ENVIRONMENT, POLICY AND SOCIETY - GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

In order to understand contemporary environmental issues, today's scholars must transcend historical academic disciplinary boundaries. Indeed, complex issues related to energy, climate change, species preservation and air and water quality are best addressed by valuing insights from multiple perspectives. The graduate certificate in environment, policy and society allows students the opportunity to engage in interdisciplinary exploration of these contemporary environmental problems by drawing from courses across a wide range of social science disciplines.

The certificate curriculum incorporates courses from many departments in the College of Arts and Sciences, including anthropology, biology, economics, geography, philosophy, political science, psychology and sociology. In addition, pertinent courses are available in the Program in Environmental Design; the Leeds School of Business; the College of Engineering and Applied Science; the College of Media, Communications and Information; and the School of Law.

For more information, visit the Environmental Studies Program’s Certificate Programs webpage.

Requirements

Admission

To participate in the graduate certificate program, students must apply and be admitted. To be admitted, the student must be a current CU graduate student, be in good academic standing, and submit a completed application form signed by an appropriate departmental representative.

A very limited number of students already holding graduate degrees from other institutions may be admitted to the program through the Division of Continuing Education by petitioning the Director of the Environment, Policy and Society Program, provided their credentials are validated by one of the participating departments and meet the normal admission requirements of the department.

Program Requirements

The program requires 18 credits of approved courses, including a cornerstone and a capstone course. At least 12 of those credits must be in environmental policy and policy sciences offered at CU Boulder. No more than 6 of the required 18 credits may be in the student’s home department.

Of the 12 elective credit hours, nine elective credit hours must be drawn from one of four specialty areas, chosen by the student:

1. Society and the Environment (optional course clusters include Environment and Development and Social Dimensions of Hazards)
2. Environmental Policy
3. Energy and Society
4. Water and Society

Additional credit hours may be taken from outside the student’s area on consultation with, and approval from, the student’s certificate advisor.

Students who wish to incorporate a natural science course into their elective course work may also do so with the approval of the student's certificate advisor.

These degree requirements are subject to change. For updated information, visit the Environmental Studies Program's Certificate Programs webpage.