

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES, BA (CHSS)

Banner Code: LA-BA-EVSS

402 Enterprise Hall
Fairfax Campus

Website: <http://ess.gmu.edu/>

The BA in Environmental and Sustainability Studies is a joint program between the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the College of Science.

This degree provides students with theoretical and practical knowledge of three aspects of environmental and sustainability studies: people, prosperity, and planet. In addition to required core courses, students develop more in-depth knowledge in one of six concentrations. This degree prepares students for employment and graduate study in fields related to social justice, business and public policy, and environmental protection as they relate to the environment and sustainability.

This is a Green Leaf program.

Admissions & Policies

Policies

Students pursuing this degree must complete a minimum of 60 credits within the major, with a minimum grade of 2.00 in each course.

For policies governing all undergraduate degrees, see AP.5 Undergraduate Policies.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: minimum 120

Students should be aware of the specific policies associated with this program, located on the Admissions & Policies tab.

Of the credits required for this degree, 14 credits simultaneously fulfill core requirements for the major and Mason Core requirements, and, depending on the concentration and electives chosen, up to 9 credits may simultaneously fulfill Mason Core requirements and college BA requirements.

Core Courses in the Major

Core requirements may satisfy Mason Core requirements in natural science (EVPP 110 The Ecosphere: An Introduction to Environmental Science I (Mason Core), EVPP 111 The Ecosphere: An Introduction to Environmental Science II (Mason Core)) and the college BA requirement for social and behavioral science (GOVT 361 Introduction to Environmental Policy).

Code	Title	Credits
Environmental Science and Society		
EVPP 377	Applied Ecology	3
And three courses from the following:		11-12

EVPP 110 & EVPP 111 & EVPP 336	The Ecosphere: An Introduction to Environmental Science I (Mason Core) and The Ecosphere: An Introduction to Environmental Science II (Mason Core) and Human Dimensions of the Environment	
EVPP 210 & EVPP 301 & EVPP 302	Environmental Biology: Molecules and Cells and Environmental Science: Biological Diversity and Ecosystems and Environmental Science: Biomes and Human Dimensions	
Individual and Group Behavior		
INTS 334	Environmental Justice	4
Business and Public Policy		
ECON 105	Environmental Economics for the Citizen (Mason Core)	3
EVPP 322	Business and Sustainability	3
EVPP 361	Introduction to Environmental Policy (satisfies the college BA requirement for social and behavioral science)	3
or GOVT 361	Introduction to Environmental Policy	
Statistics		
SOCI 313	Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences (Mason Core)	4
or BIOL 214	Biostatistics for Biology Majors	
Integration, Analysis, Innovation		
INTS 210	Sustainable World	4
EVPP 480	Sustainability in Action (Mason Core)	4
Select one from the following:		3
INTS 390	International Internship (minimum of 3 credits required)	
INTS 490	Internship (minimum of 3 credits required)	
Total Credits		42-43

Concentration in the Major

Available Concentrations

- Concentration in Business and Sustainability (BUSU)
- Concentration in Climate Change and Society (CCSO)
- Concentration in Conservation and Sustainability (CSUS)
- Concentration in Environmental Policy and Economics (EVPE)
- Concentration in Equity and Environmental Justice (EQEJ)
- Concentration in Sustainable Food and Agriculture (SFG)

Concentration in Business and Sustainability (BUSU)

The requirements for this concentration, depending on the electives chosen, may satisfy the college BA requirement in philosophy and religious studies (PHIL 243 Global Environmental Ethics (Mason Core), PHIL 305 Business Ethics).

Students who have already taken and received credit for MGMT 303 Principles of Management or OM 303 Operations Management shall substitute MGMT 303 Principles of Management for MBUS 301 Managing People and Organizations in a Global Economy and OM 303

Operations Management for MBUS 306 Managing Projects and Operations. Both courses cannot be taken for credit. Students who have taken and received credit for both ACCT 203 Survey of Accounting and FNAN 303 Financial Management shall substitute the combination for MBUS 300 Accounting in a Global Economy. All three courses cannot be taken for credit.

For this concentration, students may substitute OM 211 Honors Statistical Analysis for Management for SOCI 313 Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences (Mason Core) (core requirement for degree). Students cannot receive credit for more than one of these.

Core Courses

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
MBUS 300	Accounting in a Global Economy	3
MBUS 301	Managing People and Organizations in a Global Economy	3
MBUS 306	Managing Projects and Operations	3
Additional Course		
Select one course (3 credits) from the following:		3
GOVT 353	Social Entrepreneurship	
IT 495	Turning Ideas into Successful Companies	
MBUS 304	Entrepreneurship: Starting and Managing a New Enterprise	
MGMT 451	Introduction to Entrepreneurship	
Total Credits		12

Two Courses

Code	Title	Credits
Select two courses (6 credits) from the following:		6
ECON 335	Environmental Economics	
EVPP 338	Economics of Environmental Policy	
EVPP 362	Intermediate Environmental Policy	
GGG 307	Sustainable Development	
INTS 204	Leadership Theory and Practice	
PHIL 243	Global Environmental Ethics (Mason Core)	
PHIL 305	Business Ethics	
Other course work with advisor approval		
Total Credits		6

Concentration in Climate Change and Society (CCSO)

The requirements for this concentration, depending on the electives chosen, may satisfy the college BA requirement in philosophy and religious studies (PHIL 243 Global Environmental Ethics (Mason Core), PHIL 343 Topics in Environmental Philosophy (Mason Core)).

Required Courses

Code	Title	Credits
CLIM 101	Global Warming: Weather, Climate, and Society (Mason Core)	3-4
or GGS 121	Dynamic Atmosphere and Hydrosphere (Mason Core)	
EVPP 432	Energy Policy	3

EVPP 436	The Human Dimensions of Global Climate Change	3
Total Credits		9-10

Three Courses

Code	Title	Credits
Select three courses (9 credits) from the following:		9
EVPP 362	Intermediate Environmental Policy	
GGG 302	Global Environmental Hazards	
GGG 304	Population Geography (Mason Core)	
GGG 309	Meteorology and Climate	
GGG 312	Physical Climatology	
GGG 314	Severe and Extreme Weather	
PHIL 243	Global Environmental Ethics (Mason Core) (satisfies the college BA requirement in philosophy and religious studies)	
PHIL 343	Topics in Environmental Philosophy (Mason Core) (satisfies the college BA requirement in philosophy and religious studies)	
Other course work with advisor approval		
Total Credits		9

Concentration in Conservation and Sustainability (CSUS) Smithsonian-Mason Program

Students complete one of the programs offered through the Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation in cooperation with the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute.

Conservation, Biodiversity and Society Option (16 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
CONS 320	Conservation in Practice	3
CONS 401	Conservation Theory	3
CONS 402	Applied Conservation	4
CONS 410	Human Dimensions in Conservation (Mason Core)	3
CONS 490	RS: Integrated Conservation Strategies (Mason Core)	3
Total Credits		16

Wildlife, Ecology, and Conservation Option (15 credits)

Offered only in Fall semesters, students complete four required courses:

Code	Title	Credits
CONS 400	Conservation Seminar	2
CONS 404	Biodiversity Monitoring	4
CONS 405	Landscape and Macrosystems Ecology	4
CONS 496	Research in Conservation	5
Total Credits		15

Endangered Species and Conservation Option (15 credits)

Offered only in Spring semesters, students complete four required courses:

Code	Title	Credits
CONS 400	Conservation Seminar	2
CONS 406	Small Population Management	4

CONS 491	RS: Conservation Management Planning (Mason Core)	4
CONS 496	Research in Conservation	5
Total Credits		15

Three Credits

Code	Title	Credits
Select a minimum of three credits from the following: 3		
BIOL 472	Introductory Animal Behavior	
EVPP 419	Marine Mammal Biology and Conservation	
EVPP 421	Marine Conservation	
EVPP 430	Fundamentals of Environmental Geographic Information Systems	
GGG 303	Geography of Resource Conservation (Mason Core)	
INTS 211	Introduction to Conservation Studies	
INTS 311	The Mysteries of Migration: Consequences for Conservation	
INTS 370	Sustainable Food Systems	
INTS 371	Food Systems and Policy	
INTS 403	Conservation Behavior	
Other course work with advisor approval		
Total Credits		3

Concentration in Environmental Policy and Economics (EVPE)

The requirements for this concentration satisfy the Mason Core requirement in social and behavioral science (ECON 104 Contemporary Macroeconomic Principles (Mason Core)) and, depending on the elective chosen, may fulfill the college BA requirement in non-Western culture (ECON 362 African Economic Development (Mason Core)).

Required Courses

Completion of these courses will satisfy the Mason Core social and behavioral science requirement.

Code	Title	Credits
ECON 104	Contemporary Macroeconomic Principles (Mason Core)	3
EVPP 338	Economics of Environmental Policy	3
EVPP 362	Intermediate Environmental Policy	3
or GOVT 362	Intermediate Environmental Policy	
GOVT 351	Administration in the Political System	3
Total Credits		12

Six Credits

Code	Title	Credits
Select a minimum of six credits from the following: 6		
CONF 340	Global Conflict Analysis and Resolution	
ECON 306	Intermediate Microeconomics	
ECON 311	Intermediate Macroeconomics	
ECON 330	Public Finance	
ECON 345	Introduction to Econometrics	
ECON 360	Economics of Developing Areas (Mason Core)	
ECON 412	Game Theory and Economics of Institutions	

EVPP 337	Environmental Policy Making in Developing Countries	
EVPP 396	Directed Topic in Environmental Science and Policy	
EVPP 432	Energy Policy	
GEOL 420	Earth Science and Policy (Mason Core)	
GGG 305	Economic Geography	
GGG 307	Sustainable Development	
GOVT 336	Political Development and Change	
GOVT 339	Issues in the Politics of Advanced Industrial Societies	
GOVT 343	International Political Economy	
GOVT 357	Urban Governance and Planning	
GOVT 364	Public Policy Making	
INTS 331	The Nonprofit Sector	
INTS 371	Food Systems and Policy	
Other course work with advisor approval		
Total Credits		6

Concentration in Equity and Environmental Justice (EQEJ) Required Courses

Code	Title	Credits
EVPP 362	Intermediate Environmental Policy	3
EVPP 436	The Human Dimensions of Global Climate Change	3
INTS 336	Poverty, Wealth and Inequality in the US	3
INTS 337	Social Justice Consciousness and Personal Transformation	3
Total Credits		12

Six Credits

Code	Title	Credits
Select a minimum of six credits from the following: 6		
CONF 394	Human Rights and Inequality	
GGG 304	Population Geography (Mason Core)	
GGG 307	Sustainable Development	
GOVT 445	Human Rights	
INTS 304	Social Movements and Community Activism	
INTS 331	The Nonprofit Sector	
INTS 338	Animal Rights and Humane Education	
INTS 362	Social Justice and Human Rights	
INTS 402	Plants and People - Sustenance, Ceremony, and Sustainability	
SOCI 320	Social Structure and Globalization (Mason Core)	
SOCI 355	Social Inequality (Mason Core)	
Other course work with advisor approval		
Total Credits		6

Concentration in Sustainable Food and Agriculture (SFG) Required Courses

Code	Title	Credits
INTS 370	Sustainable Food Systems	6
INTS 371	Food Systems and Policy	3

INTS 470	Professional Pathways in Sustainable Food Systems	1
Total Credits		10

Eight Credits

Code	Title	Credits
Select a minimum of eight credits from the following:		
ANTH 366	Food and Human Evolution	1
ANTH 376	Food and Culture	1
BIOL 344	Plant Diversity and Evolution	1
BIOL 345	Plant Ecology	1
EVPP 436	The Human Dimensions of Global Climate Change	1
GGG 303	Geography of Resource Conservation (Mason Core)	1
INTS 331	The Nonprofit Sector	1
INTS 338	Animal Rights and Humane Education	1
INTS 402	Plants and People - Sustenance, Ceremony, and Sustainability	1
NUTR 295	Introduction to Nutrition (Mason Core)	1
NUTR 408	Food Security	1
Other course work with advisor approval		
Total Credits		8

Writing-Intensive Requirement

The university requires all students to complete at least one course designated as "writing intensive" in their major at the 300 level or above. Students majoring in environmental and sustainability studies should consult an advisor to learn how to fulfill this requirement.

Upper Level Requirement

Students seeking a bachelor's degree must apply at least 45 credits of upper-level courses (numbered 300 or above) toward graduation requirements.

College Level Requirements for the BA Degree

In addition to the Mason Core program, students pursuing a BA degree must complete the coursework below. Except where expressly prohibited, a course used to fulfill a college level requirement may also be used simultaneously to satisfy other requirements (Mason Core requirements or requirements for the major).

Philosophy or Religious Studies

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credits from the following:		
PHIL ¹		1
RELI		1

¹ Note that the following courses may not be used to fulfill this requirement:

- PHIL 323 Classical Western Political Theory
- PHIL 324 Modern Western Political Theory
- PHIL 327 Contemporary Western Political Theory
- PHIL 393 Humanities College to Career
- PHIL 460 Senior Seminar in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

Additionally, PHIL 253 Philosophy and Literature (Mason Core) and RELI 235 Religion and Literature (Mason Core) cannot be used to fulfill both the philosophy/religious studies requirement and the Mason Core literature requirement.

Social and Behavioral Sciences

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credits of social and behavioral sciences from the following (additional to the Mason Core social and behavioral sciences requirement) ¹		
ANTH		1
CRIM		1
ECON		1
GOVT		1
HIST ²		1
LING		1
PSYC		1
SOCI		1

Or choose from the following GGS courses:

GGG 101	Major World Regions (Mason Core)	1
GGG 103	Human Geography (Mason Core)	1
GGG 110	Introduction to Geoinformation Technologies	1
GGG 301	Political Geography	1
GGG 303	Geography of Resource Conservation (Mason Core)	1
GGG 304	Population Geography (Mason Core)	1
GGG 305	Economic Geography	1
GGG 306	Urban Geography	1
GGG 315	Geography of the United States	1
GGG 316	Geography of Latin America	1
GGG 320	Geography of Europe	1
GGG 325	Geography of North Africa and the Middle East	1
GGG 330	Geography of the Soviet Succession States	1
GGG 357	Structures in Urban Governance and Planning	1
GGG 380	Geography of Virginia	1

¹ The two courses used to fulfill the combined college and Mason Core requirements must be from different disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences.

² HIST 100 History of Western Civilization (Mason Core) and HIST 125 Introduction to World History (Mason Core) may not be used to fulfill this requirement.

Foreign Language

Code	Title	Credits
Intermediate-level proficiency in one foreign language, fulfilled by: ¹		
Completing a course in a foreign language numbered 202, 209, or 210 (or higher level courses taught in the language)		
Or achieving a satisfactory score on an approved proficiency test		
Or completing the following ASL three course sequence:		
EDSE 115	American Sign Language (ASL) I	
EDSE 116	American Sign Language (ASL) II	
EDSE 219	American Sign Language (ASL) III	

¹ Students who are already proficient in a second language may be eligible for a waiver of this requirement. Additional information on waivers can be found at the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs (<http://chssundergrad.gmu.edu>).

Non-Western Culture

Select 3 credits of an approved course in the study of a non-Western culture (additional to the Mason Core requirement in global understanding)

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credits (additional to Mason Core Global Understanding requirement) ¹		
ANTH 114	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 300	Civilizations	3
ANTH 301	Native North Americans	3
ANTH 302	Peoples and Cultures of Latin America (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 303	Peoples and Cultures of the Andes	3
ANTH 306	Peoples and Cultures of Island Asia (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 307	Ancient Mesoamerica (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 308	Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 309	Peoples and Cultures of India (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 313	Myth, Magic, and Mind (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 314	Zombies	3
ANTH 316	Peoples and Cultures of the Caribbean (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 323	Digging and Dealing in the Dead: Ethics in Archaeology	3
ANTH 330	Peoples and Cultures of Selected Regions: Non-Western	3
ANTH 332	Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Globalization (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 381	Medical Anthropology	3
ANTH 383	Cities of the Global South	3
ANTH 396	Issues in Anthropology: Social Sciences (Mason Core)	3
ARAB 360	Topics in Arabic Cultural Production	3
ARAB 420	Survey of Arabic Literature	3

ARAB 440	Topics in Arabic Religious Thought and Texts (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 203	Survey of Asian Art (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 204	Survey of Latin American Art (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 206	Survey of African Art (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 318	Art and Archaeology of Ancient Egypt	3
ARTH 319	Art and Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 320	Art of the Islamic World (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 382	Arts of India (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 383	Arts of Southeast Asia (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 384	Arts of China (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 385	Arts of Japan (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 386	The Silk Road (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 482	RS: Advanced Studies in Asian Art	3
CHIN 318	Introduction to Classical Chinese (Mason Core)	3
CHIN 320	Contemporary Chinese Film	3
CHIN 325	Major Chinese Writers (Mason Core)	3
DANC 118	World Dance (Mason Core)	3
ECON 361	Economic Development of Latin America (Mason Core)	3
ECON 362	African Economic Development (Mason Core)	3
FREN 451	Topics in Sub-Saharan Francophone Literature and Culture	3
FREN 454	Topics in Caribbean Francophone Literature and Culture	3
GGG 101	Major World Regions (Mason Core)	3
GGG 316	Geography of Latin America	3
GGG 325	Geography of North Africa and the Middle East	3
GGG 330	Geography of the Soviet Succession States	3
GGG 399	Select Topics in GGS	3
GOVT 328	Non-Western Political Theory	3
GOVT 332	Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa	3
GOVT 333	Government and Politics of Asia	3
GOVT 340	Central Asian Politics	3
GOVT 341	Chinese Foreign Policy	3
GOVT 345	Islam and Politics	3
GOVT 432	Political Change and Social Development in Sub-Saharan Africa	3
GOVT 433	Political Economy of East Asia	3
HIST 251	Survey of East Asian History (Mason Core)	3
HIST 252	Survey of East Asian History (Mason Core)	3
HIST 261	Survey of African History (Mason Core)	3
HIST 262	Survey of African History (Mason Core)	3
HIST 271	Survey of Latin American History (Mason Core)	3

HIST 272	Survey of Latin American History (Mason Core)	3	RUSS 354	Contemporary Post-Soviet Life (Mason Core)	3
HIST 281	Survey of Middle Eastern Civilization (Mason Core)	3	¹ A course used to fulfill the Mason Core global understanding requirement may not be simultaneously used to satisfy this college-level requirement. A course used to fulfill this requirement may be used simultaneously to fulfill any other requirements (Mason Core requirements, college-level requirements, or requirements for the major). Additional information on waivers can be found at the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs (http://chssundergrad.gmu.edu).		
HIST 282	Survey of Middle Eastern Civilization (Mason Core)	3			
HIST 326	Stalinism	3			
HIST 327	The Soviet Union and Russia Since World War II	3			
HIST 328	Rise of Russia (Mason Core)	3			
HIST 329	Modern Russia and the Soviet Union (Mason Core)	3			
HIST 353	History of Traditional China	3			
HIST 354	Modern China	3			
HIST 356	Modern Japan (Mason Core)	3			
HIST 357	Postwar Japan (Mason Core)	3			
HIST 358	Post-1949 China (Mason Core)	3			
HIST 360	History of South Africa (Mason Core)	3			
HIST 364	Revolution and Radical Politics in Latin America (Mason Core)	3			
HIST 365	Conquest and Colonization in Latin America (Mason Core)	3			
HIST 366	Comparative Slavery	3			
HIST 367	History, Fiction, and Film in Latin America	3			
HIST 387	Topics in Global History (Mason Core)	3-6			
HIST 426	The Russian Revolution	3			
HIST 460	Modern Iran (Mason Core)	3			
HIST 461	Arab-Israeli Conflict	3			
HIST 462	Women in Islamic Society (Mason Core)	3			
HIST 465	The Middle East in the 20th Century	3			
JAPA 310	Japanese Culture in a Global World (Mason Core)	3			
JAPA 340	Topics in Japanese Literature (Mason Core)	3			
KORE 320	Korean Popular Culture in a Global World	3			
MUSI 103	Musics of the World (Mason Core)	3			
RELI 211	Religions of the West (Mason Core)	3			
RELI 212	Religions of Asia (Mason Core)	3			
RELI 240	Death and the Afterlife in World Religions	3			
RELI 272	Islam	3			
RELI 313	Hinduism (Mason Core)	3			
RELI 314	Chinese Philosophies and Religious Traditions	3			
RELI 315	Buddhism (Mason Core)	3			
RELI 337	Mysticism: East and West	3			
RELI 365	Muhammad: Life and Legacy	3			
RELI 374	Islamic Thought (Mason Core)	3			
RELI 375	Qur'an and Hadith	3			
RELI 379	Islamic Law, Society, and Ethics	3			
RELI 387	Islam, Democracy, and Human Rights	3			
RELI 490	Comparative Study of Religions (Mason Core)	3			
RUSS 353	Russian Civilization (Mason Core)	3			

Mason Core

Note: Some Mason Core requirements may already be fulfilled by the major requirements listed above. Students are strongly encouraged to consult their advisors to ensure they fulfill all remaining Mason Core requirements.

Code	Title	Credits
Foundation Requirements		
	Written Communication	6
	Oral Communication	3
	Quantitative Reasoning	3
	Information Technology	3-7
Core Requirements		
	Arts	3
	Global Understanding	3
	Literature	3
	Natural Science	7
	Social and Behavioral Sciences	3
	Western Civilization/World History	3
Synthesis/Capstone Requirement ¹		
	Synthesis/Capstone	3
Total Credits		40

¹ minimum 3 credits

Additional Elective Coures

Any remaining credits may be completed with elective courses to bring the degree total to 120.

Accelerated Master's

The accelerated master's programs in the list below specify the BA in environmental and sustainability studies as a feeder degree for their programs. It is important to note, however, that many accelerated master's programs are available for any bachelor's degree at Mason, including this one. See the full list of master's degrees with accelerated programs at George Mason.

Bachelor's Degree (selected)/ Interdisciplinary Studies, Accelerated MAIS (Social Justice and Human Rights Concentration)

Overview

Highly-qualified undergraduates in select majors (listed below) may apply to the accelerated master's degree in interdisciplinary studies with a concentration in social justice and human rights. If accepted, and depending on their undergraduate major, students will be able to earn an undergraduate degree in their chosen major and a master's in interdisciplinary studies with a concentration in social justice and human rights after satisfactory completion of 150 credits, sometimes within five years.

For more detailed information, see AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degrees. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies.

Selected Majors

Anthropology, Environmental and Sustainability Studies, Sociology, English, History, Philosophy, Conflict Analysis and Resolution, Psychology, Government and International Politics, Integrative Studies, and Communication.

Application Requirements

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in Graduate Admissions. For information specific to the accelerated MAIS, see Application Requirements and Deadlines (<http://mais.gmu.edu/programs/la-mais-isin/application>) on the departmental web site.

Accelerated Option Requirements

While undergraduate students, accelerated master's students complete INTS 540 Contemporary Issues in Social Justice Human Rights and one course chosen from the list of electives for the MAIS concentration in social justice and human rights as indicated on their Accelerated Master's Program Application with a minimum grade of 3.00 in each course. Once admitted to the accelerated master's pathway, students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 in all course work. Upon completion and conferral of the undergraduate degree in the semester indicated in the application, they submit the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form and are admitted to graduate status.

As graduate students, accelerated master's students have an advanced standing. They must meet all master's degree requirements except for the two courses (6 credits) they completed as undergraduates. Students must begin their master's program the semester immediately following conferral of the undergraduate degree.

Reserve Graduate Credit

Students may take up to 6 additional graduate credits as reserve graduate credit (chosen from the list of electives for the MAIS concentration in social justice and human rights). These credits do not apply to the undergraduate degree. The ability to take courses for reserve graduate credit is available to all high achieving undergraduates with the permission of the program. Permission to take a graduate course for reserve graduate credit is normally granted only to Mason seniors within

15 hours of graduation. See AP.1.4.4 Graduate Course Enrollment by Undergraduates.

Code	Title	Credits
Select up to 6 credits from the list of electives for the MAIS concentration in social justice and human rights		6
Total Credits		6

Bachelor's Degree (Green Leaf)/ Environmental Science and Policy, Accelerated MS

Overview

This degree option allows highly qualified George Mason University students to earn an Environmental Science and Policy, MS in less time than if they had first graduated with an environmentally-focused Green Leaf-designated BA or BS degree and then applied to the MS program sequentially.

For more detailed information, see AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degrees. For policies governing all graduate programs, see AP.6 Graduate Policies.

Admission Requirements

Students with an overall GPA of at least 3.20 who are pursuing any Green Leaf-designated major or minor may apply for provisional acceptance into this accelerated master's program after completing two semesters of chemistry (including CHEM 211 General Chemistry I (Mason Core) and CHEM 212 General Chemistry II (Mason Core)) and three semesters of biology, including a course in ecology, or the equivalent, for example:

Code	Title	Credits
Select one of the following options:		13
Option 1:		
BIOL 213	Cell Structure and Function (Mason Core)	
BIOL 214	Biostatistics for Biology Majors	
BIOL 308	Foundations of Ecology and Evolution	
Option 2:		
EVPP 210	Environmental Biology: Molecules and Cells	
EVPP 301	Environmental Science: Biological Diversity and Ecosystems	
EVPP 302	Environmental Science: Biomes and Human Dimensions	
EVPP 305	Environmental Microbiology Essentials	
EVPP 306	Environmental Microbiology Essentials Laboratory	
Option 3:		
CONS 401	Conservation Theory	
CONS 402	Applied Conservation	
6 credits of 6 credits of BIOL or CONS electives		
Option 4:		
CONS 403	Ecology and Conservation Theory	
CONS 404	Biodiversity Monitoring	
BIOL or CONS electives		

By the beginning of the undergraduate's senior year, they should first submit a Graduate Application for Accelerated Master's Program form (obtained from the Office of Academic and Student Affairs (<https://cos.gmu.edu/about/contact-us>)). Secondly, in their senior year accelerated master's students must complete the two graduate courses indicated on their Accelerated Master's Program Application with a minimum grade of 3.00 in each course. They must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.00 in all coursework and in coursework applied to their major. Upon completion and conferral of the undergraduate degree in a Green Leaf-designated program, in the semester indicated in the application, they must additionally submit the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition form (found on the Office of the University Registrar website (<http://registrar.gmu.edu/forms>)) and will subsequently be admitted into graduate status.

By at least the beginning of their senior year, they should seek out a faculty member in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy who is willing to serve as their advisor (unless the student is planning to enroll in the MS concentration in Environmental Management). This advisor will aid the student in choosing the appropriate graduate courses to take and help to prepare the student for graduate studies. Admission into a research-oriented master's concentration is dependent upon securing the agreement of a faculty advisor. Faculty from a variety of departments and colleges at George Mason (called "program faculty") can serve as master's advisors. Potential students are encouraged to speak with the graduate program coordinator in the department to obtain guidance on this issue.

Application Requirements

Applicants to all graduate programs at Mason must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in the Graduate Admission Policies section of this catalog, *excluding* the GRE exam requirement (which is not required for those enrolled in the accelerated program). This includes three letters of recommendation (at least one from a former professor or someone with a PhD), a recent resume, a statement of interest/research goals and interests (including information on the candidate's proposed MS research), and a letter from their advisor stating that the advisor agrees to take on the candidate as an MS student, how the candidate would be a good fit for them and why candidate's research topic would be suitable (please note that a letter of endorsement from an advisor not necessary for candidates taking the Environmental Management concentration).

For information specific to the accelerated Environmental Science and Policy, MS, see Graduate Admissions on the department's website (<http://esp.gmu.edu/academic-programs/graduate/admissions>).

Reserve Graduate Credits

Students admitted to this program may take graduate courses after completing 90 undergraduate credits, and up to 6 credits of appropriate environmentally-focused graduate coursework may be used in partial satisfaction of the requirements for the undergraduate degree. If students earn at least a 3.00 GPA in these classes, they are granted advanced standing in the master's program and must then complete an additional 27-31 credits to receive the master's degree.

To apply these credits to the master's degree, students must request that the credits be moved from the undergraduate degree to the graduate degree using the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition form found on the Office of the University Registrar website (<http://registrar.gmu.edu/forms>) (as noted above).

Students may take up to 6 additional environmentally-focused graduate credits as reserve graduate credit. These credits do not apply to the undergraduate degree but will reduce the subsequent master's degree credits accordingly (e.g., with 6 credits counted towards undergraduate degree plus the maximum 6 reserve credits, an MS could be completed with 21 post-bachelor's credits). The ability to take courses for reserve graduate credit is available to all high achieving undergraduates with the permission of the department.