II. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE M.P.S. DEGREE

The ESF Catalog description provides the basic framework of graduation requirements. To facilitate detailed program planning and graduation documentation, the MPS Environmental Studies program uses a Plan Sheet. Each Major Professor keeps an updated version in their advising file, and each student is encouraged to keep an updated personal copy. A completed Plan Sheet must be attached to the College's Form 3B when submitted for approval by the Graduate Studies Coordinator. Plan sheets are available in the Environmental Studies graduate office, 107 Marshall Hall. A copy of the Plan Sheet follows this description.

Prerequisites

Students are expected to begin the program with some academic background in Environmental Policy or Communication; Environmental Science; and Ecology, demonstrated through successful completion of at least one course in each of these three areas. Deficiencies are identified in the letter of admission. If not completed prior to matriculation, these must be taken as co-requisites during the first two semesters of residence. Undergraduate or graduate courses successfully completed for credit may be used to satisfy deficiencies. Undergraduate courses are not included in Grade Point Averages, and do not contribute to the minimum number of required graduate credit hours. Graduate courses will be included in Grade Point Averages, but may not be used to meet program requirements.

Advanced Standing

a. Course transfers. A maximum of six graduate credit hours with a grade of B or above that have not been applied to another degree may be transferred via Petition. The Petition must include an attached syllabus, and a justification of how the courses are to be included on the student's Plan Sheet. Petitions for course transfers are submitted following matriculation.

b. Credit for prior experience. Applicants with a minimum of three (3) years of post-baccalaureate full-time professional experience directly related to the intended area of study may apply for 6 credit hours of advanced standing in the program. Partial credit for experience cannot be awarded. When awarded for prior work experience, the 6 credit hours are applied toward the Synthesis requirement.

Program Requirements

The Environmental Studies MPS degree program is a 39 credit hour experience focused on advanced academic scholarship and its application to environmental affairs and sustainability. This degree requires the completion of a synthesis experience which frequently, though not always, involves a professional internship. (For guidance on internships, see Appendix A; on synthesis papers, Appendix B.) All students must present a Capstone Seminar during their final

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1 All courses three credit hours unless otherwise noted.
semester. The distribution of required credits may be adjusted to take into account a student's prior academic work and background.

**Core (18 credits)**

Six courses cover the disciplinary and methodological scope of the field and demonstrate its applicability to problem analysis and the quest for sustainability. For full-time students, these courses are usually taken in the first year of the program; if prerequisites also are being taken, these requirements may be fulfilled in subsequent semesters. Part-time students may take these courses over multiple years.

**Required:**

EST 600. Foundations of Environmental Studies *(fall)*  
EST 626. Concepts and Principles of Sustainable Development *(spring)*

**Required, four of the following:**

*Recommended, as the fundamental knowledge and skill set for Environmental Studies:*

EST 608. Environmental Advocacy Campaigns and Conflict Resolution  
EST 612. Environmental Policy and Governance  
EST 640. Environmental Thought and Ethics  
EST 650. Environmental Perception and Human Behavior

*Alternatively, the following may also be used to meet this requirement:*

EST 606. Environmental Risk Perception  
EST 609. Collaborative Governance Processes for Environmental and Natural Resources Management  
EST 635. Public Participation and Decision Making  
EST 645. Mass Media and Environmental Affairs  
EST 660. Land Use Law  
*or other course substitution, by petition*

These courses provide a basis of common knowledge among students in the MPS program. For students who pursue the degree on a full-time basis, they provide the basis for an academic cohort, as well.

**Natural Sciences (3 credits)**

At least one natural science course is required in order to enhance the student’s existing knowledge in preparation for work alongside other scholars in the field. Typically this would be one of the following courses, though alternatives may be considered in consultation with the student's adviser.

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2 See your adviser or the department's graduate support office for information on procedures and deadlines for setting up the Capstone Seminar.
Required: 1 course chosen from:
EFB 516 Ecosystems
EFB 518 Systems Ecology (4 cr.)
EFB 523. Tropical Ecology
EFB 600. Toxic Health Hazards (4 cr.)
EFB 611. Topics in Environmental Toxicology
EFB 623. Marine Ecology (5 cr.)
Other courses to be identified in collaboration with the student's adviser.

Research / Technical Methods (6 credits)

Two research or technical methods courses (selected from a list of appropriate courses) provide
the skills necessary to apply environmental knowledge and pursue the synthesis experience for
the MPS.

Required: 2 courses chosen from:
APM 625. Introduction to Sampling Techniques
APM 630. Regression Analysis
APM 635. Multivariate Statistical Methods
ENS 519. Spatial Ecology
ERE 550. Introduction to Geographic Information Systems
EST 550. Environmental Impact Analysis
EST 603. Research Methods and Design
EST 604. Social Survey Research Methods for Environmental Issues
EST 605. Qualitative Methods
EST 702. Environmental and Natural Resource Program Evaluation
FOR 556. Introduction to Raster GIS Analysis
FOR 557. Practical Vector GIS
FOR 558. Advanced Topics in GIS
LSA 500. Computer Graphics I
LSA 501. Computer Graphics II
LSA 552. Graphic Communication
LSA 640. Research Methodology
Other courses may be identified in collaboration with the student's adviser.

Generalized / Thematic Area (6 credits)

Two additional courses are selected in consultation with the student's Steering Committee. The
generalized or thematic area courses are used to substantively prepare the student for capstone
synthesis work and post-graduation work opportunities by enhancing a solid knowledge of
some aspect of Environmental Studies. Course selection is determined through the Plan of Study
process. Students will be encouraged to include courses in their plans of study that enhance
their career goals. EST 898 and EST 899 may not be included as thematic area courses.

Synthesis (6 credits)

In order to synthesize and apply their knowledge of Environmental Studies, all students take
the equivalent of two courses of either:
EST 798. Problems in Environmental Studies [Synthesis Paper]
EST 898. Professional Experience [Internship; see Appendix A]