Master of Arts in Environmental Resource Policy

The Environmental Resource Policy (ENRP) program offers a multidisciplinary approach to environmental and sustainability studies. Combining environmental science, economics, law, and public policy, ENRP prepares students to enter environmental policy careers in government agencies, non-profit organizations, advocacy groups, think tanks, and the corporate sector.

A Capitol Location

“A unique attribute of ENRP is the ability to network and intern with area organizations and government bodies in Washington, D.C.” —ENRP graduate

With the program’s location in the heart of Washington, D.C., students can immerse themselves in work that informs and improves environmental policy. Our students can:

• attend lectures, workshops, and seminars on a wide array of environmental policy topics;
• observe environmental policymaking at a Congressional hearing or Supreme Court session;
• explore alternative environmental careers through internships;
• work with government agencies and non-profit groups to complete a capstone project;
• build a professional network to support career opportunities.

Flexible Program for Working Students

“The small size of the program allows for an easier sharing of ideas and more interaction with the whole group of students. It also gives advisors/professors an opportunity to know each student’s path through the program.” —ENRP student

Many of our students hold full or part-time jobs and internships. Our program allows them to balance their education with work, family, and personal priorities. The incoming class size is small—between 12 and 20 students—facilitating close ties between faculty and students. Our students may:

• enroll full-time or part-time;
• attend evening classes to accommodate work and internship schedules;
• take classes in the summer;
• meet classmates who share their enthusiasm for environmental policy.

Theory in Action: Practical Experience

“The capstone course adds real-life experience through problem solving, group dynamics, client interaction, interviews, and report writing—all of which are very useful skills in any field.” —ENRP graduate

Our students apply classroom concepts to real-world policy issues, gain professional experience, and build their resumes with hands-on learning opportunities, including:

• a capstone project in which students develop solutions to environmental policy issues for clients like the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency;
• academic credit for relevant internships and research.

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Admissions
ENRP accepts students from a variety of disciplines, including social sciences, natural sciences, business, engineering, and the humanities. About a quarter of our students come directly from their undergraduate institution; the rest have a year or more of experience.

The admissions cycle is flexible. Well-qualified applicants are considered at any time, but priority for merit-based financial aid is given to applications received by February 1st.

Multidisciplinary Foundation
“One of the strengths of ENRP is the melding of both the science and policy behind environmental topics.” —ENRP graduate

ENRP prepares students for varied career positions by including topics related to environmental law, public policy, research methods and statistics, ecology, biology, and geography. This approach enables students to:

• develop a deep understanding of complex environmental issues;
• identify connections between specific environmental policy issues and the relevant natural sciences;
• build environmental policy on a foundation of science-based evidence, an appreciation of economic incentives, and a clear-eyed understanding of environmental law and politics;
• learn to frame environmental policy challenges in ways that render them more amenable to solutions.

Customized Curriculum
“I was able to choose a geography course and a public policy course, and both were able to count towards my degree.” —ENRP student

Students can tailor their degree to fit their interests and career goals. They may dive deeper into one area—such as urban sustainability or biodiversity—or take a broader perspective by covering multiple environmental topics. Students can:

• take four elective courses in other GW schools or departments;
• take up to three elective courses at consortium schools including American University, George Mason University, and Georgetown University;
• use up to three elective credits for internships or research.

Contact Us
To learn more about the Environmental Resource Policy Program, visit our website at go.gwu.edu/enrp or send an e-mail to enrp@gwu.edu.

Our Alumni
ENRP graduates apply their degree across varied occupations that drive change toward a sustainable future. Our graduates have gone into positions with the Department of Energy, Environment and Energy Publishing, the Federal Highway Administration, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Green Building Council, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Among our graduates, 37% work for the government, 37% work in the non-profit sector; and 26% work in the for-profit sector.

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