Program Description

The curriculum for the Master of Science in Environmental Sciences is designed to allow students to gain strong scientific understanding of ways to study, evaluate, and interpret environmental realities and their impacts, as well as to manage and mitigate environmental problems. Objectives are to enable students to:

- develop a basic literacy in the natural and social sciences and the humanities as they contribute to an understanding of environmental issues
- critically analyze environmental problems
- identify, research, and evaluate environmental problems
- provide focused development of research skills in one or more of the physical, chemical, and/or biological systems in the environment
- compare, contrast, implement, and manage short- and long-term solutions to environmental problems

There is one concentration available: general environmental sciences. Students entering the MS in Environmental Sciences must be able to demonstrate a knowledge of geology, chemistry, physics, algebra, statistics, and biology. Students without a substantial background in the natural sciences will not be admitted. Students will gain competency in research and management of interactions among physical, chemical, and biological systems in the environment.

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.
Degree Requirements

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)

Required Concentration Core: 8 credit hours

- ENS 542 Ecosystem Management (4 Hrs)
- BIO 571 Advanced Ecology and Evolution (4 Hrs)

Concentration Electives: 16 credit hours

- ENS 404 Fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems (4 Hrs)
- ENS 405 Remote Sensing (4 Hrs)
- ENS 444 Aquatic Ecology (4 Hrs)
- ENS 445 Biology of Water Pollution (4 Hrs)
- ENS 446 Population and Public Policy (4 Hrs)
- ENS 447 Environmental Chemistry (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 544 Concepts of Ecology Laboratory (1 Hr)
- ENS 546 Concepts of Ecology (3 Hrs)
- ENS 555 Analytical Tools for Environmental Sciences (4 Hrs)
- ENS 583 Environmental Policies: NEPA (4 Hrs)
- BIO 446 Restoration Ecology (4 Hrs)
- BIO 462 Global Change Ecology (4 Hrs)
- BIO 462 Conservation Biology (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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