

# MASTER OF ARTS IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY (STEM)

GW's environmental and sustainability policy (ESP) program offers a multidisciplinary approach to environmental and sustainability studies. The master of arts (MA) in ESP prepares students to enter environmental policy careers in government, nonprofit organizations, the private sector, and environmental advocacy groups. ESP is built on a curriculum that includes environmental economics, environmental law, public policy, research methods, and environmental science courses. The program blends theory and practical experience with a professional, client-oriented capstone project, and academic credit for relevant internships and research.

This is a STEM designated program.

Visit the program website (<https://tspppa.gwu.edu/master-arts-environmental-sustainability-policy/>) for additional information.

## ADMISSIONS

**Admission deadlines:** Fall - April 1 (February 1 for priority fellowship consideration)

Spring - October 1 Late applications accepted on a case by case basis for students who do not require an F-1 or J-1 visa

**Standardized test scores:** The GRE general or GMAT is not required. However, if you feel as though submitting scores for the GRE or GMAT will strengthen your application, you are welcome to submit them.

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or the PTE Academic is required of all applicants except those who hold a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree from a college or university in the United States or from an institution located in a country in which English is the official language, provided English was the language of instruction.

Minimum scores for the M.P.A. program are:

Academic IELTS: an overall band score of 7.0 with no individual score below 6.0; or

TOEFL: 600 on paper-based or 100 on Internet-based.

**Recommendations required:** Two (2) recommendations

**Prior academic records:** Transcripts are required from all colleges and universities attended, whether or not credit was earned, the program was completed, or the credit appears as transfer credit on another transcript. Unofficial transcripts from all colleges and universities attended must be uploaded to your online application. Official transcripts are required only of applicants who are offered admission.

If transcripts are in a language other than English, English language translations must be provided. The English translation alone should be uploaded into your application.

**Statement of purpose:** In an essay of 250 – 500 words, state your purpose in undertaking graduate study in your chosen field. Include your academic objectives, research interests, and career plans. Also discuss your related qualifications, including collegiate, professional, and community activities, and any other substantial accomplishments not already mentioned on your application or résumé/curriculum vitae.

**International applicants only:** Please review International Applicant Information carefully for details on required documents, earlier deadlines for applicants requiring an I-20 or DS-2019 from GW, and English language requirements.

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Office of Graduate Studies  
The George Washington University  
801 22nd Street NW, Phillips Hall 107  
Washington DC 20052

For additional information about the admissions process visit the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Frequently Asked Questions (<https://columbian.gwu.edu/graduate-admissions-faq/>) page.

**Contact:**

askccas@gwu.edu  
202-994-6210 (phone)

Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday

## REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

The general requirements stated under Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Graduate Programs (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#degreeregulationstext>).

36 credits, including 24 credits in required courses and 12 credits in elective courses.

The following requirements must be fulfilled: 36 credits, including 24 credits in required courses and 12 credits in elective courses.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required</b>		
Foundation		
PPPA 6140	Introduction to Environmental Law	
PPPA 6066	U.S. Environmental Policy	

or IAFF 6151	Environmental Policy
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One course in physical or life sciences selected from the following:

PPPA 6101	Environmental Sciences I: Physical Sciences
or PPPA 6102	Environmental Sciences II: Life Sciences
or PUBH 6011	Environmental and Biological Foundations of Public Health

One course in ethics and culture selected from following or similar course selected in consultation with advisor:

PHIL 6281	Environmental Philosophy and Policy
or PMGT 6428	Cultural Aspects of Global Engagement

Economics and tools courses

PPPA 6002	Research Methods and Applied Statistics *
ECON 6237	Economics of the Environment and Natural Resources

And one additional economics and tools course selected from the following:

PPPA 6006	Policy Analysis
PPPA 6007	Microeconomics for Public Policy I **
PPPA 6013	Regression Methods for Policy Research
PPPA 6014	Microeconomics for Public Policy II
PPPA 6015	Benefit-Cost Analysis
PPPA 6016	Public and Nonprofit Program Evaluation
PPPA 6020	Decision Modeling for Public Policy
PPPA 6021	Data Visualization
PPPA 8022	Econometrics for Policy Research
PPPA 8023	Mixed Methods in Research Design

### Capstone

PPPA 6198	Environmental Resource Policy Capstone
or PPPA 6008	MPA/MPP Capstone

### Electives

12 credits of approved courses from various University departments selected in consultation with the advisor.

\*Students with a strong statistics background can request to be exempt from taking PPPA 6002 and take an additional 3-credit economics and tools course from the list above.

\*\*Students with limited economics background must take PPPA 6007. PPPA 6007 must be taken before ECON 6237 and students may substitute ECON 6217 for PPPA 6007.

## COMBINED PROGRAMS

### Combined program

- Dual Master of Science in the field of environmental and sustainability policy and Graduate Certificate in geographic information systems (STEM/STEM) (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/public-policy-administration/dual-esp-ma-gc-geographic-information-systems/>)