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:

- One core course
- Required specialization courses in one of five specializations
- Electives
- Four Capstone courses, including the MENV 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 21-month program, to include:

- Core course
- Required specialization courses in one of five specializations
- Electives
- Four Capstone Courses, including MENV Capstone Project

Courses

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Core Courses		
ENVM 5018	The Scientific Basis of Environmental Change	3
ENVM 6001	Capstone Innovation Lab 1	1
ENVM 6002	Capstone Innovation Lab 2	2
ENVM 6003	Capstone Project	5
ENVM 6004	Capstone Innovation Lab 3	1
Specialization Coures		**12**
Elective Courses		**24**
Total Credit Hours		**48**

Capstone Project

All MENV students complete a twelve-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
ENVM 5013	Environmental Governance: Actors and Institutions	3
ENVM 5014	Foundations of Environmental Policy and Management	3
ENVM 5016	Science, Politics, and Policy	3
ENVM 5008	Legislative Analysis, Writing, and Advocacy	3

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

This specialization track is intended for those interested in careers in the clean energy transition, from renewable energy and e-mobility development, to energy and sustainability consulting, to climate action planning.

Students must take a total of four RSE courses (12 credits), including two required classes and two other RSE courses.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Required		
ENVM 5006	Sustainable Energy Policy	3
ENVM 5007	Energy Systems and Technologies	3
Optional		
Choose two:		6
ENVM 5027		
ENVM 5042	Renewable Energy Development & Project Finance	
ENVM 5062	Zero Carbon Buildings	
ENVM 5072	Energy Markets, Transactions, and Policy	
ENVM 5080	Emerging Decarbonization Technologies	
ENVM 6100	Special Topics for Master of the Environment Program (Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR))	
ENVM 6100	Special Topics for Master of the Environment Program (Climate Action Planning for Cities and Local Governments: Skills and Practices)	
Total Credit Hours		**12**

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		
Quantitative Analysis in Food Systems		
ENVM 5028	Supply Chain Management for Food and Fiber	
ENVM 5051	Humans, Environment, and Justice	
ENVM 5063	Agroecology	
ENVM 5079	The Science and Practice of Sustainable Agriculture	
ENVM 5068	Qualitative Methods for Sustainability	

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

The SOI Specialization prepares its students to successfully engage with and be future leaders in the outdoor recreation industry. We view the outdoor recreation industry holistically, encompassing the intersection of outdoor recreation businesses, public lands policy and resilient communities. Students will receive foundational understanding in each of these areas and will develop the necessary skills and knowledge to bring about innovative, sustainable and equitable solutions to the challenges and opportunities facing the outdoor recreation industry today.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
SOI Required Courses		
ENVM 5064	Introduction to Sustainability in the Outdoor Industry	3
ENVM 5065	Community Economic Development and the ORE	3
SOI Elective Options		
ENVM 5067	Building Community Capacity	3
ENVM 5074	Conservation Management: Policies, Leadership and Best Practices	3
ENVM 5077	Circular Strategies for Business Sustainability	3
ENVM 5066	Environmental Stewardship: Practice and Law	3
ENVM 5078	Sustainable Business Practice	3

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

The Urban Resilience and Sustainability (URS) specialization prepares students for careers as resilience and sustainability leaders, designing, implementing and leading resilience and sustainability policies, programs and plans for communities and companies.

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	3
ENVM 5041	Sustainability & Resilience in Practice	3
ENVM 5050	Social Innovation and Sustainable Cities	3
ENVM 5052	Transportation, Mobility & Sustainable Cities	3
URS Elective Options		
ENVM 5040	MENV Clinic	3
URS students are also required to take two electives from other MENV specializations.		
ENVM 6100	Special Topics for Master of the Environment Program (Climate Action Planning for Cities and Local Governments: Skills and Practices)	3

Learning Outcomes

By the completion of the program, students will be able to:

- Understand and analyze the systems, frameworks and concepts that contribute to and determine sustainability (i.e., environmental, economic and societal) outcomes.
- Identify the opportunities, levers and solutions that different stakeholders can implement to strategically drive positive change.
- Engage critically with different viewpoints and values to develop a deeper, more nuanced understanding of the tradeoffs implicit in sustainability decision-making.
- Demonstrate the professional skills and knowledge required to drive change and impact in sustainability and related fields through real-world projects and applications.
- Work collaboratively and effectively within teams and with external stakeholders.
- Students will communicate effectively to a variety of audiences through different mediums.