

Graduate Handbook

**Master of Science
in Environmental Studies**

Dept. of Environmental Studies

State University of New York
College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Syracuse, NY

2008 - 2009

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I. INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Master of Science (MS) in Environmental Studies graduate program at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF). We are delighted that you have joined a unique set of graduate students, faculty, and researchers who share a deep concern for the development and application of interdisciplinary approaches to the stewardship of our natural and built environments.

The program offers students a focused, yet flexible, understanding of environmental issues, the problems that underlie them, and the paths that lead to sustainable communities. It is intended for a wide range of students, including those with undergraduate degrees in fields other than Environmental Studies. Undergraduate courses in environmental policy or communication, environmental science, and ecology are required for admission, however.

The program facilitates student engagement with the understanding of fundamental social, political, economic, cultural, and technological forces that drive environmental degradation as well as the application of emerging approaches that can foster sustainability. It does this by drawing on a range of frameworks from the social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences. Coursework combines theoretical, practical, and applied approaches to areas such as environmental policy, environmental communication, sustainable communities, human behavior, collaborative governance, public participation, and environmental impact analysis.

Faculty work with individual students to develop a tailored *Plan of Study* to meet their specific goals. The *Plan of Study* is an opportunity for students to give practical consideration to their learning, experiential and career objectives in narrative form and outline a sequence of courses and internship topic to help meet those objectives.

The program prepares students to address the emerging challenges of the environmental professions by enabling their abilities to critically analyze and engage issues and problems related to environmental affairs and sustainability. As part of one of the world's foremost schools focused exclusively on environmental research and applications, the program is enhanced by SUNY-ESF's diverse expertise in the natural sciences and engineering, as well as by extensive graduate courses at Syracuse University available to SUNY-ESF students. Availability of courses from Syracuse University allows us to supplement gaps in SUNY-ESF faculty expertise in such areas as: energy and climate policy, environmental history, anthropology, religion, management methods for public agencies and non-profits, and environmental law.

The New York State Department of Education and the State University of New York establish policy for all graduate programs. At SUNY-ESF, a comprehensive set of Graduate Policies have been adopted by the College Faculty. These are published in the College Catalog. The policies and the procedures which implement College policy are contained in the ESF Faculty Governance body's "Graduate Academic Policies" document, available at: <http://cwww.esf.edu/coi/pdf/gradpolicies.pdf>. In addition, the Master of Science in Environmental Studies program has its own specific policies, procedures, and guidelines.

This Handbook is the primary guide to the Master of Science in Environmental Studies graduate program for both students and faculty.

II. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE M.S. DEGREE

The ESF Catalog description provides the basic framework of graduation requirements. To facilitate detailed program planning and graduation documentation, the Master of Science (MS) in 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 Chair. Plan sheets are available in the Environmental Studies departmental office. A copy of the Plan Sheet follows this description.

Prerequisites

Deficiencies in undergraduate Environmental Policy or Communication, Environmental Science, and Ecology 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 may be taken to satisfy deficiencies. Undergraduate courses are not included in Grade Point Averages, and do not count toward satisfying the minimum number of required graduate credit hours. Graduate courses will be included in Grade Point Averages. Graduate level courses used to satisfy deficiencies may not be used in a Plan Sheet for 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 M.S. in Environmental Studies requires 37 credit hours focused on academic scholarship and research related to environmental affairs and sustainability. Program requirements are outlined below.

Core (12 credits)

Six core Environmental Studies courses comprise the disciplinary and methodological scope of the field and demonstrate the applicability to problem analysis and the quest for sustainability. These courses must be taken in the first year of the program.

Required:

EST 600. Foundations of Environmental Studies (3 cr., fall)

Required: 3 of 5 courses chosen from:

- EST 608. Environmental Advocacy Campaigns and Conflict Resolution (3 cr., fall)
- EST 612. Environmental Policy and Governance (3 cr., spring)
- EST 626. Concepts and Principles of Sustainable Development (3 cr., fall)
- EST 640. Environmental Thought and Ethics (3 cr., spring)
- EST 650. Environmental Perception and Human Behavior (3 cr., spring)

Research Methods (7 credits)

Two research methods courses (selected from a list of appropriate courses) and one research seminar provide the theoretical and methodological preparation necessary for the thesis proposal and research of the M.S.

Required:

- EST 797. Environmental Studies Seminar (1 cr., fall and spring)
- Students are required to take the specific section of this seminar that deals with research proposal preparation.

Required: 2 courses chosen from:

- APM 625. Introduction to Sampling Techniques (3 cr., fall)
 - APM 630. Regression Analysis (3 cr., spring)
 - APM 635. Multivariate Statistical Methods (3 cr., fall)
 - EST 604. Social Survey Research Methods for Environmental Issues (3 cr., spring, odd years)
 - EST 605. Qualitative Methods (3 cr., spring, even years)
 - EST 702. Environmental and Natural Resource Program Evaluation (3 cr., spring)
 - LSA 640. Research Methodology (3 cr., fall and spring)
- Plus other relevant courses as available

Thematic Area (12 credits)

Four additional courses are selected in consultation with the Steering Committee. The thematic area is used to substantively prepare the student for thesis work by building 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 natural science courses in their plans of study. The theme of courses selected will be determined by the career goals of individual students.

Thesis Research (6 credits)

All students with an approved thesis proposal take at least six credits of:

- EST 899. Master's Thesis Research (fall, spring and summer)

III. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

The following courses are offered by the department of Environmental Studies and are fundamental to this program. The names of the faculty who teach the courses appear beside the course titles.

EST 600. Foundations of Environmental Studies (3) - Moran

Three hours lecture/discussion per week. Examines frameworks for understanding and solving environmental problems. Familiarizes students with the epistemological foundations of environment-society relations. Considers multiple methodological and analytical strategies. Uses a case study method to exemplify key principles. Fall

EST 604. Social Survey Research Methods for Environmental Issues (3) - Nordenstam

Three hours of lecture and discussion. Provides a critical overview of survey methods used to study human dimension of environmental problems. Explores fundamental theories, techniques, and applications of environmentally-related social survey research processes. Design of original survey research and critical assessment of existing research. Spring, odd years.

EST 605. Qualitative Methods (3) - Senecah

Three hours of lecture and discussion. Survey of the generally recognized paradigms and methods that qualitative researchers use to better understand, evaluate, and perhaps influence complex social phenomenon. Research Proposal, pilot study, final report and oral presentation required. Spring, even years.

EST 608. Environmental Advocacy Campaigns and Conflict Resolution (3) - Staff

Three hours lecture and discussion. Addresses complex dynamics, strategies, and tactics of 1) organized campaigns by grassroots to international organizations to advocate for particular environmental policy and 2) processes that seek to resolve, manage, or prevent environmental conflicts when appropriate. Readings, simulations, projects, and case study analysis. Fall.

EST 609. Collaborative Governance Processes for Environmental and Natural Resource Management (3) - Staff

Three hours lecture and discussion. Introduces the evolution of innovative multi-stakeholder processes that characterize collaborative governance (CG). Distinguishes CG from traditional public involvement and dispute resolution approaches, and explores its challenges and opportunities. Provides knowledge and introductory tools to design and be more productive participants in collaborative processes. Spring, odd years.

EST 612. Environmental Policy and Governance (3) - Sonnenfeld

Three hours lecture and discussion. Examination of the dynamic relationships present in the creation and implementation of environmental policies. Considers the roles of the state, the private sector, and nongovernmental organizations. Explores background and implications of recent trends in environmental management. Spring.

EST 625. Wetland Management Policy (3) - Smardon

Three hours of lecture and discussion. International, national, and local wetland management and conservation issues. Application of methods of policy research, critical evaluation and design of wetland management issues including delineation, functional evaluation, wetland banking, and property rights issues. Research paper required. Fall, odd years.

EST 626. Concepts of Sustainable Development (3) - Manno

Three hours of lecture and discussion. Presents ecological and development concepts and theory guiding local and global initiatives for sustainable development. Four overlapping themes are considered and linked: the relationship between patterns of wealth, poverty and environmental quality; the role of efficiency in reducing environmental impacts; frugality and sufficiency in advancing development; and questions of environmental equity and the quality of development. Fall.

EST 628. Great Lakes Policy and Management (3) - Manno

Three hours lecture and discussion. Provides a comprehensive understanding of environmental policy and management in the Great Lakes. Emphasizes how scientific knowledge of conditions in the Great Lakes is used by policy-makers in the Canadian and US federal governments and the states and provinces. Intended both for policy and science oriented students. Spring, even years.

EST 635. Public Participation and Decision Making: Theory and Application (3) - Smardon

Three hours of discussion, presentation and exercises. Provides a student with fundamental theories and techniques for developing and applying citizen participation strategies and conflict resolution as they relate to environmental science and planning decision making. Spring.

EST 640. Environmental Thought and Ethics (3) - Meisner

Three hours of discussion. Critical interdisciplinary introduction to philosophical, religious, cultural and historical dimensions of environmental affairs. How ecologically-significant cultural assumptions, ideologies, representations, and institutionalized practices contribute to human meanings and relationships to other-than-human-Nature. Special attention to the role of language and questions of environmental ethics and ontology. Spring.

EST 645. Mass Media and Environmental Affairs (3) - Meisner

Three hours of discussion. Introduces the mass media's role in environmental affairs. Relationships between media organizations, technology, content, and audiences frame examination of how Nature and environmental issues and problems are engaged by the media and with what consequences. News and current affairs, advertising and entertainment genres are considered. Fall.

EST 650. Environmental Perception and Human Behavior (3) - Nordenstam

Three hours of lecture and discussion. Application of environmental perception and human behavior paradigms and theories in understanding the causes and potential solution strategies to environmental issues. Interdisciplinary approach utilizes concepts, theories and research from disciplines including environmental psychology, sociology, anthropology, and risk perception to understand the myriad of influences on human behavior as it relates to environmental impacts. Spring.

EST 696. Special Topics in Environmental Studies (1-3) - ES Faculty

Experimental and developmental courses in new areas of interest to environmental studies faculty and graduate students not covered in regularly scheduled courses. Fall and Spring.

EST 796. Advanced Topics in Environmental Studies (1-3) - ES Faculty

Lectures and discussions, seminars, conferences and group research on advanced topics of special or current interest to environmental studies faculty and graduate students. Fall and Spring.

EST 797. Environmental Studies Seminar (1-3) - ES Faculty

Discussion of current topics and research related to environmental studies. Fall and Spring.

EST 798. Problems in Environmental Studies (1-3) - ES Faculty

Individualized, special study of environmental studies subjects and issues. Comprehensive oral or written report required for some problems. Fall, Spring and Summer.

EST 898. Professional Experience (1-12) - ES Faculty

Professional experience which applies, enriches and/or complements formal coursework. Graded on a "Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory" basis. Fall, Spring and Summer.

IV. TYPICAL COURSE SEQUENCE

The following is a typical course sequence. Each student may tailor the specific courses and sequencing (within the limits of program requirements) to their own needs.

Year 1 Fall	
COURSE TITLE	Credits
EST 600. Foundations of Environmental Studies	3
Core Course	3
Core Course	3
Thematic Area Course	3
Semester Total Credits	12
Year 1 Spring	
COURSE TITLE	Credits
Core Course	3
Thematic Area Course	3
Thematic Area Course	3
Research Methods Course	3
EST 797. Environmental Studies Research Seminar	1
Semester Total Credits	13
Year 2 Fall	
COURSE TITLE	Credits
Thematic Area Course	3
Research Methods Course	3
EST 798. Problems in Environmental Studies*	3*
Semester Total Credits	9
Year 2 Spring	
COURSE TITLE	Credits
EST 899. Master's Thesis Research	6
Semester Total Credits	6
Total Program Credits	37+3*

* This is an extra course, above the program requirements, taken to maintain full-time status. Often a student preparing the thesis proposal enrolls in EST 798 to complete the literature review and proposal.

V. PROCEDURES FOR ACADEMIC ADVISING

Major Professor

Each student in the Master of Science in Environmental Studies graduate program will be assigned a Major Professor during the admission process. Prior to the start of classes in the student's first semester in the program, each new student will meet with their Major Professor to discuss their academic and career objectives in general terms. This first advising session is intended facilitate the selection of courses for the first semester and that will be its primary outcome. However, the session will also allow the Major Professor and student to share their expectations for the relationship and to establish a schedule for work on the student's plan of study.

Plan of Study

The purpose of the *Plan of Study* is to provide structure and coherence to each student's individualized learning within the program requirements. The *Plan of Study* process essentially motivates each student to think reflectively about their learning objectives and how they can be achieved through a systematic program of coursework and professional experience. It is intended to avoid the problem of uncertain focus that may evolve for some graduate students. Finally, each *Plan of Study* must be approved by the student, the student's Graduate Steering Committee, and the departmental Graduate Studies Coordinator in order to ensure a minimum level of consistency and quality. The first *Plan of Study* must be approved prior to advising week of the first semester of matriculation (typically the end of October) and will then provide the rationale for course selection for the second and subsequent semesters. Within the first semester of study, the Major Professor and student will seek appointment of a Graduate Steering Committee, which consists of the Major Professor and at least one other faculty member or other qualified person. Other qualified people include faculty at other institutions or other recognized professionals.

The *Plan of Study* (5-6 pages) will consist of the following parts:

- A descriptive TITLE of the student's thematic area.
- A 100 word descriptive ABSTRACT of the student's thematic area.
- A list of the student's CAREER OBJECTIVES.
- A list of the student's LEARNING OBJECTIVES.
- A 500 word DESCRIPTION of the thematic area that defines its concerns, importance, and limits.
- A 500 word RATIONALE for the thematic area's relevance to the student's career and learning objectives.
- A MATRIX showing courses to be taken and their sequence in relation to the student's learning objectives and thematic area.

Program of Study (Form 3B)

In addition to the overarching *Plan of Study*, students will complete and submit -- no later than the end of the third semester of matriculation -- a *Program of Study* (internal form, 3B) that specifies the list of courses, seminars, and thesis credits necessary to meet degree requirements. The Program of Study will be signed by the student, the student's Graduate Steering Committee, and Department Chair (or Graduate Studies Coordinator) and submitted to the

Dean of Instruction & Graduate Studies. This advising process is the current standard for all graduate programs at SUNY-ESF.

Master's Thesis Research

In the second (spring) semester of their first year, all Environmental Studies M.S. students are required to take the Environmental Studies Research Seminar (EST 797). This one credit course will help students to conceptualize the research process and begin to develop their thesis proposals. The seminar will build on what students have learned about interdisciplinary research and paradigms of knowledge during in the previous (fall) semester, in Foundations of Environmental Studies (EST 600), and will help guide them in their research paths. These two courses provide a basis of common knowledge among graduate students pursuing the degree.

Students will prepare detailed thesis proposals for approval by their thesis committee and the graduate program coordinator. Thesis proposals should be approved *by no later than the advising week in the third semester*. Thesis proposals will consist of the following parts:

- Title
- Introduction
- Research question(s)
- Literature review
- Research design
 - Data
 - Context of research
 - Procedures for data collection and analysis
- Rationale for the study
- Outline of the thesis
- Timeline

The Major Professor will supervise the preparation of the thesis and will work with the student throughout the degree program, bringing in the other Steering Committee members as necessary and appropriate.

Oral Examination and Thesis Defense

At the conclusion of the study and research program, each MS in Environmental Studies student must successfully defend the thesis in an oral examination. The objectives of the defense examination are (1) to probe the validity and significance of the data and information presented in the thesis document; (2) to assess the student as a critical thinker and data analyst; (3) to evaluate the student's creativity, including the student's ability to relate research results to theory within the chosen field; and (4) to present the results effectively. The oral examination covers principally the material in the thesis, as well as literature and information relating to it.

Upon the recommendation of the Department Chair, the Dean of Instruction and Graduate Studies will appoint the defense examination committee which consists of members of the Steering Committee and at least one additional faculty member (the Examiner). Additionally, the Dean of Instruction and Graduate Studies will appoint an Examination Committee Chair who is not from the student's degree program or department. The role of the Examination Committee Chair is to manage the defense, ensure its integrity, and represent the interests of the faculty and student.

At least two weeks prior to the date of the oral examination, the student will submit a final document to all members of the Examination Committee. Within five days of the oral exam, the Major Professor will confirm with the Examination Committee Chair that the oral examination should proceed as scheduled. If the Major Professor determines that the written document does not meet the standards established for the thesis exam, the exam may be postponed by the Dean of Instruction and Graduate Studies at the recommendation of the Examining Committee Chair.

The oral examination should typically last two hours, although this time period may be extended as required. At the completion of the examination, the candidate will be excused from the room and the examination committee will determine whether the candidate has successfully defended the thesis. The Examination Committee Chair has the option to vote. Unanimous agreement is required to pass the student. If less than unanimous agreement is reached, the student will be considered to have failed the first defense examination. A student who fails the first defense may request a second defense which must take place no more than one year from the date of the first examination. At the second defense, the student will pass the defense if there is no more than one negative vote. A student who fails the second defense is terminated from the graduate program.

Annual Review of Student Progress

Early each spring semester, the Graduate Studies Committee of the Dept. of Environmental Studies will review academic progress of all departmentally-affiliated graduate students, including those in this program. Students who will be continuing their studies in the following academic year and who are deemed to be making steady progress will receive priority consideration over students deemed not to be making good progress in the review of applications for Graduate Assistantships and other forms of support for the next year.

Notes

1. The student's Graduate Steering Committee "is composed of the Major Professor and at least two faculty members or other qualified persons." See the College Catalog.
2. The Graduate Steering Committee "should be appointed within the first semester". The Steering Committee "must be established and must have met by the end of the third semester of graduate study."
3. The Examination Committee "consists of members of the Steering Committee and at least one additional faculty member" as Examiner. The Dean of Instruction and Graduate Studies appoints a committee Chair who is not from the student's degree program. See the College Catalog.
4. "Form 5B should be submitted to the Dean's office, according to academic year deadlines."
5. The student "must inform the Dean's office of the agreed upon date, time, and location for the defense at least two weeks in advance of the defense date." Form 5A.
6. One final copy must be delivered to each member of the Examination Committee, including the Chair, at least seven (7) days prior to the scheduled defense date Form 5A. The student should be aware that Syracuse University faculty serving on the committee may require the delivery of their copies at least fourteen (14) days prior to the defense.

MS PLAN SHEET

Student: _____ Semester Entered: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Area: _____

Semester:

Course	Cr. Hrs.	Grade GPA	Seminars (2)	Pre-Req.	App. Soc. Sci.	Env. Sci.	Methods	Study Area	Synth.
Totals:									
Unmet Requirements:	/39	/3.0min	/2	/0-9	/9	/6	/6	/12	/6

Semester:

Course	Cr. Hrs.	Grade GPA	Seminars (2)	Pre-Req.	App. Soc. Sci.	Env. Sci.	Methods	Study Area	Synth.
Totals:									
Unmet Requirements:	/39	/3.0min	/2	/0-9	/9	/6	/6	/12	/6

Semester:

Course	Cr. Hrs.	Grade GPA	Seminars (2)	Pre-Req.	App. Soc. Sci.	Env. Sci.	Methods	Study Area	Synth.
Totals:									
Unmet Requirements:	/39	/3.0min	/2	/0-9	/9	/6	/6	/12	/6

Semester:

Course	Cr. Hrs.	Grade GPA	Seminars (2)	Pre-Req.	App. Soc. Sci.	Env. Sci.	Methods	Study Area	Synth.
Totals:									
Unmet Requirements:	/39	/3.0min	/2	/0-9	/9	/6	/6	/12	/6

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Student: _____ **Semester Entered:** _____

Degree: Ph.D. M.S. M.P.S. Area of Study: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Deficiencies: _____ **Semester Remedied:** _____

Administrative Requirements Completed:

3B Form Yes Date: _____

Thesis/Internship Proposal: Yes Date: _____

Title: _____

Graduate Steering Committee:

1) _____ Phone _____
2) _____ Phone _____
3) _____ Phone _____
4) _____ Phone _____

Examiners (M.S., Ph.D. only):

1) _____ Phone _____
2) _____ Phone _____
3) _____ Phone _____
4) _____ Phone _____

Defense/Exam Chair (M.S., Ph.D. only):

_____ Phone _____

Capstone Seminar: Yes Date: _____ Time and Location: _____

TA/RAs Held:

Semester	_____	Course/Project	_____	Supervisor	_____
Semester	_____	Course/Project	_____	Supervisor	_____
Semester	_____	Course/Project	_____	Supervisor	_____
Semester	_____	Course/Project	_____	Supervisor	_____
Semester	_____	Course/Project	_____	Supervisor	_____
Semester	_____	Course/Project	_____	Supervisor	_____

VI. DEPARTMENTAL GOVERNANCE*

The Department of Environmental Studies is organized with an Executive Committee, and two standing Committees: Undergraduate, and Graduate. The Graduate Studies Committee includes the department's Graduate Studies Coordinator, other departmental faculty, and student representative(s). The Committee's role is to monitor the program's effectiveness, and to develop proposals for the consideration of the Department. The relevant section(s) of the Department's bylaws are reproduced, below.

"III.D. Student Representation"

1. Student representatives to Department Meetings must be full-time students.
2. Representation to Department Meetings shall consist of two students: one Ph.D. student and one Masters student.
3. Student representatives will serve a one-year term and have the following responsibilities:
 - a. Each representative is expected to attend all Department Meetings and must inform other representatives and the Department Chair if unable to do so.
 - b. Each representative may vote on Department Meeting agenda items with one vote per student representative. Graduate student representatives will not vote on matters that are exclusively undergraduate.
 - c. Each student representative is expected to serve as a liaison between the graduate student constituency and the Department of Environmental Studies.
4. Selection of Student Representatives.
 - a. A meeting will be announced early in the Fall semester by the Graduate Studies Coordinator. The purpose of this meeting is to inform graduate students of representatives' responsibilities and choose graduate student representatives.
 - b. The list of Student Representatives to Department Meetings will be presented to the Department Chair no later than October 1.

* Note: the Department of Environmental Studies currently is in the process of revising its Bylaws, including with reference to graduate student participation.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL RESOURCES

The following resources of the Department of Environmental Studies are available for use by MS students.

Departmental Staff

The Department's Graduate Studies Office (107 Marshall Hall) maintains files (unofficial) of student records, Research Proposals, folders of job and research announcements, and internship requests. The Departmental Secretary's Office (106 Marshall Hall) maintains a collection of course syllabi, graduate Thesis, Dissertations, and Internship Reports which are available for reference.

Most students at some time during their studies encounter problems of a personal or academic nature for which they require assistance. An early full discussion of the situation and options is often the key to their resolution. Major Professors, the Departmental Graduate Studies Coordinator, and the Department Chair are available to facilitate this process. Office staff can assist in making appointments as necessary.

Conference Room

The Environmental Studies Conference Room (105 Marshall Hall) is the setting for Department meetings and seminars, including graduate students' capstone seminars. The room may be scheduled via the Departmental Secretary for student meetings. During unscheduled periods it is available for informal graduate student discussions and study.

Graduate Student Mailboxes

The Graduate Student Mailboxes (in the anteroom of 105 Marshall Hall) are a primary mechanism for Departmental and College communications. Students should check their box at least once a week. The mailboxes should not be used to receive U.S. Mail.

Office Space

Graduate students are provided with desk space as available and as-needed, with priority given to research (Ph.D. and M.S.) students and graduate students currently working as Teaching Assistants. The assignment of desk space usually takes a few weeks each fall. The Department of Environmental Studies has space for approximately 32 students available in B5 and B7 Marshall Hall, and 406B Bray Hall. Departmental Staff maintain a list of requests and vacancies.

Assistantships

There are two basic forms of assistantships, Graduate (GA), and Research (RA). GAs are awarded by the College each year based on Departmental recommendations. They are primarily used for Teaching Assistantships in undergraduate and graduate courses. Each winter, students who will be returning in the Fall are notified by the Graduate Studies Coordinator when applications for the following academic year are available. Incoming admitted students are included in the selection process, as well. The Department's Graduate Studies Committee prioritizes the applications for administrative action.

As a graduate-research institution, ESF is involved in numerous externally funded projects most of which involve RAs. Each project is managed by a Principal Investigator who has the responsibility of selecting staff. The Dept. of Environmental Studies has no direct involvement in this process. Students interested in RA's should discuss opportunities with their Major Professor. Throughout the year, ESF's Office of Instruction and Graduate Studies (OIGS) and Office of Research circulate research, fellowship, and internship announcements. Students should periodically check their mailboxes, the appropriate ES folders, and the ES bulletin board.

The Edna Bailey Sussman Fund provides stipends to support graduate student summer internship experiences. The Fund has supported approximately 20 ESF students per year, about one-quarter of who have been Environmental Studies students. Sussman supports a broad range of interest areas, from environmental policy, regulation and communication to various environmental sciences. Sussman applications are treated competitively; awards are usually in the range of \$4,800 for full-time internship employment. Applications must be filed by the annual application deadline, usually in early March. Awards are announced in early May. Proposal guidelines are available in February from the Office of Instruction and Graduate Studies located in 227 Bray.

VIII. ESF FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

Library Holdings

SUNY-ESF's Moon Library holdings include 135,000 volumes and access to hundreds of electronic databases and thousands of electronic journals. The collection at Moon Library constitutes a specialized information source for the academic programs of the college with concentrations in such areas as botany and plant pathology, biochemistry, chemical ecology, forest chemistry, polymer chemistry, economics, entomology, environmental studies, landscape architecture, environmental design, management, paper science, photogrammetry, silviculture, soil science, urban planning, water resources, world forestry, wildlife biology, wood products engineering, and zoology.

SUNY-ESF and Syracuse University share a library management system (catalog.) SUNY-ESF students have full access and borrowing privileges at all Syracuse University Libraries (three million volumes.) Remote access to the electronic library resources of both campuses is available to SUNY-ESF students through a proxy server maintained by Syracuse University.

All Syracuse University collections may be searched by using the online public access catalog located in Moon Library and through the World Wide Web client. Other collections located throughout the United States are readily accessible through interlibrary loan. Moon library is a wireless environment where students may use their own laptops or may borrow a laptop from the reference desk.

Renovations to Moon Library were completed in September 2007 and include new computer workstations, new tables and chairs that students can arrange to best suit their needs, and "living spaces" with comfortable chairs and couches. The upper level holds open stacks; reference, reserve and circulation desks; computer workstations for the library catalog, databases and Internet searching; individual study carrels; a conference room; library faculty offices; a writing support center, all that combine to provide a learning commons atmosphere. The archives and special collections, a computer laboratory, and library processing spaces are located on the lower level.

Access to off-campus research materials

Graduate students have access to all library facilities of the SUNY system and at Syracuse University, plus interlibrary loan capabilities.

SUNY-ESF has research campuses available for student research at the Thousand Islands Research station in Clayton, NY (on the St. Lawrence River) and SUNY-ESF also hosts the Great Lakes Research Consortium that connects 19 NYS universities and colleges. There are also forest-related research stations at Newcomb, Cranberry Lake and Wanakena in the Adirondacks as well as in Tully and Lafayette, NY, closer to the campus. SUN-/ESF recently acquired a research campus in Costa Rica and participates in a tropical field course every spring in Dominica. Faculty members in the Department of Environmental Studies collaborated on a research exchange program with CINVESTAV in Merida, Mexico, and have participated in several other exchange programs.

Computer facilities and services

Graduate students have access to shared computer clusters in Moon Library and Baker Laboratory, as well as personal computers in the Environmental Studies graduate student offices in B5 and B7 Marshall Hall and 406B Bray Hall. By Fall 2008, additional cable connections will be available in B7 Marshall and 406B Bray Hall to allow more graduate students to connect personal computers. The Evergreen Wireless Network is currently available on the main level of Moon library, 244 Illick Hall, Marshall Auditorium, Nifkin Lounge, and the Dining room in Marshall Hall. The campus plan for computing will allow expansion of the Evergreen Network in subsequent semesters, which will augment the current connectivity.

IX. OTHER RESOURCES AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS

In addition to those resources described above, numerous other resources and support programs exist at both SUNY-ESF and Syracuse University to support graduate students and their families.

SUNY-ESF and Syracuse University have a unique relationship. Through contractual agreement with Syracuse University, SUNY-ESF students have access to all Syracuse University course offerings – with minor restrictions. SUNY-ESF students have access to all of the student services and resources of Syracuse University, which include sports facilities, libraries, support programs, clubs, health and counseling services, etc.

SUNY-ESF graduate students who complete at least 12 graduate credits with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or greater may apply for admission to a concurrent degree program at Syracuse University. Formal agreements for degrees in business administration, public administration, public communication and science education allow SUNY-ESF students unrestricted access to courses and faculty at Syracuse University. SUNY-ESF graduate students, with prior approval, may also enroll in courses offered by SUNY Upstate Medical University, which is immediately adjacent to the SUNY-ESF and Syracuse University campuses.

All full and part-time matriculated graduate students are members of the Graduate Student Association (GSA), which serves as an advocate for student sentiment and needs by advising and cooperating with the Administration and Faculty on all administrative, curricular, and instructional affairs that pertain to, or are a concern of, the graduate students of the College.

Students in the Department of Environmental Studies are represented on the association board and are encouraged to engage their peers in academic, cultural and organizational activities that enhance their degree programs.

SUNY-ESF's Writing Resource Center provides support and assistance in the areas of grammar, organization, planning, style and other aspects of the writing process that are refreshing reminders for graduate-level students who will engage scientific rigor expected of graduate scholars. The Center also offers a library of grammar and style books, reference materials, and tip sheets and also it houses dedicated computer work stations for student use.

SUNY-ESF's Financial Aid Office assists students in locating necessary funds to meet educational expenses through counseling; information about state, federal and community aid sources, and College aid sources; and loan/debt management. The office also offers a Job Locator Service.

The SUNY-ESF Alumni Association assists students with emergency loans, scholarships, grants, career exploration, workforce networks, and job placement.

SUNY-ESF's Office of Career and Counseling Services helps students concerned about academics, choosing a profession, identifying areas of interest, managing learning difficulties, test anxiety, study skills, job search preparation, and personal situations. SUNY-ESF also has a strong working relationship with the counseling staff at Syracuse University. Students may be referred to Syracuse University for additional support.

The Counseling Center at Syracuse University provides evaluation, counseling, and psychotherapy services for a wide range of emotional/ psychological problems and concerns. Help is available for short-term and crisis situations; for individuals and groups; consultation and referral. Additional counseling and support is also available from the chaplains and clergy staff at Hendricks Chapel. Students with disabilities of any kind are supported by services provided by both SUNY-ESF and Syracuse University. Syracuse University's Office of Disability Services facilitates access to programs and activities, coordinates auxiliary aids and services, provides access to adaptive technology, and when necessary, advocates on behalf of students with members of the campus community.

The R.A.P.E. Center of Syracuse University provides sexual assault crisis intervention programs and services. Staff are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Through the Syracuse University Student Legal Services program SUNY-ESF students can obtain advice and consultation from attorneys on legal problems and court appearances.

Syracuse University Health Services is available to all full-time SUNY-ESF students. Part-time students are charged on a per-visit basis, as are family members of full-time students. General services available include outpatient visits, free "colds clinic", routine laboratory work, confinement with ordinary medical care in the infirmary (up to 10 days per academic year), most common pharmaceuticals used in treatment (provided at a nominal fee), diagnostic x-ray service and other tests (provided at cost), gynecological, psychiatric, and allergy care, surgical care or consultation.

Syracuse University's Office of International Services provides information, support, and counseling for international students and scholars. Programs, socials, workshops, and seminars of special interest to international students are offered on a regular basis, and are open to the

entire community. To assist new international students in becoming acclimated to life in the United States, Syracuse, and the college community, an orientation program is offered each summer.

For graduate students with young families, The Syracuse University Day Care Center and The Health Science Center Child Care Center, as well as a number of other child care centers in the area. Onondaga County has many resources available for child care, and offers a free referral service to people seeking child care options. Trained referral counselors are available through the Onondaga County Child Care Council.

Finally, the campus is well served by the Centro bus system which provides 24-hour shuttle services within a two-mile radius of campus and limited access to Syracuse University campus facilities in downtown Syracuse.

APPENDIX A.1

MS THESIS PROPOSAL APPROVAL FORM

Approval of Proposals

Students are required to prepare a Thesis or Project Proposal. This proposal must be formally approved by the student's Major Professor and Steering Committee using this form (below) for signatures with a copy of the proposal attached.

Although progress in developing a proposal may vary from student to student, students are normally required to produce an approved proposal before registering for more than 3 credits of ENS 899 Thesis Research.

Content of Proposals

Proposals will vary in content according to the nature of the planned research. In general, these should be succinct statements of research plans, normally about 10 pages in length, describing the planned work as follows:

1. Tentative title.
2. Research objective or hypothesis.
3. Background. A brief statement summarizing pertinent literature.
4. Key data or information sources.
5. Method of analysis.
6. Expected results.
7. Timetable for research, writing, and defense examination.
8. Brief bibliography.



PROPOSAL APPROVAL

Student Name: _____

Thesis/Project Title: _____

Approved:

Major Professor _____ Date _____

Committee Member _____ Date _____

Committee Member _____ Date _____

A copy of the approved proposal should be affixed to this form, and copies of this document with attached proposal should be provided to each of the above signers, and to the Environmental Studies Graduate Office, 107 Marshall Hall.

7/2008

APPENDIX A.2

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PREPARATION OF THESES/PROJECTS

The following guidelines are provided for Master's students preparing a thesis, or reports to meet Program Alternative 1 or 2, and for all doctoral students in completion of their dissertations:

1. The general style manual for the College is **A Manual of Style for Authors, Editors and Copywriters** commonly referred to as the "Chicago Manual of Style". A Department may opt to use a style manual which is more discipline oriented, and in doing so, accepts the responsibility of communicating this preference along with other special requirements to the graduate students concerned. Likewise, it is the student's responsibility to be aware of the style manual and any special requirements of his/her faculty. In any case, the manual to be used should be indicated as part of the proposal, i.e., the student in consultation with the Department and/or Major Professor should identify in the proposal which style manual will be followed in preparation of the thesis, project, or report.

2. The College shall participate in the Dissertation Information Service (DIS) provided by University Microfilms International, Ann Arbor, Michigan. All Master's theses and all doctoral theses will be submitted for inclusion in this database. This database is a computerized index containing bibliographic citations to nearly one million doctoral and Master's theses dating back to 1861. This is a very valuable resource because it makes available through a variety of products the results of a student's work. The cost of this service is paid for by each student.

More detailed information on DIS is available in the Office of the Dean on Instruction and Graduate Studies.

3. To ensure the uniform physical quality of theses, and projects all will conform to the guidance provided in **Preparation of Archival Copies of Theses and Dissertations**, American Library Association, copies of which are available for review in Moon Library and the Office of the Dean of Instruction and Graduate Studies.

4. Abstracts are required for all Doctoral and Masters theses and projects and will contain key words which will be listed at the end of the abstract. The abstracts will be bound with the thesis, or project and will not exceed 150 words for a Master's thesis or project, or 350 words for a doctoral thesis.

5. Generally, theses and project reports should adhere to the following organization:

Thesis/Project Format:

Title Page
Acknowledgments
Table of Contents
List of Tables
List of Figures
Abstract with Key Words
Introduction

Literature Review
Methods and Materials
Results
Discussion
Conclusions
Appendices
Vita

Alternatives to this organization may be authorized by the Steering Committee within any guidelines which may be developed by the individual Faculty.

6. Manuscript theses and reports will be acceptable as determined by individual Faculties. The student's selection of this format must be in keep with guidelines established by participating Faculty and have the prior approval of the student's Major Professor and Steering Committee.

The student is considered the senior author of any manuscript theses and as such only his/her name shall appear on the title page. Other authors shall be cited under the Acknowledgment section, but not on each manuscript. The abstract should be inclusive of all manuscripts included in the document. Likewise, the Conclusions section should be a synthesis of all inclusive manuscripts.

7. Non-print thesis or project formats will be handled on an individual basis and the student selecting such a format, along with the supervising Major Professor and/or Steering Committee, should consult with the Library Faculty early in the planning process. In any event, the Library will need two copies of the final product.

8. The Library will receive the original signed thesis or project and one copy. The original will be the archival copy and will not circulate. The copy will be available for circulation.

References

Chicago Manual of Style. 2003. 15th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Ref. Z 253.U69 2003.

University Microfilms, Inc. **Publishing Your Dissertation: How to Prepare Your Manuscript for Publication**. n.d.

Boyd, Jane & Etherington, Don. (1986). **Preparation of Archival Copies of Theses and Dissertations**. Chicago: American Library Association. Z701 B79 1986.

FORMAT FOR VITA

NAME:

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH:

EDUCATION:

	<u>NAME AND LOCATION</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>DEGREE</u>
HIGH SCHOOL:			

COLLEGE:

EMPLOYMENT:

	<u>EMPLOYER</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>POSITION</u>

APPENDIX B

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES FACULTY AND STAFF

Staff:

PATRICIA A. GIBEAULT (Patti)

Graduate Support Assistant, 107 Marshall Hall, 470-6528*

CHRISTINE CRYSLER (Chris)

Departmental Secretary, Secretary to Chair, 106 Marshall Hall, 470-6636

Faculty:

DAVID A. SONNENFELD (Environmental Sociology, Sustainable Development, East/Southeast Asia), 106 Marshall Hall, 470-6636

JANINE M. DEBAISE (Ecofeminism, Creative Writing)

105 Moon Library, 470-4776

MYRNA H. HALL (GIS, Ecological Planning, Carbon Sequestration)

112 Marshall Hall, 470-4741

DAWNELLE JAGER (Creative Writing, Communication)

105 Moon Library, 470-6756

PATRICK J. LAWLER (Environmental Communication)

105 Moon Library, 470-6914

JACK P. MANNO (Sustainable Development, Ecological Economics, Great Lakes Policy)

211A Marshall Hall, 470-6720

MARK S. MEISNER (Environmental Discourse and Communication)

108B Marshall Hall, 470-6908

SHARON D. MORAN (Environmental Policy, Government and Water Resources)

113 Marshall Hall, 470-6990

BRENDA J. NORDENSTAM (Risk Perception and Analysis)

108A Marshall Hall, 470-6573

SUSAN L. SENECAH (Environmental Communication and Policy)

109 Marshall Hall, 470-6570

RICHARD C. SMARDON (Wetland Assessment, Public Participation, Decision Making)

106 Marshall Hall, 470-6576

* All telephone numbers are in the 315 area code. Calls from campus phones may be dialed with just the last four digits as extension number.

BENETTE A. WHITMORE (Communication, Composition-Technical Writing)
105 Moon Library, 470-6722

Adjunct Faculty:

JERROLD ABRAHAM (Public Health)
SUNY Health Science Center, Director of Environmental and Occupational Pathology,
750 East Adams Street, Syracuse NY 13210

KEVIN BLISS (Water Resources)
NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation

STEVE BRECHIN (Environmental Sociology)
Syracuse University, Maxwell School of Public Policy, Dept. of Sociology, Room 209 Maxwell
Hall, Syracuse, NY 13210, 443-2200

DAVID DRIESEN (Environmental Law)
Syracuse University, Law College, 446 College of Law, Syracuse, NY 13210, 443-4218

STEVEN EFFLER (Water Quality Modeling)
110 Hillsboro Parkway, Syracuse, NY 13214, 466-1309

MARLA EMERY (Research Geography)
U.S. Forest Service, Burlington, VT

JOHN FERRANTE (Watershed Ecology and Management)
Environmental Consultant

ANDREW HUNT (Environmental Health Effects)
Upstate NY Specialist Environmental Consulting

MARLA JABBOUR (Methodology)
SUNY-ESF, Assistant Dean, Instruction and Graduate Studies, Director of Honors Program,
227 Bray Hall, Syracuse, NY 13210, 470-6595

THANE JOYAL (Environmental Law)
Attorney

TIMM KROEGER (Natural Resource Economics)
Defenders of Wildlife

DAVID NOWAK (Urban Ecosystems)
SUNY-ESF, USDA Forest Service, 5 Moon Library, Syracuse, NY, 13210, 448-3212

SAMUEL SAGE (Community Building)
Atlantic States Legal Foundation, 658 W. Onondaga Street, Syracuse, NY 13204, 475-1170

LISA WARHECKE (Administration and Planning).
256 Greenwood Place, Syracuse, NY, 13210, 428-6024