ENVIRONMENT - MASTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT (MENV)

The Master of the Environment (MENV) Graduate Program at the University of Colorado Boulder is an innovative, interdisciplinary professional master's degree that equips students with the knowledge, skills and experience necessary to address the complex environmental challenges of the 21st Century. This 21-month, immersive, cohort-based graduate program develops students into leaders in a wide range of careers in conservation, consulting, energy, natural resources, planning, policy, sustainability and more.

The MENV program focuses on application and problem solving, and the curriculum is comprised of four components:

- Core courses
- Required specialization courses in one of five specializations
- Electives
- Capstone project

Throughout the program, students develop and hone their skills and leadership capacities through experiential learning, theory and foundational knowledge building, professional development opportunities, career mentoring, and capstone project in lieu of a thesis.

Students become conversant in the language, knowledge, theory, techniques, and methodologies of various disciplines while developing general analytical skills, problem-solving abilities, and the adaptability that is indispensable to professional and career success.

MENV provides a foundation of multidisciplinary knowledge and communication and analytical skills that enable students to address increasingly complex sustainability challenges in a wide range of professional careers.

In addition, the MENV program values a diversity of backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives and is deeply committed to diversifying our student body, faculty, and staff; improving the equity of our systems; and creating an inclusive culture in the program, on CU Boulder's campus, and in the environmental sector at-large.

For more information, visit the Master of the Environment (http://www.colorado.edu/menv/) website.

Requirements

Application Requirements

To be considered for the MENV program, students must have a four-year bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. institution or the international equivalent. We recommend a minimum of one year of professional experience or applicable training prior to applying. The MENV program selects students who we believe will achieve academic and professional success while adding value to the graduate community. The MENV program selects talented and diverse candidates through a holistic review of the application materials. Decisions are based on academic and professional backgrounds, as well as individuals' potential to contribute both inside and outside of the classroom.

Program Requirements

Students must complete at least 48 credit hours of coursework during the 24-month program, to include:

- Core courses
- Required specialization courses in one of five specializations
- Electives
- Capstone project

Courses

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Core Courses		
ENVM 5002	Analyzing Socio-Environmental Systems	3
ENVM 5018	The Scientific Basis of Environmental Change	3
ENVM 5034	Leadership & Ethics for Environmental Professionals	3
ENVM 6001	Capstone Innovation Lab 1	1
ENVM 6002	Capstone Innovation Lab 2	1
ENVM 6003	Capstone Project	6
ENVM 6004	Capstone Leadership Lab	1
Specialization courses and electives		**30**
Total Credit Hours		**48**

Capstone Project

All MENV students complete a nine-month capstone project. These projects provide students with hands-on experiences embedded within an external sponsoring organization while also providing client organizations with specific solutions to identified environmental, sustainability, and business challenges. Deliverables might include management plans, models, analyses, prototypes, or proof-of-concept projects.

Program Tracks

Environmental & Natural Resources Policy (https://www.colorado.edu/menv/academics/specializations/environmental-natural-resources-policy/)

Students learn how to identify and apply the best processes and tools to solve environmental and natural resource problems using a combination of theory, case studies, and practice.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
ENVS 5100	Special Topics in Environmental Studies (Environmental Decision Making)	3
ENVS 5701	Policy, Politics and Management: Foundations	3
ENVS 5702	Environmental Governance: Actors and Institutions (Environmental Governance: Actors & Institutions)	3
ENVM 5004	Public Finance and the Environment	3

Renewable & Sustainable Energy (https://www.colorado.edu/menv/academics/specializations/renewable-sustainable-energy/)

This specialization track is intended for those interested in both conventional and renewable energy policy, business, consulting and management.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Required		
ENVM 5006	Sustainable Energy Policy	3
ENVM 5007	Energy Systems and Technologies	3
Optional		
ENVM 5042	Renewable and Sustainable Energy in Practice	3
ENVM 5062	Zero Carbon Buildings and Cities	
ENVM 5067	Building Community Capacity	
ENVM 5072	Energy Markets, Transactions, and Policy	
ENVM 6100	Special Topics for Master of the Environment Program (RSE in Practice)	3

Sustainable Food Systems (https://www.colorado.edu/menv/academics/specializations/sustainable-food-systems/)

The Sustainable Food Systems specialization track will train students to approach key food system challenges critically and innovatively.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Required		
ENVM 5029	Food & Agriculture Policy in the United States	3
ENVM 5038	Nourishing Humanity within Planetary Boundaries - Intro to Food Systems	3
ENVM 5043	Benefit Cost Analysis	1
ENVM 5044	Life Cycle Assessment - Bringing Objectivity into Subjective Conversations	1
ENVM 5045	Introduction to Monitoring & Evaluation	1
Optional		
ENVM 5051	Humans, Environment, and Justice	
ENVM 5063	Agroecology	3
ENVM 6100	Special Topics for Master of the Environment Program (Qualitative Research Methods)	3
ENVS 6305	Reducing the Environmental Impact of Food Systems: Evidence-Based Solutions	3

Sustainability in the Outdoor Industry (https://www.colorado.edu/menv/academics/specializations/sustainability-outdoor-industry/)

Sustainability in the Outdoor Industry (SOI) specialization prepares its students to successfully engage with and be future leaders in the outdoor recreation economy.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
ENVM 5064	Introduction to Sustainability in the Outdoor Industry	3
ENVM 5065	Community Economic Development and the ORE	3
ENVM 5066	Environmental Stewardship: Practice and Law	3
ENVM 5078	Sustainable Business Practice	

Urban Resilience & Sustainability (https://www.colorado.edu/menv/academics/specializations/urban-resilience-sustainability/)

This specialization track prepares students for careers as resilience and sustainability leaders, designing, implementing and leading resilience and sustainability policies, programs and plans, and engaging and inspiring others to work toward a bold vision of what could be but isn't yet.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Students will choose four courses:		
ENVM 5012	Water, Climate, and Sustainable Cities	3
ENVM 5026	Sustainable Land Use and Development: Principles and Practices	3
ENVM 5030	Planning for Resilient Futures	
ENVM 5041	Sustainability & Resilience in Practice	3
ENVM 5050	Social Innovation and Sustainable Cities	3
ENVM 5052	Transportation, Mobility & Sustainable Cities	3

Learning Outcomes

MENV students will develop an understanding of the interconnections and feedback loops within human and natural systems. Specific learning goals will be to:

- *Develop a place-based understanding.* Students will understand and apply different approaches to thinking about places and their identities, specifically considering how context affects thinking about environmental issues and creation of appropriate solutions.
- *Learn* and *practice* new methods and techniques in a wide array of environmental applications.
- *Apply* understanding of the dominant structures, processes, and dynamics within and between environmental, social and economic systems.
- *Analyze* contemporary concerns about the environment.
- *Create* and *evaluate* new ideas to promote their own or others' engagement in the environment and to find solutions to today's pressing problems.