Environmental Science and Policy, MS

Banner Code: SC-MS-EVSP
Email: espgrad@gmu.edu
Website: esp.gmu.edu

This master's program meets the increasing need for trained environmental professionals who can address the problems of land and water management, land use and urbanization, wetland loss, microbial ecology, bioremediation, conservation biology, and ecosystem preservation. These professionals will also contribute to the analysis and resolution of global problems such as deforestation, insufficient world food supplies, population growth, planetary health, and global climate change/warming. Areas of specific departmental focus include ecosystems, conservation, environmental biocomplexity, molecular ecology, sustainability science, environmental policy and management, and human/environmental interactions.

Environmental problems are defined in the real world and do not necessarily conform to traditional academic disciplines. As such, solutions require creative combinations of diverse interests and subjects. Effective training requires rigorous, problem-focused transdisciplinary action in a setting in which research is an essential element supporting instruction.

This has been designated a Green Leaf program (http://catalog.gmu.edu/student-services/green-leaf-programs-courses/).

Admissions & Policies

Admissions

University-wide admissions policies can be found in Graduate Admissions Policies (http://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/). Additionally, information on the admission of international students can be found in Admission of International Students (http://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/international-students/).

To apply for this program, please complete the George Mason University Admissions Application (https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/apply-now/).

Eligibility

Applicants should hold a bachelor's degree from an institution of higher education accredited by a Mason-recognized U.S. institutional accrediting agency or international equivalent with a GPA of 3.00 in natural or Earth sciences, engineering, resource planning, environmental studies, or a field that leads to an environmental focus.

Applicants should have taken at least two semesters of chemistry and three semesters of biology, including a course in ecology. Applicants who lack this coursework should contact the graduate coordinator's office for advice. Successful completion of a two-semester sequence of introductory graduate-level environmental chemistry and biology courses can be used to satisfy the biology and chemistry prerequisites for admission. These introductory courses would be in addition to the requirements for the degree.

Application Requirements

Applicants should submit the following:

- Completed George Mason University George Mason University Admissions Application (https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/apply-now/).
- Three letters of recommendation, including at least one from a former professor or, if not available, from someone with a PhD.
- The GRE is required.
- Statement of interest indicating: Desired concentration, potential areas of environmental focus/research interest, interactions with potential faculty advisors, and career goals.
- Contact a potential George Mason faculty advisor (appropriate for research interests). An endorsement letter from the potential advisor must be sent to the Department of Environmental Science and Policy (http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/science/environmental-policy/)'s graduate office; the availability of an advisor in the student's area of interest is a prerequisite for admission.

Policies

For policies governing all graduate programs, see AP.6 Graduate Policies (http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/).

Course Selections

Some program requirements may be fulfilled by completing courses from a variety of academic units at Mason. A student's course selections should reflect a coherent individual program focus, which is stated and briefly described in the program of study. Course selections should also support the research component of the student's degree program (if applicable) and should be developed in close consultation with the supervisory committee. The supervisory committee approves a coursework program (the program of study) individually for each student.

In special cases, the graduate program director may permit the substitution of an alternative course in place of a required one.

Supervisory Committee

Students must form a supervisory committee and submit a program of study to the graduate coordinator for approval within the first 9 credits of coursework or by the end of the second semester, whichever comes first.

The supervisory committee consists of the advisor and at least two other members, chosen in consultation with the advisor, and must conform to AP.6.9 Requirements for Master's Degrees (http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-9).

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: 33

This is a Green Leaf program.

Students should refer to Admissions & Policies for specific policies related to this program.
Students may select for their degree to culminate in either a research project (3 credits) or a thesis (3-6 credits). The concentration credit amount requirements below are directly related to this selection of either a research project or thesis.

Students in all of the concentrations will complete the concentration’s requirements and the research requirement with a minimum of 33 credits.

Core Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Science Courses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose 3 credits from the following:</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 518</td>
<td>Conservation Biology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 607</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Ecology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 648</td>
<td>Population Ecology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Statistics Courses</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Choose 3 credits from the following:</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 632</td>
<td>Qualitative Research Methods for Environmental Scientists</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 651</td>
<td>Multivariate Data Analysis for Ecology and Environmental Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 620</td>
<td>Methods and Logic of Social Inquiry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 554</td>
<td>Applied Statistics I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Policy Courses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose 3 credits from the following:</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 524</td>
<td>Introduction to Environmental and Resource Economics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 608</td>
<td>Introduction to Environmental Social Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 635</td>
<td>Environment and Society</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 642</td>
<td>Environmental Policy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Science and Policy Courses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose 3 credits from the following:</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 505</td>
<td>Selected Topics in Environmental Science (When the topic is &quot;Evidence-based Policymaking: Using the Environmental Sciences for Governance&quot;)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 670</td>
<td>Environmental Law</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Seminar Courses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 692</td>
<td>Master’s Seminar in Environmental Science and Public Policy</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 991</td>
<td>Advanced Seminar in Environmental Science (When the topic is: Experimental Design for Environmental Scientists)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research Requirement</strong></td>
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<td>3-6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The research requirement may be satisfied in one of two ways: A research project or a formal thesis. The depth and sophistication of the research differs between the two options. The thesis normally involves original research with independent acquisition and interpretation of data, with the goal of peer-reviewed publication. Projects are generally less extensive and can include a broader range of activities. Choose from one of the following:

**Research Project Option**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 798</td>
<td>Master’s Research Project in Environmental Science and Public Policy</td>
<td>(3 credits)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Thesis Option**

Students fulfilling the research requirement with the thesis option register for EVPP 799 Master’s Thesis in Environmental Science and Public Policy, present their results in a public seminar, and defend their thesis before their supervisory committee. Students will be graded "Satisfactory/No Credit" on the research requirement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 799</td>
<td>Master’s Thesis in Environmental Science and Public Policy</td>
<td>(3-6 credits)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives**

If necessary, students must take additional electives or concentration courses to bring the degree total to 33 credits. These courses must be approved by the student’s supervisory committee and outlined on the student’s program of study.

Total Credits: 18-21

**Aquatic Ecology Concentration (AQEC)**

This concentration will provide students with a well-grounded master’s in the study of aquatic environments such as lakes, streams, watersheds, and estuaries. Emphasis is placed on food webs, biogeochemical cycles, water quality, habitat characteristics, and life histories of aquatic organisms. Students will become proficient with research tools including literature review, field and laboratory methods, and analytical tools as well as applications to management issues.

**Aquatic Science**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 550</td>
<td>Waterscape Ecology and Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 581</td>
<td>Estuarine and Coastal Ecology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose 3-6 credits from the following:</td>
<td>3-6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 519</td>
<td>Marine Mammal Biology and Conservation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>EVPP 521</td>
<td>Marine Conservation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 536</td>
<td>The Diversity of Fishes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>EVPP 545</td>
<td>Principles of Environmental Toxicology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 549</td>
<td>Marine Ecology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 563</td>
<td>Coastal Morphology and Processes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 608</td>
<td>Introduction to Environmental Social Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 619</td>
<td>The Challenge of Biodiversity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 623</td>
<td>Translating Environmental Policy into Action</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 635</td>
<td>Environment and Society</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 641</td>
<td>Environmental Science and Public Policy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 642</td>
<td>Environmental Policy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 643</td>
<td>Microbial Ecology</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Conservation Science and Policy Concentration (COSP)**

This concentration is designed to foster an interdisciplinary, research-oriented degree focusing on the conservation of threatened species and habitats, integrating biological sciences and the human dimensions of conservation practice.

Students may take courses offered by the Department of Environmental Science and Policy (http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/science/environmental-policy/) and other departments, including CONS courses which are offered through the Smithsonian Mason School of Conservation (http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/interdisciplinary-programs-courses/smithsonian-mason-school-conservation/). This unique partnership with the Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation (SMSC) in Front Royal, Virginia offers students hands-on education in cutting-edge conservation science and human dimensions through residential, intensive classes. SMSC is renowned for its conservation research and training of conservation practitioners around the world and instructors for these classes are drawn from SMSC’s conservation scientists and other experts from around the world.

**Code** | **Title** | **Credits**
---|---|---
EVPP 637 | Human Dimensions of Climate Change | 3
Choose 3 credits from the following: | 3
EVPP 518 | Conservation Biology |
EVPP 619 | The Challenge of Biodiversity |
EVPP 621 | Overview of Biodiversity Conservation |
Choose 3 credits from the following: | 3
EVPP 505 | Selected Topics in Environmental Science (When the topic is "Evidence-based Policymaking: Using the Environmental Sciences for Governance") |
EVPP 529 | Environmental Science Communication |
Choose 3-6 credits from the following: | 3-6
EVPP 515 | Molecular Environmental Biology I |
EVPP 527 | Conservation Medicine |
EVPP 560 | Infectious Diseases of Wildlife |
EVPP 607 | Fundamentals of Ecology |
EVPP 615 | Molecular Environmental Biology II |
EVPP 620 | Development of U.S. Environmental Policies |
EVPP 623 | Translating Environmental Policy into Action |

**Environmental Science and Policy Concentration (EVSP)**

The Environmental Science and Policy concentration is the largest within the master’s and serves as a home for a broad array of research foci. It encourages an independent and creative approach to the development of curricula that reside in the general field of environmental science and policy.

**Code** | **Title** | **Credits**
---|---|---
Choose at least 3 credits from the following: | 3
EVPP 527 | Conservation Medicine |
EVPP 532 | Animal Behavior |
EVPP 543 | Tropical Ecosystems |
EVPP 648 | Population Ecology |
Choose at least 3 credits from the following: | 3
EVPP 531 | Land-use Modeling Techniques and Applications |
EVPP 650 | Ecosystem Analysis and Modeling |
STAT 525 | Nonparametric Statistics and Categorical Data Analysis |
STAT 535 | Analysis of Experimental Data |
Choose 6-9 credits from the following: | 6-9
EVPP 521 | Marine Conservation |
EVPP 533 | Energy Policy |
EVPP 542 | Urban Ecosystems Processes |
EVPP 550 | Waterscape Ecology and Management |
EVPP 560 | Infectious Diseases of Wildlife |
EVPP 619 | The Challenge of Biodiversity |
EVPP 622 | Management of Wild Living Resources |
EVPP 623 | Translating Environmental Policy into Action |
EVPP 641 | Environmental Science and Public Policy |
EVPP 677 | Applied Ecology and Ecosystem Management |

**Communication for Environmental Science, Policy, and Human Behavior (CESP)**

The ability to communicate underlies all successful human cooperation. With the growth of anthropogenic global threats such as biodiversity loss and climate change, communication that supports environmental knowledge formation, policy, and behavior change is needed more than ever. Two courses in the concentration from the department, supplemented by those across the university, will allow students to focus on one of these topics. Other classes aside from the core courses may be substituted as needed.

**Code** | **Title** | **Credits**
---|---|---
EVPP 505 | Selected Topics in Environmental Science (When the topic is "Evidence-based Policymaking: Using the Environmental Sciences for Governance") | 3
EVPP 529 | Environmental Science Communication | 3
Choose 3-6 credits from one of the following groupings: 3-6

**Policy and Governance Grouping**
- EVPP 575 Global Biodiversity Governance
- COMM 637 Risk Communication
- GOVT 510 American Government and Politics
- PUAD 540 Public Policy Process

**Behavior Change Grouping**
- COMM 637 Risk Communication
- COMM 660 Climate Change and Sustainability Communication Campaigns
- COMM 670 Social Marketing
- COMM 706 Strategic Communication

**Science in Society Grouping**
- COMM 602 Theories and Research of Mass Communication
- COMM 639 Science Communication
- COMM 642 Science and the Public
- COMM 735 Crisis Communication

Choose at least 3 credits from the following: 3
- GGS 553 Geographic Information Systems
- GGS 681 Social Media Analysis
- COMM 650 Research Methodologies in Communication
- COMM 775 Media Content Analysis
- EDRS 811 Quantitative Methods in Educational Research
- EDRS 827 Introduction to Measurement and Survey Development
- POGO 511 Introductory Data Analysis for Policy and Government
- POGO 646 Policy and Program Evaluation
- PSYC 557 Psychometric Methods
- PSYC 611 Advanced Statistics
- PUBP 704 Statistical Methods in Policy Analysis
- SOCI 620 Methods and Logic of Social Inquiry
- SOCI 631 Survey Research

Total Credits 12-15

**Energy and Sustainability Policy and Science (ESPS)**
Many mid-level energy and sustainability positions in the public and private sectors require multidisciplinary grounding in science, policy, and methods. To provide such a foundation, this concentration combines the scientific knowledge normally acquired through a Master of Science degree with development of relevant policy and methods skills.

Choose one from the following: 3
- EVPP 542 Urban Ecosystems Processes
- EVPP 677 Applied Ecology and Ecosystem Management
- GEOL 521 Geology of Energy Resources
- PHYS 581 Topics in Renewable Energy
- CEIE 501 Sustainable Development
- CEIE 550 Environmental Engineering Systems
- CEIE 634 Geoenvironmental Design
- CEIE 690 Topics in Civil Engineering
- CEIE 742 Water Resources Engineering II: Water Resource Systems

Choose 1 or 2 from the following: 1
- EVPP 505 Selected Topics in Environmental Science (When the topic is "Energy Law & Regulation," or "Fundamentals of Environmental GIS" (EVPP 505 can be taken twice if these two topics are taken separately))
Conservation Medicine & Planetary Health Concentration (CMPH)

Conservation Medicine and Planetary Health (CMPH) are emerging disciplines that address complex health problems that follow disturbances to the Earth’s natural systems requiring transdisciplinary collaborations, systems thinking, and adaptive management approaches to health and ecology. Conservation Medicine evolved from the singular key principle that health connects all species in the planet. Planetary Health is focused on characterizing the human health impacts of anthropogenic disturbances to the Earth’s natural systems. The CMPH concentration will provide training in quantitative and qualitative research methods and expand the student’s ability to think outside of the box and work beyond traditional disciplinary silos to address complex health issues rooted in ecological principles.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 503</td>
<td>Field Mapping Techniques</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or GEOL 553</td>
<td>Field Mapping Techniques</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>EVPP 638</td>
<td>Corporate Environmental Management and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 650</td>
<td>Ecosystem Analysis and Modeling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSS 645</td>
<td>Spatial Agent-Based Models of Human-Environment Interactions</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GGS 507</td>
<td>Geographic Approaches for Sustainable Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 695</td>
<td>Special Topics in Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUTR 608</td>
<td>Perspectives on Food Security</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUTR 630</td>
<td>Global Nutrition</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Credits</td>
<td></td>
<td>12-15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Choose 3-6 credits from the following:

- **EVPP 545** Principles of Environmental Toxicology
- **EVPP 560** Infectious Diseases of Wildlife
- **EVPP 651** Multivariate Data Analysis for Ecology and Environmental Science
- **EVPP 575** Global Biodiversity Governance
- **BID 609** Biodefense Strategy
- **GGS 540** Health Geography
- **GCH 604** Fundamentals of Epidemiology and Biostatistics
- **CLIM 690** Scientific Basis of Climate Change
- **PUAD 630** Emergency Planning and Preparedness

**Planetary Health**

Choose 3-6 credits from the following:

- **EVPP 525** Economics of Human/Environment Interactions
- **EVPP 528** Planetary Health
- **EVPP 529** Environmental Science Communication
- **EVPP 542** Urban Ecosystems Processes
- **EVPP 610** Bioremediation: Theory and Applications
- **EVPP 637** Human Dimensions of Climate Change
- **EVPP 642** Environmental Policy
- **COMM 735** Crisis Communication
- **GCH 543** Global Health
- **NUTR 630** Global Nutrition

**Accelerated Master's**

**Bachelor's Degree (selected)/Environmental Science and Policy, Accelerated MS**

**Overview**

This bachelor’s/accelerated master’s degree program allows academically strong undergraduates with a commitment to advance their education to obtain a Green Leaf-designated bachelor’s degree and the Environmental Science and Policy, MS degrees within an accelerated timeframe. Upon completion of this 141 credit accelerated program, students will be exceptionally well prepared for entry into their careers or into a doctoral program in the field or in a related discipline.

Students are eligible to apply for this accelerated program once they have earned at least 60 undergraduate credits and can enroll in up to 18 credits of graduate coursework after successfully completing 75 undergraduate credits. This flexibility makes it possible for students to complete a bachelor’s and a master’s in five years.

For more detailed information, see AP.6.7 Bachelor’s/Accelerated Master’s Degrees (http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-7). For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP6 Graduate Policies (http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/). For more information on undergraduates enrolling in graduate courses, see AP.1.4.4 Graduate Course Enrollment by Undergraduates (https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/registration-attendance/#text).

**Admission Requirements**

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in the Graduate Admission Policies (http://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/) section of this catalog.

Important application information and processes for this accelerated master’s program can be found here (https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/how-apply/accelerated-masters/).
The GRE exam is not required for this accelerated master’s program.

Students should submit 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 (see Graduate Advisor section below) 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.

Students with an overall GPA of at least 3.20 who are pursuing any Green Leaf-designated (http://catalog.gmu.edu/student-services/green-leaf-programs-courses/) major or minor may apply to this accelerated master’s program after completing two semesters of chemistry (including CHEM 211 General Chemistry I (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) and CHEM 212 General Chemistry II (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) and three semesters of biology, including a course in ecology, or the equivalent, for example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 213</td>
<td>Cell Structure and Function</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 214</td>
<td>Biostatistics for Biology Majors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 308</td>
<td>Foundations of Ecology and Evolution</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Option 1:
- 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 2:
- EVPP 518 Conservation Biology
- EVPP 529 Environmental Science Communication
- EVPP 621 Overview of Biodiversity Conservation
- EVPP 635 Environment and Society

Option 3:
- CONS 401 Conservation Theory
- CONS 402 Applied Conservation

Graduate Advisor
By at least the beginning of their senior year, students should seek out a faculty member in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy (http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/science/environmental-policy/#facultytext) who is willing to serve as their advisor. 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 University (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.

Accelerated Option Requirements
After the completion of 75 undergraduate credits, students may complete 3 to 12 credits of graduate coursework that can apply to both the undergraduate and graduate degrees.

In addition to applying to graduate from the undergraduate program, students in the accelerated program must submit a bachelor’s/accelerated master’s transition form (available from the Office of the University Registrar (https://registrar.gmu.edu/forms/)) to the College of Science’s Office of Academic and Student Affairs (https://cos.gmu.edu/about/contact-us/) by the last day to add classes of their final undergraduate semester. Students should enroll for courses in the master’s program in the fall or spring semester immediately following conferral of the bachelor’s degree, but should contact an advisor if they would like to defer up to one semester.

Students must maintain an overall GPA of 3.00 or higher in all graduate coursework and should consult with their faculty advisor to coordinate their academic goals.

Reserve Graduate Credits
Accelerated master’s students may also take up to 6 graduate credits as reserve graduate credits. These credits do not apply to the undergraduate degree, but will reduce the master’s degree by up to 6 credits. With 12 graduate credits counted toward the undergraduate and graduate degrees plus the maximum 6 reserve graduate credits, the credits necessary for the graduate degree can be reduced by up to 18.

Graduate Course Suggestions
The following list of suggested courses is provided for general reference. To ensure an efficient route to graduation and post-graduation readiness, students are strongly encouraged to meet with an advisor before registering for graduate-level courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 518</td>
<td>Conservation Biology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 529</td>
<td>Environmental Science Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 621</td>
<td>Overview of Biodiversity Conservation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 635</td>
<td>Environment and Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>