

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

**Advising Guide**

**Faculty of Environmental Studies  
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry**

**2007 – 2008**

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

## Purpose

The Certificate of Graduate Study in Environmental Decisionmaking is designed for graduate students enrolled in Law, Management, Public Administration and Information Studies programs at Syracuse University and other non SUNY/ESF students. It provides an exposure to specialized environmental study that is relevant to students' primary professional interests in the fields identified. Because students in each of these programs will engage important environmental policy, program implementation, and decisionmaking 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 decisionmaking from their unique professional perspectives.

The focus of Certificate study is on environmental decision making, which can be defined as the process by which stakeholders in environmental outcomes engage in communications to seek solutions to environmental problems. 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 non-governmental 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 degree programs at 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, 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 an Application Form, which provides contact information for applicants and verifies their matriculated status at 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 College Office of Instruction and Graduate Studies, 227 Bray Hall, and in the Faculty of Environmental Studies Office, 107 Marshall Hall. Copies of each form are appended here, and may be reproduced.

## 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 - Margery Connor, Associate Dean  
Management - Peter Koveos, Associate Dean  
Public Administration MPA - Christine Omolino  
Executive MPA – Catherine Gerard  
Information Studies - Thomas Martin, Dean

To assist certificate students in making suitable course selections and to answer related program questions, a faculty advisor at SUNY/ESF is available in the Faculty of Environmental Studies. Students should contact Professor Richard Smardon, 106 Marshall Hall.

## Course Requirements

The Certificate of Graduate Study in Environmental Decision Making requires the completion of 15 credit hours of coursework. To be counted as part of progress toward the Certificate, a grade of B or better must be earned in each course. The 15 credit hours of coursework must be distributed as follows:

- A. Environmental Decision Making. (9-12 credit hours) . This requirement is met by completing a minimum of three courses chosen from the following list which is reviewed annually:

EST 608 Environmental Advocacy Campaigns & Conflict Resolution  
EST 609 Collaborative Governance Processes & Natural Resource Mgmt.  
EST 612 Environmental Policy and Governance  
EST 625 Wetland Management Policy  
EST 628 Great Lakes Policy and Management  
EST 635 Public Participation and Decision Making  
EST 640 Environmental Thought and Ethics  
EST 645 Mass media and Environmental Affairs  
EST 650 Environmental Perception and Human Behaviour

FOR 665 Natural Resources and Environmental Policy  
FOR 670 Resource Economics  
FOR 671 Economics of Non-market Goods  
FOR 753 Advanced Natural Resource and Environmental Policy

Included as course selections also are certain courses offered at Syracuse University, listed below. No Syracuse University courses other than those listed below may be used for this Certificate, and no more than one of these specified Syracuse University courses can be counted in the Certificate program. An annually updated list of courses in this category will be provided to students, which presently includes:

LAW 716 Environmental Law  
PPA 730 Problems in Public Administration  
PPA 775 Energy, Environment, Resources Policy  
PSC 602 Public Policy Analysis

B. Applied Environmental Science. (3-6 credit hours). The requirement for topical grounding in an environmental subject is met by completing coursework in one or two applied environmental science courses taken at the College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Students are cautioned that some of the courses listed below have one course in Ecology as a prerequisite. Coursework should be chosen from the following list, which will be updated annually:

- EFB 515 Population Ecology
- EFB 516 Ecosystems
- EFB 518 Systems Ecology
- EFB 522 Ecology, Resources and Development
- EFB 523 Tropical Ecology
- EFB 524 Limnology
- EFB 542 Freshwater Wetlands Ecosystems
- EFB 611 Topics in Environmental Toxicology
  
- ERE 506 Hazardous Waste Management
- ERE 510 Energy – Alternate Systems
- ERE 552 Fundamentals of Remote Sensing
  
- FCH 510 Environmental Chemistry I
- FCH 511 Environmental Chemistry II
- FCH 515 Methods of Environmental Chemical Analysis
  
- FOR 542 Watershed Management
- FOR 556 Spatial Modeling
- FOR 564 Soil and Water Conservation Policy
- FOR 630 Tropical Forest Ecology and Land Use
- FOR 643 Forest Hydrology
- FOR 680 Urban Forestry
  
- LSA 611 Natural Processes in Planning and Design
- LSA 652 Community Development and Planning Process
- LSA 650 Behavioral Factors in Community Design
- LSA 654 Ecology in Landscape Design and Planning

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**Faculty of Environmental Studies**  
**SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry**

**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.

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**Part 1.**

_____	_____		
Date of Application	Social Security Number		
_____	_____	_____	
Last name	First name	M.I.	
Local address:	_____	_____	_____
	Street	City, State	Zip
Telephone:	(    ) _____	E-mail: _____	
Academic:	_____	_____	_____
Syracuse Univ. Graduate School:	_____	_____	_____
	Program	Degree	Matriculation Date
_____			
Anticipated Graduation Date			
_____			
Signature			

**Part 2.**

The applicant must furnish evidence of (a) current matriculation, and (b) good academic standing in an eligible degree program at Syracuse University. This evidence is

provided by letter from the appropriate Syracuse University college official, who is identified in the Certificate Advising Guide.

CRT: \_\_\_\_\_

**Certificate Request Form**

Instructions: When you believe you have completed all requirements for the Certificate, complete Parts 1, 2, and 3 of this form. Return 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 15 credit hours).

A. Environmental Decision Making (9-12 credit hours required):

<u>Prefix</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Cr. Hrs.</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

B. Applied Environmental Science (3-6 credit hours required):

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

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

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

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

_____	_____
Full name ( <b>please print</b> )	Date requested
_____	
Street	
_____	
City, State, Zip	

Office Use only:

1. Request Form and transcript(s) received by Graduate Office (Date): \_\_\_\_\_

2. Certification by Faculty of Environmental Studies:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty signature                      Date

3. Final approval of Certificate: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dean signature                      Date

4. Certificate Mailed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date