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

The Graduate Certificate on Environment, Policy, and Society provides an interdisciplinary specialization for students in MA, PhD, JD, or other graduate degree programs at the University of Colorado. The program draws on courses in anthropology, economics, ecology and evolutionary biology, geography, philosophy, political science, psychology, sociology, as well as courses from other units are CU Boulder including: the Program in Environmental Design, the College of Engineering and Applied Science, the College of Media, Communications and Information, and the School of Law. The program requires 18 hours of approved courses, including a cornerstone and a capstone course.

Students must be admitted to the Certificate Program, but the only admission requirement is to be a graduate student in good standing at the University of Colorado Boulder. To be admitted, CU graduate students must complete an application form (http://www.colorado.edu/envs/node/586/attachment) and have it 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 (http://conted.colorado.edu), by petition to 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 hours of approved courses, including a cornerstone and a capstone course.

To qualify for the certificate, students must complete at least 12 hours of course work from the more than 50 courses in environmental policy and policy sciences offered at CU Boulder. No more than 6 of the required 18 hours 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
2. Environmental Policy
3. Energy and Society
4. Water and Society

The broad area of Society and the Environment has two recognized (but optional) clusters of courses, including Environment and Development and Social Dimensions of Hazards. 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 (http://www.colorado.edu/envs/certificate-programs) webpage.