

# Environmental Science

**Course Number:** SC2028

**Grade level:** 10–12

**Credits:** 1.0

**Prerequisite Courses:** None

## Course Description

Environmental science is a captivating and rapidly expanding field, and SC2028 offers compelling lessons that cover many different aspects of the field: ecology, the biosphere, land, forests and soil, water, energy and resources, and societies and policy. Through unique activities and material, high school students connect scientific theory and concepts to current, real-world dilemmas, providing them with opportunities for mastery in each of the segments throughout the semester.

## Course Objectives

Throughout the course, you will meet the following goals:

- Understand the interrelationships in the natural world
- Examine the natural cycles of energy flow and evaluate how human interaction affects these cycles
- Model real-world phenomena and determine possible consequences of specific actions
- Defend the best choices to protect the environment with changing trends in human demographics
- Interpret evidence and communicate scientifically about environmental conditions and hazards

## Student Expectations

This course requires the same level of commitment from you as a traditional classroom course would. Throughout the course, you are expected to spend approximately 5–7 hours per week online on the following activities:

- Interactive lessons that include a mixture of instructional videos and tasks
- Assignments in which you apply and extend learning in each lesson
- Assessments including quizzes, tests, and cumulative exams

## Communication

Your teacher will communicate with you regularly through discussions, e-mail, chat, and system announcements. Through this communication with your teacher, you will monitor your progress through the course and improve your learning by reviewing material that was challenging for you.

You will also communicate with classmates, either via online tools or face-to-face, as you do the following:

- Collaborate on projects
- Ask and answer questions in your peer group
- Develop speaking and listening skills

## Grading Policy

You will be graded on the work you do online and the work you submit electronically to your teacher. The weighting for each category of graded activity is listed below.

|                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| <b>Assignments</b>      | <b>10%</b> |
| <b>Labs</b>             | 10%        |
| <b>Lesson Quizzes</b>   | 30%        |
| <b>Unit Tests</b>       | 30%        |
| <b>Cumulative Exams</b> | 20%        |
| <b>Additional</b>       | 0%         |

## Scope and Sequence

When you log into the Virtual Classroom, you can view the entire course map, which provides a scope and sequence of all topics you will study. Clicking a lesson's link in the course map leads to a page listing instructional activities, assignments, and learning objectives specific to that lesson. The units of study are summarized below.

**Unit 1:** The Scientific Method

**Unit 2:** Ecology

**Unit 3:** The Biosphere

**Unit 4:** The Land

**Unit 5:** Forests and Soil

**Unit 6:** The Water

**Unit 7:** Energy and Resources

**Unit 8:** Societies and Policy