

# **Department of Environmental Studies**

## Advising Guide

### ***Certificate of Graduate Study in Environmental Decision Making***

State University of New York  
College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF)  
106 Marshall Hall  
1 Forestry Drive  
Syracuse, NY 13210

2023-2024

# Certificate of Graduate Study in Environmental Decision Making

## *Purpose*

The Certificate of Graduate Study in Environmental Decision Making is designed for graduate students at ESF and those enrolled in law, management, public administration, or information studies programs at Syracuse University. It provides an exposure to specialized environmental study that is relevant to students with related professional interests. The focus of this certificate is on environmental decision-making, the processes by which stakeholders seek solutions to environmental problems. Environmental decisions are made at many levels of government, in courts, in corporate boardrooms, in non-governmental and community-based organizations, educational institutions, and at many other places. Effective participation in environmental decision-making demands knowledge of how to acquire and communicate relevant environmental information, an understanding of ecological perspectives, as well as negotiation, mediation, and public participation skills in an environmental context.

## *Student Eligibility*

Graduate students currently matriculated and in good academic standing in their graduate degree programs at ESF and Syracuse University are eligible to apply for entrance to the certificate program. A letter from the student's advisor and a current transcript are required to establish good academic standing.

## *Administrative Procedures*

Application and admissions procedures, in compliance with college requirements for successful graduate study and the awarding of certificates, are all administered by ESF's Dean of Graduate Studies, 227 Bray Hall. If enrollment limitations are established, acceptances will be made on a rolling basis, according to the date of receipt of applications.

Student applications are made by completing the application form found in this advising guide. The completed application form provides contact information for applicants and verifies their matriculated status at ESF or Syracuse University. Upon completion of program requirements, students file a certificate request form, which identifies completed coursework and initiates actions to produce official transcripts, leading to the award of the certificate.

Forms are available at ESF's Graduate School, 227 Bray Hall; and in the Environmental Studies Department Office, 106 Marshall Hall. To assist certificate students in making suitable course selections and to answer related program questions, students should contact Prof. Paul Hirsch, [pahirsch@esf.edu](mailto:pahirsch@esf.edu).

## *Academic Advisement*

Prospective students are encouraged to speak with their home department academic advisors about the advisability of and timing for entering this Certificate program – to assist certificate students in making suitable course selections and to answer related program questions, an ESF faculty advisor is available. Students should contact Prof. Paul Hirsch, , e-mail: [pahirsch@esf.edu](mailto:pahirsch@esf.edu).

## *Course Requirements*

The Certificate of Graduate Study in Environmental Decision Making requires the completion of 12 credit hours of coursework. The foundational course for the Certificate is EST 635: Public Participation and Environmental Decision Making, which all students working towards the Certificate must take. In addition to this course, students must take 9 credits of coursework from those courses listed below. At least one course from each of the two categories: A. Environmental Policy and Law; and B. Human and Environment Interactions, must be included. To be counted as part of progress toward the Certificate, a grade of B or better must be earned in each course. Up to 6 credits from Syracuse University may be used to meet these requirements.

- **Required Course:**

EST 635 Public Participation and Decision Making: Theory and Application

- Choose 9 credits from the following two lists, at least one course from each category\*

A. *Environmental Policy and Law*

EST 609	Collaborative Governance Processes for Environmental and Natural Resources Management
EST 612	Environmental Policy and Governance
EST 615	Environmental Justice: Policy, Tools, and Society
EST 660	Land Use Law
EST 702	Environmental and Natural Resources Program Evaluation
EST 705	Environmental Policy Analysis
EST 770	Regenerative Approaches to Sustainable Futures
EST 796	Advanced Topics in Environmental Studies
FOR 687	Environmental Law and Policy
FOR 689	Natural Resources Law and Policy
LAW 716	Environmental Law
LAW 865	Natural Resources Law
PAI 775	Energy, Environment and Resources Policy
PAI 777	Economics of Environmental Policy
SRE 622	Energy Markets and Regulation

B. *Human and Environment Interactions*

EST 606	Public Perception & Communication of Environment, Science and Risk
EST 608	Environmental Advocacy Campaigns & Conflict Resolution
EST 613	Urbanization and the Environment
EST 624	Nature, Recreation, and Society
EST 640	Environmental Thought and Ethics
EST 645	Mass Media and Environmental Affairs
EST 650	Environmental Perception and Human Behavior
EST 670	Water in the Middle East: Issues and Opportunities
LSA 650	Behavioral Factors of Community Design
PAI 730	Problems in Public Administration (related to environmental decision-making, e.g. Environmental Conflict Resolution and Collaboration)

\*Alternate courses may be substituted in these two areas, by petition.

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## *Application Form*

### *Instructions:*

Parts 1 and 2 should be completed by the applicant. Return this completed form to:  
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Office of Instruction and Graduate Studies, 227 Bray Hall, Syracuse, NY 13210

### Part 1.

NAME OF APPLICANT: \_\_\_\_\_ STUDENT ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF APPLICATION: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Address) (City, State) (ZIP code)

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ACADEMIC

INSTITUTION:

(Check one of the following boxes)

- Syracuse University  
 SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

DEGREE INFORMATION:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Program Degree Matriculation Date Anticipated Graduation Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

Part 2.

The applicant must furnish evidence of (a) current matriculation, and (b) good academic standing in an eligible degree program at SUNY ESF or Syracuse University. This evidence is provided by *letter* from the appropriate ESF or Syracuse University college official, as identified in the Certificate Advising Guide.

CRT:

# Certificate of Graduate Study in Environmental Decision Making

## *Certificate Request Form*

Instructions: When you have completed all requirements for the Certificate, complete Parts 1, 2, and 3 of this form, send the form to: SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Office of Instruction and Graduate Studies, 227 Bray Hall, Syracuse, NY 13210.

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**Part 1. Completed Coursework.** Please list completed courses to be used toward meeting Certificate requirements (grade of B or above in each course and a total of 12 credit hours).

Environmental Decision Making (12 credit hours required):

\*See lists in advising guide, List A refers to courses in Environmental Policy & Law, List B refers to Human & Environment Interactions

**Part 2. Final Actions.** Official transcript(s) showing completion of the above courses must be sent to the Office of Instruction and Graduate Studies in order to process the Certificate. Please indicate your action by checking appropriate item below:

Transcript(s): ( ) is attached; ( ) is being sent to the Office of Instruction and Graduate Studies.

**Part 3. Certificate Mailing** (address to which a Certificate should be sent):

FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE REQUESTED: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print)

LOCAL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Address) (City) (State)

***Certification of Department of Environmental Studies:***

- ( ) Course selections meet Certificate requirements
- ( ) 12 credit hours completed
- ( ) Grade of B or better in all courses

\_\_\_\_\_  
Graduate Program Coordinator  
Environmental Studies Department

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

***Final approval of Certificate:***

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dean  
ESF Graduate School

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Certificate Mailed:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Office Use Only:**  
Request Form and transcript(s) received by Graduate Office

(Date): \_\_\_\_\_