



# Program Approval Form

For approval of new programs and deletions or modifications to an existing program.

**Action Requested:**

- Create New (SCHEV approval required except for minors)
- Inactivate Existing
- Modify Existing (check all that apply)
  - Title (SCHEV approval required except for minors)
  - Concentration** (Choose one):  Add  Delete  Modify
  - Degree Requirements
  - Admission Standards/ Application Requirements
  - Other Changes: \_\_\_\_\_

**Type (Check one):**

- B.A.
- M.A.
- Ph.D.
- Undergraduate Certificate\*
- Graduate Certificate\*
- Other:
- B.S.
- M.S.
- M.Ed.

**College/School:**  **Department:**

**Submitted by:**  **Ext:**  **Email:**

**Effective Term:** Fall  **Please note:** For students to be admitted to a new degree, minor, certificate or concentration, the program must be fully approved, entered into Banner, and published in the University Catalog.

**Justification:** (attach separate document if necessary)

A streamlined way in which our best students can transfer into the MS in Environmental Science & Policy

**Program Title:** (Required)  
Title must identify subject matter. Do not include name of college/school/dept.

**Concentration(s):**

**Admissions Standards / Application Requirements:**  
(Required only if different from those listed in the University Catalog)

**Degree Requirements:**  
Consult University Catalog for models, attach separate document if necessary using track changes for modifications

Existing	New/Modified
	Green Leaf Bachelors/Environmental Science and Policy, Accelerated MS
	n/a
	3.2 undergraduate GPA and enrollment in a Green Leaf designated bachelor's degree or minor. Three semesters biology and two semesters of chemistry (or equivalent).
	See attached
	See attached

**Courses offered via distance:**  
(if applicable)

**TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED:**

\*For Certificates Only: Indicate whether students are able to pursue on a  Full-time basis  Part-time basis

## Approval Signatures

Department \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ College/School \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Provost's Office \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
*Required for Minors and Interdisciplinary Programs*

If this program may impact another unit or is in collaboration with another unit at Mason, the originating department must circulate this proposal for review by those units and obtain the necessary signatures prior to submission. Failure to do so will delay action on this proposal.

Unit Name	Unit Approval Name	Unit Approver's Signature	Date

### For Graduate Programs Only

Graduate Council Member \_\_\_\_\_ Provost Office \_\_\_\_\_ Graduate Council Approval Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Green Leaf Bachelors/Environmental Science and Policy, Accelerated MS

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*School: College of Science*

*Department: Environmental Science and Policy*

This degree option allows highly qualified Mason students to earn an MS in Environmental Science and Policy (ESP) in less time than if they had first graduated with an environmentally focused “Green Leaf” designated BA or BS degree<sup>1</sup> and then applied to the MS program sequentially.

### Admission Requirements

Students with an overall GPA of at least 3.20 who are pursuing any Green Leaf-designated major or minor may apply for provisional acceptance to the ESP accelerated master’s program after completing two semesters of chemistry (CHEM 211 and 212) and three semesters of biology, including a course in ecology, or the equivalent, i.e.:

- BIOL 213, BIOL 214 and BIOL 308 or
- EVPP 210, EVPP 301, EVPP 302, EVPP 305, EVPP 306 or
- CONS 401, CONS 402 and 6 credits of BIOL or CONS elective, or
- CONS 403, CONS 404 and 6 credits of BIOL or CONS elective

While undergraduate students, accelerated master’s students complete the two graduate courses indicated on their Accelerated Master’s Program Application with a minimum grade of 3.00 in each course. They must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.00 in all coursework and in coursework applied to their major. Upon completion and conferral of the undergraduate degree in a Green Leaf-designated academic program, in the semester indicated in the application, they submit the Bachelor’s/Accelerated Master’s Transition Form and are admitted to graduate status.

By at least the beginning of their senior year they should seek out a faculty member in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy, who is willing to serve as their advisor (unless the student is planning to enroll in the MS concentration in Environmental Management). This advisor will aid the student in choosing appropriate graduate courses to take and help to prepare the student for graduate studies.

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in the Admissions section of this catalog. This includes obtaining a GRE score of 1100 or above and having found a faculty member willing to act as their advisor (unless enrolling in an MS with a concentration in Environmental Management). For information specific to the accelerated MS in Environmental Science and Policy, see “Graduate Admissions” on the departmental web site.

### Degree Requirements

Students admitted to this program may take graduate courses after completing 90 undergraduate credits, and up to 6 credits of graduate work may be used in partial satisfaction of the requirements for the undergraduate degree. If students earn at least a 3.00 in these classes, they are granted advanced standing in the master’s program and must then complete an additional 27-31 credits to receive the master’s degree. All other master’s degree requirements must be met (including obtaining an appropriate GRE score and securing a faculty advisor if required).

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<sup>1</sup> Green leaf academic programs are described and listed at <http://catalog.gmu.edu/content.php?catoid=25&navoid=4852>. As of October 2014, these included both our BS in Environmental Science and Environmental and Sustainability Studies Bachelors degree programs, along with several other undergraduate majors and minors.

## Reserve Graduate Credits

Students may take up to 6 additional graduate credits as reserve graduate credit. These credits do not apply to the undergraduate degree but will reduce the subsequent master's degree credits required accordingly (e.g., with 6 credits counted towards undergraduate degree plus the maximum 6 reserve credits, an MS could be completed with 21 post-bachelor's credits). The ability to take courses for reserve graduate credit is available to all high achieving undergraduates with the permission of the department. Permission to take a graduate course for reserve graduate credit is normally granted only to Mason seniors within 15 hours of graduation.

To apply these credits to the master's degree, students must request that the credits be moved from the undergraduate degree to the graduate degree using the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form.

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## Undergraduate Green Leaf Academic Programs (current and pending [minors] as of Oct. 23, 2014):

### Undergraduate Degrees

- [Civil and Infrastructure Engineering, BS](#)
- [Earth Science, BS](#)
- [Environmental and Sustainability Studies, BA](#)
- [Environmental Science, BS](#)
- [Geology, BA](#)
- [Global Affairs, BA](#)
- [Global and Environmental Change, BS](#)
- [Health, Fitness, and Recreation Resources, BS: Concentration in Parks and Outdoor Recreation](#)
- [Tourism and Events Management, BS](#)

### Undergraduate Minors

- [Atmospheric Science Minor](#)
- [Conservation Biology Minor](#)
- [Conservation Studies Minor](#)
- [Earth Science Minor](#)
- [Environmental Policy Minor\\*](#)
- [Environmental Science Minor](#)
- [Ocean and Estuarine Science Minor](#)
- [Geology Minor](#)
- [Global Affairs Minor\\*](#)
- [Paleontology Minor](#)
- [Sustainability Studies Minor](#)

\* Meets Green Leaf criteria when options are selected to ensure coverage of "people, planet and prosperity" across the program's curriculum.

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