

Certificate of Graduate Study in Environmental Decision Making

Advising Guide

2009 – 2010

Department of Environmental Studies
107 Marshall Hall
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
1 Forestry Drive
Syracuse, NY 13210-2787

Certificate of Graduate Study in Environmental Decision Making

Purpose

The Certificate of Graduate Study in Environmental Decision Making at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF, or ESF) is designed for graduate students enrolled in Law, Management, Public Administration and Information Studies programs at Syracuse University. It provides an exposure to specialized environmental study relevant to students' professional interests in these fields. Because students in each of these fields will engage important environmental policy, program implementation, and decision-making processes in the course of their professional careers, the environmental orientation of this certificate program will help students better understand the complexities of environmental decision making.

The focus of certificate study is on environmental decision making, 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 notions such as negotiation, mediation, information policy and public participation as part of the decision making lexicon. The decision making focus of the certificate program 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 private sector.

Student Eligibility

Graduate students currently matriculated and in good academic standing in Law, Management, Public Administration or Information Studies degree programs at Syracuse University are eligible to apply for admissions to the Certificate program. It is possible that graduate students from the SUNY Upstate Medical University and the State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University may also be eligible for admission to this program.

Administrative Procedures

Application and admissions procedures, compliance with College requirements for successful graduate study, and the awarding of Certificates are administered by ESF's Dean of Instruction

and Graduate Studies, 227 Bray Hall. Acceptances will be made on a rolling basis by 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 their home institution. 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 appended to this guide and may be reproduced.

Academic Advisement

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

- Law - Jo Ann Larkin, Registrar
- Management – Rick DiRubbo, Director of Student Services
- Public Administration MPA - Christine Omolino, Associate Director
- Executive MPA – Margaret Lane, Assistant Director
- Information Studies – Elaine Morgan, Director of Academic Counseling and Advising

To assist certificate students in making suitable course selections and to answer related program questions, an ESF faculty advisor is available. Students should contact David A. Sonnenfeld, Professor and Chair, Department of Environmental Studies, 106 Marshall Hall, SUNY-ESF, 1 Forestry Drive, Syracuse, tel. 315.470.6636, e-mail: dsonn@esf.edu.

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:

EST 606	Environmental Risk Perception
EST 608	Environmental Advocacy Campaigns & Conflict Resolution
EST 609	Collaborative Governance Processes for Environmental and Natural Resource Management
EST 612	Environmental Policy and Governance
EST 625	Wetland Management Policy
EST 626	Concepts and Principles of Sustainable Development
EST 628	Great Lakes Policy and Management
EST 635	Public Participation and Decision Making: Theory and Application
EST 640	Environmental Thought and Ethics
EST 645	Mass Media and Environmental Affairs
EST 650	Environmental Perception and Human Behavior
EST 660	Land Use Law
FOR 665	Natural Resources Policy
FOR 670	Resource and Environmental Economics
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 may be counted in the Certificate program. Courses in this category presently include:

LAW 716	Environmental Law
PPA 730	Problems in Public Administration
PPA 775	Energy, Environment and Resources Policy
PSC 602/SOS 604	Public Policy Analysis: Theory and Practice

B. *Applied Environmental Science* (3-6 credit hours). The requirement for topical grounding in an environmental subject is met by completing one or two applied environmental science courses taken at the ESF. Students are cautioned that some of the courses listed below have ecology as a prerequisite. Coursework should be chosen from the following list:

EFB 516	Ecosystems
EFB 518	Systems Ecology
EFB 522	Ecology, Resources and Development
EFB 523	Tropical Ecology
EFB 524	Limnology
EFB 542	Freshwater Wetland Ecosystems
EFB 611	Topics in Environmental Toxicology

ENS 519 Spatial Ecology

ERE 506 Hazardous Waste Management
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 Introduction to Raster GIS Analysis
FOR 630 Agroforestry
FOR 643 Forest Hydrology
FOR 680 Urban Forestry

LSA 611 Natural Processes in Planning and Design
LSA 650 Behavioral Factors in Community Design
LSA 652 Community Development and Planning Process

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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.

_____	_____	
Date of Application	Student ID	
_____	_____	_____
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, as identified in the Certificate Advising Guide.

CRT: _____

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.

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 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 Office of Instruction and Graduate Studies.

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

_____	_____
Full name (please print)	Date requested

Street	

City, State, Zip	

Office Use only:

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

2. Certification by Department of Environmental Studies:

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

David A. Sonnenfeld, Chair

Date

3. Final approval of Certificate: _____
Scott S. Shannon, Dean

Date

4. Certificate Mailed: _____
Date

6/2009