ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (M.S.)

Master of Science. Major in Environmental Science.

Each student will design a study plan in consultation with an advisor. The study plan is subject to approval by the director and the Graduate College.

There are five requirements for the M.S. degree in environmental science:

1. Depth requirement: the graduate program is structured around three option areas, biological science, physical science, or social science. A student must complete a minimum of 12 credits (thesis degree) or 15 credits (non-thesis degree) in one of the three option areas;
2. Breadth requirement: A student must complete a minimum of 3 credits at the MS level in each of the other two option areas;
3. A student must complete one course (3 cr) in appropriate research methods or statistics at the 500 level;
4. ENVS 501 (2 cr);
5. ENVS 500 (6 cr., thesis degree) or ENVS 599 (3 cr., non-thesis degree).

These requirements may be augmented to compensate for undergraduate deficiencies.

The thesis degree consists of at least 30 graduate credits, including at least 6 credits and a maximum of 10 credits of thesis and a minimum of 24 credits of course work. For the thesis option, at least 21 credits in the option and supporting area must be at the 500 level, including a minimum of 6 hours of research and thesis (ENVS 500). The non-thesis degree program requires at least 30 graduate credits, including a minimum of 3 credits of ENVS 599 (Non-thesis Master’s Research) and 27 credits of course work. For the non-thesis option, at least 21 credits in the option and supporting area must be at the 500 level. For both thesis and non-thesis options, a student can take up to 9 credits at the 400 level in the option and supporting area (one class can be at the 300 level in a supporting area with committee approval). The thesis or non-thesis research part of the program for each student consists of a substantial project in which the student demonstrates ability to do rigorous independent work.