

ENVIRONMENTAL GIS AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

Banner Code: SC-CERG-EGBC

Graduate Advising

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As biodiversity is the life support system of our planet, it is important to prepare students for careers that require knowledge of both ecology and public policy. This certificate focuses in the fields of conservation biology, land use policy, conservation planning, and modern tools and approaches used in GIS to prepare students to tackle complex environmental challenges in a changing world.

This certificate is suitable for traditional students as well as for student-professionals (such as environmental scientists, managers, practitioners in government, and experts in non-governmental organizations) who wish to acquire further knowledge to advance their careers.

This certificate may be pursued on a part-time or full-time basis.

Admissions & Policies

Admissions

University-wide admissions policies can be found in the Graduate Admissions Policies (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/>) section of this catalog. International students and students having earned international degrees should also refer to Admission of International Students (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/international-students/>) for additional requirements.

Eligibility

Applicants for this certificate should hold a BA or BS in a related discipline from an institution of higher education accredited by a Mason-recognized U.S. institutional accrediting agency or international equivalent.

Application Requirements

To apply for this certificate, prospective students should submit the George Mason University Admissions Application (<https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/apply-now/>) and its required supplemental documentation.

GRE scores and letters of recommendation are not required, but will strengthen an application if available.

Policies

For policies governing all graduate certificates, see AP.6 Graduate Policies (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/>).

Transferring Previous Graduate Credit into this Certificate

Previously earned and relevant graduate credits may be eligible for transfer into this certificate; details can be found in the Credit by Exam or Transfer (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/>) section of this catalog.

Requirements

Certificate Requirements

Total credits: 18

This certificate may be pursued on a full-or part-time basis.

Students should refer to the Admissions & Policies tab for specific policies related to this certificate.

Core Courses

Code	Title	Credits
Geospatial Requirements		
GGS 553	Geographic Information Systems	3
or GGS 692	Web-based Geographic Information Systems	
Remote Sensing Requirements		
GGS 579	Remote Sensing	3
or GGS 680	Earth Image Processing	
Conservation Requirements		
EVPP 518	Conservation Biology ¹	3
Statistics Requirements		
GGS 560	Quantitative Methods	3
or CONS 625	Generalized Linear and Mixed Models in Ecology and Conservation Biology	
Total Credits		12

¹ This course may be substituted with advisor approval.

Practice-oriented Conservation Coursework

Code	Title	Credits
Select 6 credits from the following:		6
CONS 630	Species Monitoring Conservation	
CONS 645	Estimating Animal Abundance and Occupancy	
CONS 697	Special Topics in Conservation	
Total Credits		6