

# NWAFU-UA COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

## Student Handbook

### 2020, 2021, & 2022 Cohorts

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES

## Environmental Science



### **Program Progression and Graduation Requirements for the B.S. in Environmental Sciences: Soil, Air & Water Emphasis at UA – Xi'an**

Welcome to the NWAUFU-UA Cooperative Program! We are thrilled to have you join us as you pursue your dual degree in Environmental Science. Students in the dual degree program will receive a B.S. in Environmental Science from both NWAUFU and UA, providing unique opportunities for pursuing graduate school or exciting career goals. The UA Department of Environmental Science is one of top environmental science departments in the world. Our faculty, staff, and students are actively engaged in solving the consistently evolving environmental challenges of our time. Our UA faculty at NWAUFU are outstanding scientists and instructors, and they look forward to getting to know each of you as you move through the program.

This guide provides some useful information about the progression and graduation requirements for the B.S. in Environmental Sciences portion of the program.

### **Structure of the Program**

The first two years of your program focus mostly on NWAUFU coursework and intensive English study. In the last two years, you will focus more on your UA coursework. Your UA classes will count toward your NWAUFU degree, and your NWAUFU classes will count toward your UA degree. You will need to take all of the NWAUFU classes in the Cooperative Program's articulation plan **and receive a score of 60 or higher in each NWAUFU class** to receive UA credit for your UA degree.

### **Progression Requirements (Year 1 & Year 2)**

As NWAUFU-UA Cooperative Program students, you begin your UA studies as non-degree seeking students. After the end of your fourth semester of study, you will be reviewed for degree seeking status. This is a very important step. If you do not become a degree seeking student by this time, you will be behind in your coursework and risk having to extend your studies by one or more semesters.

In order to progress in the Cooperative Program from a non-degree seeking student to a UA degree seeking student, you will need to meet two criteria:

1. Achieve a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher in all courses taken in Year 1 and Year 2 (i.e., all NWAUFU and UA courses)
2. Demonstrate English proficiency

~~To demonstrate English proficiency for the B.S. in Environmental Sciences program, you need to fulfill ONE of the following:~~

Earn **at least a C** in English 107 **and** English 108.

English Course	Minimum Requirement	
	For Becoming Degree-Seeking Student	For Graduation*
ENGL 106	D	D
ENGL 107	C	D
ENGL 108	C	C or B**

If you do not earn a C or higher in both ENGL 107 and ENGL 108, you will need to have a separate English proficiency exam and achieve as listed below:

English Proficiency Exam	Minimum Requirement		
TOEFL	79	79	70
IELTS Academic	6.5	6.5	6.0
CEPT	110	110	100
Duolingo	105	105	100

\*Please note:

- 1) English proficiency exam scores do **NOT** take the place of a grade for ENGL 107 and/or 108. You will still need to meet the ENGL 107 and/or 108 grade requirements for graduation.
- 2) If you meet the requirements of becoming a degree-seeking student, but you only earn a C in ENGL 108, you ~~will still~~may need to re-take this course later to meet the graduation requirement. Please refer to “Graduation Requirements” below.

\*\*UA requires graduating students show writing mastery through either earning a B or higher in ENGL 108 **OR** through earning a B or better in the writing intensive course (ENVS 408).

~~4.~~

2. ~~If you do not earn a C or higher in both of these courses, you will need to have alternative proof of English proficiency. Options are listed below:~~
- ~~— CEPT Exam score of 100 (<https://cesl.arizona.edu/testing/cept-full>)~~
  - ~~— TOEFL score of 70~~
  - ~~— IELTS score of 6.0~~
  - ~~— Duolingo score of 100~~
  - ~~- Other options are available at: <https://everywhere.arizona.edu/english-proficiency>~~

**Please note:** Students are permitted to apply a maximum of 15 credits earned while in non-degree seeking status toward the UA degree. You will complete 15 UA credits while in non-degree seeking status, and all those credits must be counted toward the UA degree. If you cannot progress to become a degree seeking student after Semester 4, any additional UA credits you complete in Semester 5 (or beyond) will be above the 15 credit non-degree seeking limit. If this happens, any credits/courses you complete during Semester 5 (or beyond) as a non-degree seeking student will need to be repeated once you have degree seeking status, even if you previously earned a passing grade in those courses. This typically results in one or more additional semesters to earn your degree.

## **Graduation Requirements (Year 1 to Year 4)**

Whether at Yangling in the NWAUFU-UA cooperative program, at UA's main campus in Tucson, Arizona, or at another global microcampus, all students must meet the same requirements to graduate with a B.S. in Environmental Sciences from University of Arizona. These requirements are listed below.

1. **Writing Requirement:** All students must pass the English Composition courses ENGL 107 & 108.
2. In addition, **students must demonstrate mastery of English writing in one of the following ways:**
  - Earn a B or better in English 108.
  - Earn a B or better in the writing intensive course (ENVS 408).
3. **Students must have at least an overall GPA of 2.0 in their UA courses.** Students can check their UA GPA at any time by logging into the Student Center on UAccess- (<https://www.uaccess.arizona.edu>). **\*HED and ENGL 106 will not be factored into students' overall UA graduation GPA.**
4. **Students must earn a score of 60 or higher in any NWAUFU course they intend to count towards their UA degree.**

**\*\*\*Students should not complete the graduation application, even if they receive an email from Graduate Services about graduation. Students do not need to pay for the graduate candidacy fee unless they are on Main Campus.**

## **Enrollment Verification**

If students need to show enrollment verification prior to obtaining their physical UA diploma, a verification document can be obtained through UAccess. Instructions on how to obtain this document can be found at: <https://registrar.arizona.edu/records-enrollment/transcripts-verifications/verifications>

Alternatively, the instruction document can be directly accessed at:  
<https://it.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/Student%20Center%20-%20Request%20Enrollment%20Verification.pdf>

## **Repeating a UA Course**

There are two ways students can retake a UA course to attempt to increase an unsatisfactory grade:

### **1. GRO – Grade Replacement Option**

Students can use a [Grade Replacement Option \(GRO\)](https://www.registrar.arizona.edu/academics/grade-replacement-opportunity-gro) (<https://www.registrar.arizona.edu/academics/grade-replacement-opportunity-gro>) and retake a class in which they received a poor grade (e.g., C, D, or E only). By using a GRO, the original grade a student received in a class will be completely replaced by the grade they receive when they take the class a second time. A student can use **no more than 3** GROs over the course of their studies to increase a specific course grade and increase their GPA.

### **2. Course Repeat Policy**

Students can repeat (**without using a GRO**) any UA course **no more than once** (i.e., you can take the same class twice only). If it is necessary for you to take a UA course a second time, the grade you earned the first time will be averaged with the grade you earn the second time. For example: If you receive an “E” the first time you take ENVS 210 and you receive a “C” the second time you take ENVS 210, your GPA will be calculated according to the below mathematical equation:

ENVS 210 (3 units) x 0 grade points (for grade of E) = 0

ENVS 210 (3 units) x 2 grade points (for grade of C) = 6

Total grade points (6), divided by total units (6) = 1.0 GPA (or a grade of a D average).

Please use this [link](https://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/repeating-course) to review the complete Course Repeat Policy. (<https://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/repeating-course>).

**\*\*All UA courses can only be taken up to 3 times with approval from the academic department.\*\***

## **UA Grading System**

Additional information about how to calculate the UA GPA is available online at: <https://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/grade-point-average-gpa-calculation-or-averaging-grades>

University policy regarding grades and grading systems is available at <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/grades-and-grading-system>.

## **GPA Requirements and Academic Eligibility**

The University of Arizona monitors student's grade point averages through a process called Academic Eligibility. Academic eligibility is the ability to enroll in courses at the University of Arizona; it is automatically calculated at the end of each Fall and Spring semester. The policy is designed to help undergraduates stay on track for degree completion at the University of Arizona.

Please read the information found here to learn more about the Academic Eligibility process and how to check your own eligibility status. It is important that you understand Academic Eligibility.

Standards for specific programs, schools, and colleges are determined by each program, school, or college. After the third enrolled term, programs, schools, and colleges may require a program change (RPC), if sufficient academic progress has not been made in the current major (particularly if a grade point average is below a 2.0 for three consecutive terms). **Global Microcampus students are not permitted to change majors, which means students in Ineligible status will be removed from the dual-degree program entirely unless an appeal is submitted, accepted, reviewed, and granted.**

When a student's grade point average falls below a 2.0, UAccess will generate the number of units of grades of B a student needs to get to a grade point average of 2.0. This is referred to as the "units of B needed to reach a 2.0." As the number of units of B gets larger, it becomes more difficult for a student to reduce the number and therefore raise their GPA beyond the 2.0 minimum threshold needed to graduate from the University of Arizona. At a certain point, a student will reach more units of B needed to raise their GPA than the number of classes remaining to complete their degree and, at this point, it is no longer possible for the student to graduate.

Students at the University of Arizona are eligible to use a "Grade Replacement Opportunity" or GRO to replace grades that are a C or lower. However, the following conditions must be met:

- The student must have fewer than 60 University of Arizona units completed.
- The student can only repeat 3 courses or 10 total units.
- The student must file for the GRO before the deadline.

For additional information about this process, please see the GRO policy here: <https://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/grade-replacement-opportunity-gro>.

## **UA Policies and Code**

### **Code of Academic Integrity**

Integrity and ethical behavior are expected of every student in all academic work. This Academic Integrity principle stands for honesty in all class work, and ethical conduct in all labs and clinical assignments.

Students engaging in academic dishonesty diminish their education and bring discredit to the academic community. Students shall not violate the Code of Academic Integrity and shall avoid situations likely to compromise academic integrity. Students shall observe the generally applicable provisions of this Code whether or not faculty members establish special rules of academic integrity for particular classes. Students are not excused from complying with this Code because of faculty members' failure to prevent cheating

Multiple violations of this Code may subject students to additional sanctions, including suspension or expulsion at the discretion of the Academic Dean or his/her designee.

The following is a list of prohibited conduct. More detailed information can be read at <https://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/policies/code-academic-integrity>.

1. Cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism as set out and defined in the Student Code of Conduct, ABOR Policy 5-308-E.11, and F.1
2. Submitting an item of academic work that has previously been submitted or simultaneously submitted without fair citation of the original work or authorization by the faculty member supervising the work.
3. Violating required disciplinary and professional ethics rules contained or referenced in the student handbooks (hardcopy or online) of undergraduate or graduate programs, or professional colleges.
4. Violating discipline specific health, safety, or ethical requirements to gain any unfair



advantage in lab(s) or clinical assignments.

5. Failing to observe rules of academic integrity established by a faculty member for a particular course.
6. Attempting to commit an act prohibited by this Code. Any attempt to commit an act prohibited by these rules shall be subject to sanctions to the same extent as completed acts.
7. Assisting or attempting to assist another to violate this Code.

A complete list of university policies, including the **Student Code of Conduct**, is available at:

<https://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/policies/policies>.

### **Accelerated Master's Program Option Admission Requirements**

Students in the ENVS B.S. program are eligible to apply to the Accelerated Master's Program (AMP), which enables the completion of an M.S. in a minimum of one additional year (currently requires student to be in residence on the Tucson campus). Requirements for entry of undergraduates to the AMP:

1. Completion of a minimum of 75 undergraduate credit hours at the time of application; a minimum of 90 undergraduate credit hours will be required at the time of entry into the AMP. If the student's GPA falls below 3.30 at the time s/he has completed 90 units, the student will not be admitted into the program. Courses taken for audit may not be included in the total number of units counted for eligibility or admission.
2. Completion of at least 12 earned units of undergraduate course work in the ENVS major.
3. Units still graded Incomplete, units graded Pass/Fail, or units taken as audit do not count toward the requirement of the 12 undergraduate units in the major.
4. Completion or near completion of general education requirements.
5. Submission of a graduate application and payment of a graduate application fee.
6. Demonstration of the maturity necessary for success in an accelerated, highly competitive program.
7. Expectation to complete the undergraduate degree within four years. The undergraduate degree requirements must be completed before the student is eligible to have the master's degree awarded.
8. If a student wishes to enter the AMP, s/he should be sure to take the following four courses at the 500 level (so that the 12 credits apply to the graduate program): ENVS

425/525, ENVS 420/520, ENVS 477/577 and one of either ENVS 480/580 or ENVS 482/582.

In addition, ENVS requires that the student has identified a Major Professor who is willing to supervise their MS before they are allowed to apply. Once the Major Professor has agreed to supervise, ENVS provides the student with a code that will allow them to access the GradApp application portal to apply. The Major Professor is expected to provide one of the two required letters or recommendation to the program.

Comprehensive info on UA AMPs (general):

<https://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/accelerated-masters-program-amp#requirements>

## **Accessibility and Accommodations**

At the University of Arizona, we strive to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience barriers based on disability or pregnancy, please contact Office of International Education at [oiie@arizona.edu](mailto:oiie@arizona.edu) for information on how to work with UA's Disability Resource Center (DRC) to establish reasonable accommodations.

## **FAQS**

### ***What can I do if my UA GPA is below 2.0?***

You need to raise your GPA to at least a 2.0 in order to graduate with a B.S. in Environmental Science from UA. The first way to raise your GPA is to use a [Grade Replacement Option \(GRO\)](https://www.registrar.arizona.edu/academics/grade-replacement-opportunity-gro) (<https://www.registrar.arizona.edu/academics/grade-replacement-opportunity-gro>) and retake a class in which you received a poor grade. You can use up to 3 GROs over the course of your studies to increase your GPA. Contact your UA advisor for how and when to use a GRO.

### ***What happens if I can't meet the English proficiency requirement on time?***

You have two options if you do not meet the English proficiency requirement before the 5th semester of study. Your first option is to continue to take UA classes as a non-degree seeking student and move forward with just the NWAUFU B.E. degree. If that happens, you will not obtain a degree from UA.

Your second option is to meet the English Requirement as quickly as possible, using any of the means accepted for English proficiency (see above), become a degree-seeking student, and then re-take some of the UA courses that you took as a non-degree seeking student. For this option, you should talk with your UA advisor or the Director of the program.

### ***What if I haven't met the Writing Requirement?***

You need to meet the writing requirement by re-taking course(s) in which you have low grades in order to meet the grade requirement that satisfies the writing requirement. For this option, you should talk with your UA advisor or the Director of the program.