



Program Approval Form

For approval of new programs and deletions or modifications to an existing program.

Action Requested:

- Create New (SCHEV approval required except for minors)
- Inactivate Existing
- Modify Existing (check **ALL** that apply)
 - Title (SCHEV approval required except for minors)
 - Concentration** (Choose one): Add Delete Modify
 - Degree Requirements
 - Admission Standards/ Application Requirements
 - Other Changes: _____

Type (Check one):

- B.A. B.S. Minor (req. C3 approval)
- M.A. M.S. M.Ed.
- Ph.D.
- Undergraduate Certificate* (req. C3 approval)
- Graduate Certificate*
- Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Other:

College/School: **Department:**
Submitted by: **Ext:** **Email:**

Effective Term: Fall **Please note:** For students to be admitted to a new degree, minor, certificate or concentration, the program must be fully approved, entered into Banner, and published in the University Catalog.

Justification: (attach separate document if necessary)

Program Title: (Required)
 Title must identify subject matter. Do not include name of college/school/dept.

Concentration(s):

Admissions Standards / Application Requirements: (Required only if different from those listed in the University Catalog)

Degree Requirements:
 Consult University Catalog for models, attach separate document if necessary using track changes for modifications

Courses offered via distance:
 (if applicable)

TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED:

Existing	New/Modified
	Environmental Science Communication Concentration
	See attached
	33 credits

*For Certificates Only: Indicate whether students are able to pursue on a Full-time basis Part-time basis

Approval Signatures

Department _____ Date _____ College/School _____ Date _____ Provost's Office _____ Date _____
Required for Minors and Interdisciplinary Programs

If this program may impact another unit or is in collaboration with another unit at Mason, the originating department must circulate this proposal for review by those units and obtain the necessary signatures prior to submission. Failure to do so will delay action on this proposal.

Unit Name	Unit Approval Name	Unit Approver's Signature	Date

For Minors and UG Certificates only (Cross-College Curriculum Committee Approval)

C3 Committee Member _____ Provost Office _____ C3 Committee Approval Date _____
For Graduate Programs Only

Graduate Council Member _____ Provost Office _____ Graduate Council Approval Date _____

Program Proposal Submitted to the College of Science Curriculum Committee (COSCC)

The form above is processed by the Office of the University Registrar. This second page is for the COSCC's reference.
Please complete the applicable portions of this page to clearly communicate what the form above is requesting.

FOR ALL PROGRAMS (required)

Program Title:

MS in Environmental Science & Policy Environmental Science Communication Concentration

A key to environmental action and behavior change is an ability to communicate environmental science and policy. This concentration is for students desiring an MS degree with an interdisciplinary approach to communicating environmental issues and solutions.

Requirements may be fulfilled by completing courses from a variety of academic units at Mason. The program requires a minimum of 33 graduate credits distributed in five categories and provides a breadth of knowledge appropriate for addressing current conservation issues. Course selection should support the research component of the student's degree program developed in close consultation with the advisor and the committee members. The advisor and thesis committee approve the course work program individually for each student.

Date of Departmental Approval:

FOR NEW PROGRAMS (required if creating a new program)

- Reason for the New Program: There is an environmental science communication crisis. One can simply see this in policy makers and the general public by the proportion that deny the existence of climate change. This concentration provides students with an environmental science and communications theory background that will provide them with the theoretical and practical knowledge to better communicate environmental science to target audiences whether these audiences are academics, policy makers or members of the general public.
- Relationship to Existing Programs: This concentration provides a vehicle for several existing COMM and EVPP courses. There is a science communication concentration in the MA in communication (<http://sciencecommunication.gmu.edu/programs/la-ma-com-scmn>) however the content differs substantively from this concentration which has additional environmental science and environmental methods classes, as well as research that would be specifically focused on environmental science communication and understanding.
- Relationship to Existing Courses: N/A
- Semester of Initial Offering: Fall 2016

Environmental Science Communication Concentration (ECOM)

A key to environmental action and behavior change is an ability to communicate environmental science and policy. This concentration is for students desiring an MS degree with an interdisciplinary approach to communicating environmental issues and solutions.

Requirements may be fulfilled by completing courses from a variety of academic units at Mason. The program requires a minimum of 33 graduate credits distributed in five categories and provides a breadth of knowledge appropriate for addressing current conservation issues. Course selection should support the research component of the student's degree program developed in close consultation with the advisor and the committee members. The advisor and thesis committee approve the course work program individually for each student.

Environmental Science (6 credits)

At least 6 credits are required from environmental science courses. Suggested courses include:

- EVPP 607 - Fundamentals of Ecology Credits: 3 is required for those students without previous course work in ecology and can be included within the 6 credits
- EVPP 641- Environmental Science and Public Policy Credits: 3

Science Communication (12 credits)

Two courses are required:

EVPP 529 – Environmental and Conservation Science Communication Techniques - Credits: 3

COMM 639 - Science Communication - Credits: 3

Furthermore, at least 6 additional credits are required in science communication course electives. Suggested courses include, but are not limited to:

COMM 637 - Risk Communication - Credits: 3

COMM 640 - Controversies in Science Communication - Credits: 3

COMM 641 - Advanced Communication Skills for STEM - Credits: 3

COMM 642 - Science and the Public - Credits: 3

COMM 644 - Analysis and Criticism of Science Journalism - Credits: 3

COMM 660 - Climate Change and Sustainability Communication Campaigns - Credits: 3

COMM 735 - Crisis Communication - Credits: 3

Communication Methods (6 credits)

At least 6 credits are required in relevant experimental methods, statistics or communication techniques courses. Suggested courses include, but are not limited to:

COMM 650 - Research Methodologies in Communication - Credits: 3

COMM 725 - Qualitative Methods - Credits: 3

COMM 775 - Media Content Analysis Credits: 3

EVPP 620 - Development of U.S. Environmental Policies Credits: 3

EVPP 623 - Translating Environmental Policy into Action Credits: 3

EVPP 682 - Principles of Environmental Conflict Credits: 3

EVPP 683 - Environmental Conflict Resolution and Collaboration: Situation Assessment, Process Design & Best Practices Credits: 3

Seminar (1 credit)

At least 1 credit on an appropriate topic is required.

- EVPP 692 - Master's Seminar in Environmental Science and Public Policy Credits: 1

Research (1-6 credits)

This requirement may be satisfied in one of two ways. Students may complete a research project (EVPP 798) or produce a formal thesis (EVPP 799). 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.

Students fulfilling the research requirement with EVPP 798 are required to take a comprehensive examination covering knowledge mastered through the program of study, administered by their supervisory committee. Students choosing to do a thesis and completing EVPP 799 will present their results in a public seminar and defend their thesis before their supervisory committee. Students will be graded pass/no credit on the research skills component.

- EVPP 798 - Master's Research Project in Environmental Science and Public Policy Credits: 1-3
- or
- At least 3 credits of EVPP 799 - Master's Thesis in Environmental Science and Public Policy Credits: 1-6

Electives

If necessary, students take additional, relevant, elective courses, approved by the supervisory committee to bring the total to 33 credits.

Total: 33 credits
