The Master of the Environment (MENV) professional master’s degree program is administered by the Environmental Studies Program (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-study/environmental-studies), but partners with units and disciplines in the community and across the Boulder campus, including the Environmental Design Program, Colorado Law, Leeds School of Business and the Department of Economics.

The 17-month, cohort-based, in-residence professional degree program is designed for new or early career professionals, preparing leaders at the local, state, national and global levels to sustain the long-term health of the biosphere and pursue sustainable development. MENV graduates apply interdisciplinary knowledge and build community in ways that achieve fair and effective solutions to environmental and social problems and promote thriving human and natural communities, balancing concerns for environmental health, economic well-being and social equity.

The program focuses on applications and problem solving, and has five parts:

1. the core curriculum
2. a choice of topical specializations
3. skills and techniques courses
4. electives
5. a capstone project

Throughout the program, students develop and hone their skills and leadership capacities through workshops, peer-to-peer mentoring, professional skills courses, the capstone project and other “real-world” opportunities through partnerships with outside firms, agencies and organizations.

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

MENV provides a foundation of multidisciplinary knowledge and communication and analytical skills that enable students to address increasingly complex environmental and related social problems in a wide range of professional careers in the environment, energy and natural resources.

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

Requirements

Application Requirements

To be considered for the Masters of the Environment graduate program, students must have a four-year bachelor’s degree from an accredited college and some applicable training or professional experience. The MENV program at CU Boulder selects students who will achieve academic and professional success while adding value to the graduate community. The master’s program selects the most talented and diverse candidates through a holistic review of the application materials. Decisions are based on academic and professional backgrounds and individual potential to contribute both inside and outside of the classroom.

Program Requirements

Students must complete at least 48 credit hours of course work during the 17-month program, to include:

- the core curriculum
- a specialization area
- two skills and techniques courses
- electives
- a capstone project

Capstone Project

All MENV students complete a year-long capstone project. These projects provide hands-on, learning-by-doing experiences embedded in the context of an organization’s needs and capacities, while also providing client organizations with specific solutions to identified complex problems and useful projects. These might include management plans, models, analyses, prototypes or proof-of-concept projects. The capstone project is co-developed by students and the partner entity, whether industry, government or nonprofit.