The curriculum for the Master of Science in Environmental Studies is designed to allow students to gain an understanding of ways to balance social and economic needs with environmental realities, to learn how to use resources imaginatively for sustainable development, and to become aware of the role of values in issue formulation and policy making. Objectives are to enable students to:

- develop basic literacy in the natural and social sciences and the humanities as they contribute to an understanding of environmental affairs
- critically analyze environmental problems
- identify, research, and evaluate environmental problems

The Sustainable Development and Policy concentration explores theories of sustainable development and policy in order to:

- understand the historical context and critically evaluate the current framework of natural resources and environmental policy
- gain a comprehensive understanding of the three conceptual elements of sustainability (biophysical, policy/social, and economic)
- communicate and evaluate issues in sustainable development policies and practices
- assess the feasibility of and strategies for natural resources and environmental policy changes toward sustainable development

Admission Requirements

- A bachelor’s degree from an accredited university or college
- A GPA of 3.0 or better (on a 4.0 scale), though students with a GPA between 2.5 and 3.0 will be considered for conditional admission. If a student is conditionally admitted with a GPA between 2.5 and 3.0, the student will be expected to complete ENS 551 and ENS 552, earning a B or better, during the first year of enrollment.
- An upper division, undergraduate course in ecology with a grade of B or better
- Two letters of recommendation
- Goals essay

In addition to departmental application requirements, students must submit a formal application along with a non-refundable fee to the University of Illinois Springfield. Application information can be found at: http://www.uis.edu/admissions/applyToday/

Prerequisite(s): Full admission requires satisfactory completion (B or better) of a 300 level ecology course with lab, and general undergraduate preparation in both natural and social sciences. Students deficient in the ecology with lab prerequisite will be considered for conditional admission. If conditional admission is recommended, the student is expected to satisfactorily complete a 300 level or higher ecology with lab (ENS 544/546 on-campus or ENS 425 online will meet this requirement) during the first year enrolled in the program.
REQUIRED COMMON CORE COURSES: 12 credit hours

- ENS 551 Environmental Natural Sciences (4 Hrs)
- ENS 553 Research Methods in Environmental Studies (4 Hrs)
- ENS 552 Environmental Social Sciences and the Humanities (4 Hrs)

REQUIRED CLOSURE OPTION: 4 credit hours

- ENS 510 Thesis (4 Hrs) OR ENS 520 Graduate Project (4 Hrs)
- OR ENS 550 Capstone Closure (4 Hrs)

REQUIRED CONCENTRATION CORE: 12 credit hours

- ENS 571 Sustainable Development (4 Hrs)
- ENS 581 Environmental Policy and Analysis (4 Hrs)
- ENS 587 Natural Resources Policy and Administration (4 Hrs)

CONCENTRATION ELECTIVES: 12 credit hours

- ENS 403 Transportation: Problems and Planning Procedures (4 Hrs)
- ENS 404 Fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems (4 Hrs)
- ENS 419 Environmental Law (4 Hrs)
- ENS 421 Environmental Economics (4 Hrs)
- ENS 422 Environmental Sociology (4 Hrs)
- ENS 446 Population and Public Policy (4 Hrs)
- ENS 461 Geopolitics: Geograph. Aspects of International Affairs (4 Hrs)
- ENS 463 Our Changing Climate (4 Hrs)
- ENS 468 Environmental Geology (4 Hrs)
- ENS 485 Environmental Policies: Water Quality (4 Hrs)
- ENS 530 Internship (1-4 Hrs)
- ENS 542 Ecosystem Management (4 Hrs)
- ENS 544 Concepts of Ecology Laboratory (1 Hr)
- ENS 545 Comparative Cultural Ecology (4 Hrs)
- ENS 546 Concepts of Ecology (3 Hrs)
- ENS 547 Sustainable Food Systems (4 Hrs)
- ENS 583 Environmental Policies: NEPA (4 Hrs)
- PAD 561 GPSI Seminar in Organization Env. in the Public Service (1 Hr)

Other courses may be selected if approved by the student’s adviser and the department chair.

Official degree requirements are available in the UIS catalog at www.uis.edu/uiscatalog

Program Contacts

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