Certificate of Graduate Study in Environmental Decision Making

Purpose

The Certificate of Graduate Study in Environmental Decision Making is designed for graduate students at SUNY-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 primary related professional interests in the fields identified. Because students in each of these programs will engage important environmental policy, program implementation and decision-making processes in their professional efforts, the distinctive environmental orientation of this certificate program will help students to better understand some of the complexities of environmental decision making from their unique professional perspectives.

The focus of this certificate study is on environmental decision making, which can be defined as the processes by which stakeholders in environmental outcomes engage in communications to 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, and negotiation, mediation, and public participation skills in an environmental context.

Familiarly, decision making can refer to environmental policy making by governmental institutions, but a meaningful understanding of the topic in today's world will also include processes such as information acquisition and dissemination and such notions as negotiation, mediation, information policy and public participation as part of the decision-making lexicon. The decision-making focus furthermore expands the scope of stakeholders to include not only the institutions and agencies of government, but also the large variety of citizen-based nongovernmental organizations and the business and industrial private sector.

Student Eligibility

Graduate students currently matriculated and in good academic standing in their law, management, public administration, or information studies graduate degree programs at SUNY-ESF and Syracuse University are eligible to apply for entrance into the certificate program. Applications from any other sources cannot be accepted at this time.

Administrative Procedures
Application and admissions procedures, compliance with college requirements for successful graduate study and the awarding of certificates are all administered by the SUNY-ESF Dean of Instruction and Graduate Studies, the Graduate School. 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 the advising guide. This completed application form provides contact information for applicants and verifies their matriculated status at ESF or Syracuse University. Upon completion of program credit-hour 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 in the SUNY-ESF College’s Office of Instruction and Graduate Studies, 227 Bray Hall, and in the Environmental Studies Department Graduate Office, 106 Marshall Hall. To assist certificate students in making suitable course selections and to answer related program questions, students should contact the Department Chair, 106 Marshall Hall.

**Academic Advisement**

Prospective students are encouraged to speak with their Syracuse University academic advisors about the advisability of and timing for entering this certificate program. Students might also wish to contact the following persons, who are knowledgeable of certificate goals and requirements:

- **Law:** TBA
- **Management:** Patrick DiRubbo, Academic Services
- **Public Administration:** Christine Omolino, associate director
- **Information Studies:** TBA