrition [3] (*)

2. Two Elective Courses
Choose two courses from the categories below. A minimum of one elective must be from the category not chosen for a core course. Core course options not taken to fulfill the core course requirement can be counted toward the elective requirement.*

**Natural Sciences**

- ESPM 113 Insect Ecology [2]
- ESPM 117 Urban Garden Ecosystems [4]
- ESPM 118 Agricultural Ecology [3] **
- ESPM 120 Soil Characteristics [3] **
- ESPM 131 Soil Microbial Ecology [3]
- ESPM C148 Pesticide Chemistry and Toxicology [3]
- ESPM 158 Biodiversity Conservation in Working Landscapes [4]
- ESPM 177A Sustainable Water and Food Security [4]
- PLANTBI 40 The (Secret) Life of Plants [3]
- PLANTBI 135 Physiology and Biochemistry of Plants [3]
- PLANTBI 170 Modern Applications of Plant Biotechnology [2]
- PLANTBI 180 Environmental Plant Biology [2] **

**Social Sciences**

- HISTORY 2 Foodways: A Global History**
- ANTHRO 140 The Anthropology of Food [4]
- CY PLAN 119 Planning for Sustainability [3]
- ENVECON 140 Economics of Race, Agriculture, and the Environment [3]
- ENVECON 142 Industrial Organization with Applications to Agriculture and Natural Resources [4]
- ENVECON 154 Economics of Poverty and Technology [3]
- ENVECON 162 Economics of Water Resources [3]
- ESPM 5 FROM FARM TO TABLE: FOOD SYSTEMS IN A CHANGING WORLD [4]
- ESPM 165 International Rural Development Policy [4]
- GEOG 130 Food and the Environment [4] **
- GLOBAL 123L Perspectives For Sustainable Rural Development [4]

PB HLTH 196 Special Topics in Public Health [1-4] (Topic must be Global Nutrition***)
Central to the goal of the minor is an experiential learning internship, to be taken during the student’s junior or senior year. During an entire semester (or longer if they choose), students will work with an organization focused on some aspect of food system change. Students will work with the Community Engagement Faculty Coordinator to identify a community engagement partner organization that fits best with the student’s interest. Students will receive credit for community engagement through enrollment in ESPM 197.

Learn About Experiential Learning through Engagement in Food Systems (https://nature.berkeley.edu/food-systems-projects)