

SYDNEY BENTON

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EDUCATION

University of Iowa Bachelor of Science Environmental Science MINORs: Geographic Information Science, Geoscience	Iowa City, IA	Jan 2022 – Dec. 2024 Overall GPA: 3.41 / 4.00
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Des Moines Area Community College
Associate of Science | Environmental Science

COURSEWORK

Hydrogeology and Geology <i>Field and Lab Experience</i>	Iowa City, IA	Aug. 2023 – Present
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- Hydrogeology [4630], Contaminant Hydrogeology [4640], Geology [1050], Geomorphology [3020]
- Conducted borehole core analysis tracking
- Performed slug tests in the field and analyzed falling head data in lab
- Producing coherent reports to effectively communicate significant field observations
- Studied biogeochemical nature of deep subsurface and contaminant behavior

Biology and Ecology <i>Field and Lab Experience</i>	Iowa City, IA	Jan. 2021 – Present
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- Winter Ecology [3096], Biogeography [4580], Ecology [2673], Entomology Lab [2246]
- Utilized field methods in various extreme weather environments
- Conducted field-based labs on winter limnology, aquatic microbial ecology of Iowa lakes, and larger animal migration patterns
- Studied fundamental biogeographical and ecological concepts
- Written report and presentation of sustainable practices related to entomophagy and forensic entomophagy

GIS and Geographic Databases <i>Skills and Projects</i>	Iowa City, IA	Jan. 2023 – Present
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- GIS for Environmental Studies [3520], Geographic Databases [4580], Remote Sensing [3500]
- Utilized watershed and topographical data from USGS to produce habitat suitability models
- Analyzed point data using geostatistical interpolation methods such as Kriging and Moran's I
- Experience using ENVI programming for Landsat 8 imagery exploration

Field Trips <i>Skills and Experience</i>	Iowa City, IA	Sep. 2022 – April 2024
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- EES First, Second, Third, and Fourth-Year Field Trips, Junior Spring Semester Field Trip
- Applied classroom concepts to real world environments by observing topographical and geological features of various environments within United States National Parks
- Researched geologic facies development and coral reef response to climatic stressors at Gerace Research Center, San Salvador, Bahamas
- Helped coordinate and manage daily tasks for student cohort, including meal prep, camp set up, and travel logistics

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Ashton Prairie Living Laboratory <i>Undergraduate Researcher</i>	Iowa City, IA	Feb. 2023 – Present
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- Constructed ecological density report of plant life in Ashton Prairie Living Laboratory following seasonal prairie burn
- Presented research poster project at the Fall Undergraduate Research Festival on plant density measurements
- Conducting collaborative research on prairie soil health for new and established prairies of Iowa using SNHT (Haney Test)
- Building and analyzing stream profiles using a flow meter device
- Measured water infiltration with infiltrometers