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Viewing: **SC-PHD-EVPP : Environmental Science and Public Policy, PhD**

Last approved: 03/06/20 3:30 pm

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Changes proposed by: jbazaz

Catalog Pages

Using this Program

[Environmental Science and Public Policy, PhD](#)

Are you completing this form on someone else's behalf?

Yes

Requestor:

In Workflow

1. **ESP Chair**
2. **SC Curriculum Committee**
3. SC Associate Dean
4. SC CAT Editor
5. Assoc Provost-Graduate
6. Registrar-Programs: Duration
7. Registrar-Programs

Approval Path

1. 12/09/20 11:57 am
A. Alonso Aguirre (aaguirr3):
Approved for ESP Chair

History

1. Nov 8, 2017 by clmig-jwehrheim
2. Feb 22, 2018 by Rebekah Zacharias (rzachari)
3. Mar 7, 2019 by Susan Cheselka (scheselk)
4. Sep 26, 2019 by Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz)
5. Jan 16, 2020 by Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz)
6. Mar 5, 2020 by Tory Sarro (vsarro)

7. Mar 6, 2020 by
Johanna Riemen
(jriemen)

Name	Extension	Email
Stephanie Lister	3187	slister1

Effective Catalog: 2021-2022

Program Level: Graduate

Program Type: Doctoral

Degree Type: Doctor of Philosophy

Title: Environmental Science and Public Policy, PhD

Banner Title: Enviro Sci & Public Policy PhD

**Registrar/OAPI Use
Only – SCHEV
Status** Approved

**Registrar's Office
Use Only –
Program Start Term**

**Registrar/OAPI Use
Only – SCHEV
Letter**

**Registrar/OAPI Use
Only – SACSCOC
Status**

Concentration(s):

**Registrar/IRR Use
Only –
Concentration CIP
Code**

College/School: College of Science

**Department /
Academic Unit:** Environmental Science & Policy

**Jointly Owned
Program?** No

Justification

Modifying the GRE requirement such that it's only required for students that do not have an advanced degree.

Many of the Biology department faculty are advisors to students in the PhD program in Environmental Science and Public Policy. In October, the Biology department faculty asked if ESP would consider modifying the GRE requirement for the PhD program to allow students to apply directly from a Bachelor's Degree to our PhD program if they take the GRE. On October 1, the ESP department had a meeting with the Biology department to discuss this. On November 11, the GRE modification was discussed and approved at the ESP Graduate Executive Committee Meeting. Then, on December 1, the GRE modification was discussed and approved at the ESP faculty meeting.

The goal of this modification is to attract more domestic and international applicants to the PhD program.

Total Credits Required: Total credits: 72

Registrar's Office Use Only - Program Code:
SC-PHD-EVPP

Registrar/IRR Use Only – Program CIP Code

Admission Requirements:

Admissions

University-wide admissions policies can be found in the [Graduate Admissions Policies](#) section of this catalog. Additionally, information on the admission of international students can be found in the [Admission of International Students](#) section of this catalog.

To apply for this program, please complete the [George Mason University Admissions Application](#).

Eligibility and Application Requirements

Applicants should also have a bachelor's degree with an overall GPA of at least 3.00. They should have taken at least two semesters of chemistry and three semesters of biology, including a course in ecology.

Applicants to the PhD program should **also** have an advanced degree (e.g. MA, MS, veterinary, or law) in a relevant field. **For applicants who fulfill this requirement, they will receive a GRE waiver.**

For applicants who apply with a Bachelor's Degree or Licentiate (i.e. *Licenciatura*), they should possess exceptional undergraduate academic and research accomplishments. For these applicants, the GRE will be required, with a combined verbal and quantitative score of 310 or higher.

~~GRE scores are not required for admission.~~ Applicants should submit the following:

- Transcripts from previous university coursework including degrees awarded.
- Three letters of recommendation with at least two from individuals with doctorates.
- Current résumé.

- Substantial statement of interest that includes a description of the specific area of proposed dissertation research, the potential focus (environmental science or environmental public policy), contacts that have been made with potential faculty advisors, and an explanation of career and research goals.
- Letter of endorsement from a prospective advisor to include how your research interests coincide with that of your advisor. Information on faculty members eligible to serve as advisors/committee chairs can be found by contacting the department via phone (703-993-3187) or via email (espgrad@gmu.edu).

All students must obtain the consent of a faculty member willing to serve as an advisor prior to being fully admitted to the program. Admission decisions are based on the student's qualifications and the availability of a faculty advisor. An advisor may be changed by mutual consent of student and advisor, or by petition to the graduate program director and the associate dean for student affairs in the [College of Science](#).

Applicants with questions should contact the ESP Graduate Programs Office via phone (703-993-3187) or via email (espgrad@gmu.edu).

Science, Ecology, and Social Science Background

Science Background

Applicants who lack college-level coursework in biology and chemistry (two semesters of each) should complete a two semester sequence of introductory graduate-level environmental chemistry and biology courses as follows:

EVPP 506	Science of the Environment I	3
EVPP 507	Science of the Environment II	3
Total Credits		6

These introductory courses cannot be added to the graduate program of study, they will be additional credits to the degree's 72 credit total.

Ecology Background

Students without previous coursework in general ecology will be required to take the following introductory graduate course, which may be included in the graduate program of study.

EVPP 607	Fundamentals of Ecology	3
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Social Science Background

Students with little previous coursework in the social sciences will be required to take the following introductory course, which may be included in the graduate program of study.

EVPP 608	Introduction to Environmental Social Science	3
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Program-Specific Policies:

Policies

For policies governing all graduate programs, see [AP.6 Graduate Policies](#).

Reduction of Credits

For students entering the doctoral program with a master's degree in an academically related field from a regionally-accredited institution, the number of required credits may be reduced up to 30 credits, subject to

approval of the program faculty and the college's associate dean for student affairs. See [AP.6.5.2 Reduction of Credits](#) for more information.

Degree Requirements:

This is a Green Leaf program.

Students should refer to the [Admissions & Policies](#) tab for specific policies related to this program.

Doctoral Coursework

Students are required to complete a coursework proposal by the end of their second semester. The coursework proposal must be approved by the student's advisor and the graduate program director. In keeping with the general philosophy inherent in a PhD degree, students adopt an individual program that focuses on a specific area of research. The student's coursework must provide the knowledge base from which an original research project in their specific areas of interest can be successfully completed.

Natural Sciences

Select at least 12 credits in biology, chemistry, environmental science, geology, geography, or environmental engineering 12

Total Credits 12

Public Policy

Select at least 12 credits in public affairs, economics, sociology, and/or business. A course in environmental law is also required as part of this category 12

Total Credits 12

Research Methods and Technology

Select at least 6 credits in statistics, remote sensing, geographic information systems, analytical chemistry, molecular biology, modeling, or information technology 1 6

Total Credits 6

1Students should carefully choose coursework to ensure they have the necessary skills to support dissertation research.

Doctoral Seminar

Students must present a total of 4 graduate seminar credits, with [EVPP 991](#) Advanced Seminar in Environmental Science taken at least once.

Four credits from 4

[EVPP 692](#) Master's Seminar in Environmental Science and Public Policy

[EVPP 991](#) Advanced Seminar in Environmental Science

Total Credits 4

Coursework Focus

Students select a program of study emphasis with one of two focuses. 12

Environmental Science

Select 12 credits in natural science coursework 1

Environmental Public Policy

Select 12 credits of public policy coursework 1

Total Credits

12

1 Previous thesis research courses may not be applied to fulfill the coursework focus described here. See advisor for further details.

Electives

If necessary after doctoral coursework and dissertation research, students take additional electives to bring the total number of credits to 72.

14

Total Credits

2-

14

Dissertation Committee

Before the end of the fourth semester of coursework, in consultation with their advisor, the student forms a dissertation committee of at least four members. Three of the committee members must be from the Mason graduate faculty. The fourth member may be from Mason or may be from outside the university provided that they hold a terminal degree in an appropriate field. The dissertation committee must be approved by the college's associate dean for student affairs.

Program of Study

After reviewing the student's coursework proposal, progress to date, and area of research, the committee makes final recommendations concerning coursework that will be codified in the program of study to be signed by all committee members and the graduate program director. Students are advised to work closely with their advisor and committee to develop the coursework program in order to facilitate the process of course selection. During the duration of graduate study, a student must meet with the full dissertation committee at least once a year.

Qualifying Exams

On completion of all or nearly all coursework, students may request to take the qualifying or candidacy exam. The qualifying exam has both written and oral components. The written portion consists of questions submitted by each member of the dissertation committee. Successful completion of the written exam should be followed by the oral portion within one month. The qualifying exam may be repeated once at the discretion of the student's committee.

Advancement to Candidacy

Upon approval of the program of study, completion of all or nearly all coursework, successful completion of the qualifying exam, and the approval of the dissertation proposal by the dissertation committee, the student is recommended for advancement to candidacy by the graduate program director. Students must advance to candidacy within six years of admission to the program.

Dissertation Research, Dissertation Defense, and Graduation

Students must complete a dissertation. The dissertation is an original written work, demonstrating mastery of subject matter, methodologies, and conceptual foundations on a specific problem in the general field of environmental science and public policy. The dissertation generally involves collection and analysis of original data or the substantially new analysis and reinterpretation of existing data.

Dissertation completion may be accomplished by taking [EVPP 999](#) Doctoral Dissertation Research alone, or in combination with [EVPP 998](#) Doctoral Dissertation Proposal. However, at least six of these credits must be taken as [EVPP 999](#) Doctoral Dissertation Research.

Before students may enroll in [EVPP 999](#) Doctoral Dissertation Research, they must have advanced to candidacy and have a dissertation proposal approved by the dissertation committee, graduate program director, department chairperson, and the dean of the College of Science. Students working on dissertation research must register for a minimum of 3 credits of [EVPP 999](#) Doctoral Dissertation Research per semester (excluding summers) until they have completed the minimum number of dissertation research credits. Then, they must register for 1 credit of [EVPP 999](#) Doctoral Dissertation Research until the dissertation is complete and has been officially submitted to the library. Students must present the completed dissertation in a public seminar and defend the work before the dissertation committee and others who wish to attend. Awarding of the degree is contingent on approval of the dissertation by the dissertation committee, graduate program director, department chairperson, and the dean of the College of Science. The dissertation and defense must be completed a total of nine years from the date of first enrollment in the doctoral program.

Select 12-24 credits from the following:	12-24
EVPP 998 Doctoral Dissertation Proposal	
EVPP 999 Doctoral Dissertation Research (at least 6 credits)	
Total Credits	12-24

Retroactive Requirements Updates:

Plan of Study:

Program Outcomes

Additional Program Information

This information is required by the Office of Accreditation and Program Integrity.

Courses offered via distance (if applicable):

What is the primary delivery format for the program?
Face-to-Face Only

Does any portion of this program occur off-campus?
No

Are you working with a vendor / other collaborators to offer your program?

No

**Related
Departments**

Could this program prepare students for any type of professional licensure, in Virginia or elsewhere?

No

Are you adding or removing a licensure component?

No

Additional SCHEV & SACSCOC Information

Are you changing the total number of credits required for this program?

No

Are you changing the delivery format in any way (e.g adding an online option)?

No

Are you adding/removing a licensure option which was approved by SCHEV?

No

Will any portion of this program be offered at an off-campus location?

No

Will this program change affect any specialized accreditation?

No

Is the content of the new program closely related to that of an existing approved program?

No

Is this new program considered to be "advancing the degree level of a currently approved program" (i.e. existing content is at lower degree level, new content is at the higher degree level)?

No

Is this new program considered to be "lowering the degree level of a currently approved program" (i.e. existing content is at higher degree level, new content is at the lower degree level)?

No

Does this change represent a repackaging of content in an existing approved degree/certificate program?

No

Percentage of total credits containing new course content, excluding gen ed courses for undergraduate program: ("New content" means content that is not currently included in an existing approved degree/certificate program.) Please choose a percentage (i.e. 0%-100%)

less than 25%

Are the total credits for the program increasing or decreasing by more than 3 credits?

No

Will any additional equipment/facilities be needed?

No

Will any additional faculty be required?

No

Will any additional financial resources be needed?

No

Will any additional library/learning resources needed?

No

OAPI Use Only – Determination of SACSCOC Impact

Comments or Notes

Green Leaf Program Designation

Is this a Green Leaf program? Yes

Green Leaf Designation Sustainability-focused designation

Sustainability-focused academic programs require at least one green leaf course. Either that course is itself sustainability-focused or else the program requires a set of sustainability-related courses with aggregated substance equivalent to a sustainability-focused course.

Relationship to Existing Courses

Relationship to Existing Programs

List sustainability-focused courses currently required in the degree program:

Does this program cover material which crosses into another department?

No

Additional Attachments

SCHEV Proposal

Executive Summary

Reviewer Comments

Additional Comments

Is this course required of all students in this degree program?

%wi_required.eshtml%

Key: 190