Dear New Environmental Studies major:

As Program Coordinator for the Environmental Studies Program, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to Environmental Studies and the academic programs and opportunities that we offer.

The Environmental Studies Program offers a B.A. degree Environmental Studies with emphases in Environmental Sustainability and Social Justice, Humanities and the Environment, or The Urban Environment. We also offer a B.S. in Earth Systems Science, and a B.S. degree in Natural Resource Management and Conservation. Students in all the degrees fulfill common major core and major elective curricula. Because all the degrees mostly share a common core curriculum (except for ecology courses), it is possible for students to change degrees if they find one that better suits their interests. (It is worth noting that the B.S. degrees require more courses and units than the B.A., and students in these programs should see an advisor as early as possible in order to get help on planning your academic program.) You are cordially invited to consult our program website where you will find a wealth of information on the different degrees and emphasis areas: http://envs.sfsu.edu/

Check out information for new majors at http://envs.sfsu.edu/newmajor, specifically the Advising Grids, which list all requirements and electives for each degree and BA emphasis area. I also want to call your attention to the list below which provides specific advice about which courses to take your first semester in the program. These courses provide a strong introduction to many of the other topics you will be studying.

We have an outstanding program, and the number of Environmental Studies majors has grown rapidly in the last 10 years. In the Summer of 2010 the CSU Chancellor’s Office declared the SF State Environmental Studies Program impacted. While officially we are still impacted, we have found that our majors get the courses they need and still graduate faster than the average for the campus as a whole. Upon graduation, they are also finding excellent jobs related to their fields of study.

Once you get settled in the Fall, we encourage you to come see an advisor before registering for your Spring 2015 classes. Advisor office hours, advising assignments, and contact information for advisors is available on our website at http://envs.sfsu.edu/advising.

Sincerely,
Carlos Davidson, Program Coordinator Environmental Studies Program.
Course Advice for First Semester Environmental Studies Students
The following is a suggested course of study for first semester environmental studies students.

ENVS 300: Introduction to Environmental Studies. Definitely take this course your first semester if you can.

ENVS 224 Research Methods for Environmental Studies. A good course for learning basic quantitative, field and research methods for environmental issues such as statistical analysis of data, GPS (Global Positioning Systems), GIS (Geographic Information Systems), stream bioassessment, social science surveys. The course is required for all majors in the B.A. in Environmental Studies.

Beyond these two courses, the main recommendation is to begin taking major electives. The major electives are listed under four categories below and you are required to take one course under each category. The only exception is under ecology, where those in the Natural Resource Management and Conservation concentration must take the BIOL 230 and 240 sequence.

Select one course from each category: 16-18 units

**Physical Environment**
- GEOG 101 Our Physical Environment
- GEOL 270 Environmental Geology

**Sustainability and Social Justice**
- ENVS 306/ECON 306 Economics and the Environment
- ENVS 570 Campus Sustainability
- PHIL 470 Environmental Ethics
- USP 514 Sustainable Development in Cities (4)
- USP 515/GEOG 667 Environmental Justice: Race, Poverty, and the Environment (4)

**Global/International**
- ENVS 470 Climate Politics & Policy
- IR/ENVS 331 Global Environmental Crisis (4)
- IR 428 International Political Economy of Food and Hunger (4)

**Ecology**
- BIOL 313 Principles of Ecology

Or for those in NRMC: BIOL 230 and 240 Introduction to Biology I and II