



School of Natural Resources and Environment: Resource Policy & Behavior

The Resource Policy and Behavior concentration provides a focus in the School of Natural Resources and Environment for the study of the socio-behavioral and policy aspects of natural resource and environmental issues. It educates students to be effective and innovative policy makers, planning analysts, environmental educators, environmental advocates, or adept in skills needed to facilitate decision-making about complex natural resource and environmental issues.

In addition to acquiring an interdisciplinary perspective on natural resource and environmental issues, each Resource Policy and Behavior student is expected to develop an in-depth knowledge within his or her specific field of study. For example, students pursuing careers in resource policy choose courses in resource policy analysis, evaluation methodologies, negotiation and dispute resolution, and forest, land, or water policy; while environmental advocacy students concentrate on courses such as social change, energy, and land ethics, small group organization and advocacy planning, and conflict management.

SKILLS & ABILITIES

The curriculum develops the students' problem solving, human relations, communication and administrative skills in a specialized field of study with a broader understanding of natural resources and the environment. An important component of the training is an increased awareness of how knowledge and skills from several disciplines can

be integrated to solve natural resource and environmental problems. For example, a policy analyst, an urban planner, an environmental educator, or an environmental advocate might use analytical thinking skills on a daily basis, although for different purposes. A sampling of representative skills and abilities follows.

Communications

- Speaking & writing effectively
- Collaborating w/ others
- Group leadership
- Justifying a position
- Speaking persuasively
- Computer applications
- Writing proposals

Problem Solving

- Defining problems
- Gathering, analyzing & interpreting information
- Interdisciplinary & causal analysis
- Conflict management
- Theory development & application
- Risk/benefit analysis & communications
- Cost benefit analysis
- Application of statistical methods

Administration

- Policy analysis
- Resource/personnel administration
- Budgetary management
- Decision making
- Understanding economic & legal issues
- Relating theory to practice
- Developing appropriate business skills
- Evaluating policies

Human Relations

- Advocating for environmental justice
- Needs assessment
- Cultural and social awareness
- Understanding prejudice & discrimination
- Understanding human relations

OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The School's graduates are able to use the skills and abilities acquired through the concentration as building blocks toward any number of occupations and career paths. Students have the opportunity to study: Environmental Advocacy, Behavior, Environmental Education, Resource Economics, Resource Planning, or Resource Policy and Administration.

The selected list of occupations corresponds with the employment sectors where School of Natural Resources and Environment students have obtained employment. An undergraduate degree provides a foundation for all the occupations listed. Some of the occupations listed require an advanced degree; those have been marked with a • on the following list.

Government Sector

Program Analyst
•Project Manager
Easement Acquisition Specialist
•Director, Environmental Services Division
Environmental Planner

Private Sector

Staff Scientist
Environmental Scientist
Policy Analyst
Environmental Consultant
•Environmental Lawyer

Non-profit

Zoo Education Coordinator
Associate Editor
•Wildlife Refuge Specialist
•Museum Educator
Water Resource Specialist
•Groundwater Program Director
Congressional Relations Associate

Academic/Research

Program Specialist
Research Scientist
•Research Director
•Professor
•Environmental Education Coordinator
Recycling Coordinator

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

The Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources and Environment requires a minimum of 120 credit hours including at least 50 credits from the School of Natural Resources and Environment. The Master of Science degree in Natural Resources and Environment requires a minimum of 36 credit hours including at least 19 credits from the School of Natural Resources and Environment.

The interdisciplinary nature of the policy and behavior program is reflected in the curriculum which includes course work for the bachelor of science degree in economics, calculus, biology, chemistry, general and applied ecology, environmental policy, computer applications, applied social and behavioral science, resource management, and specific concentration courses. The Master of Science degree requires course work including analytical skills, ecology, and a required core, along with a capstone thesis, project or practicum.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about choosing a career, graduate or professional school, internships or job descriptions; and for library resources contact:

The Career Center
3200 Student Activities Building
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1316
734/764-7460

<http://careercenter.umich.edu/>

For information about the concentration and degree requirements contact:

School of Natural Resources and Environment
Dana Building
440 Church Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1041
734/764-6453

<http://www.snre.umich.edu/>