



University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Natural Resources and Environmental Science - MS

Program Description

The caliber of our program is exceptionally high, consistent with the top national ranking of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. You will receive a rigorous education and graduate with a degree that serves you very well in the working world.

NRES offers online courses on some of the most pressing environmental issues of the day, and the courses are taught by our outstanding faculty and adjuncts. Students have the opportunity to network and build community with each other, because the courses, while online, actually meet at a set date and time.

The internet is used to deliver the courses, but it is not an independent study/self-paced program like many online degrees. Instead, students and faculty gather in “cyberspace” for lectures, class discussions, quizzes, exams, and other activities similar to what you would experience on a college campus.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign offers you the opportunity to register for courses before you apply for admission to the Graduate College. This allows you to try out the program before committing the financial and time resources necessary to apply. Up to 12 hours taken as a non-degree student may be counted toward the degree after admission.



Admission Requirements

In order to be admitted to the NRES online M.S. program, applicants:

- Must have at least a 3.0 grade point average for the last 60 hours of their undergraduate coursework (or the last two years if the undergraduate institution used a system other than semester hours). The minimum GPA for any graduate coursework must be at least 3.5. Students who do not meet this requirement may occasionally be admitted on “limited status,” so please contact NRES Student Services (217-333-7738 or nres-ssc@uillinois.edu) to discuss the possibility.
- Must have earned a baccalaureate degree and should have adequate preparation in the fundamental sciences and courses appropriate to their proposed field of study in natural resources and environmental sciences. In general, this will require coursework in the biological and/or physical sciences from an accredited University or College. Prerequisite coursework should include, at minimum, two or three classes in biological or physical sciences, a course in mathematics, and routine communication courses, all at the college level. Students with deficiencies may still be accepted conditionally, but they may be asked to make up undergraduate level coursework from an accredited college, university, or community college or to successfully complete (B or higher grade) two or three upper level University of Illinois classes before admission is granted to the M.S. degree program.
- Students whose native language is not English are required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System. Test scores must be less than two (2) years old from date of enrollment. Check the Grad College’s minimum score requirements.

The GRE is not required for admission to the online M.S. program

Degree Requirements

The NRES MS curriculum is designed to maximize flexibility and allow you, with the help of your adviser and committee, to craft the education most appropriate to your goals. At University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, graduate courses are those at the 400 and 500 level.

All online students are admitted into the non-thesis program. If you wish to consider completing a thesis, you should contact NRES Students Services at nres-ssc@illinois.edu or (217) 333-5824 for more information.

Students must earn 32 credit hours, at least 12 of which must be at the 500 level.

Students must complete NRES 594 and 3 - 8 hours of Capstone Credit.

Choose one of the following:

NRES 503 Capstone Research Project
NRES 505 Capstone Internship Experience
NRES 507 Capstone Group Res Project

The remaining credit hours are selected by the student in consultation with the academic adviser.

Completion of the program requires submitting and defending a research project and passing a final examination.

Program Contacts

Online Program Advising Specialist

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Graduate College

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Program URL: <https://nres.illinois.edu/online/about>