

# Program Change Request

Date Submitted: 02/06/25 11:27 am

## Viewing: : **Bachelor's Degree (selected)/Environmental Science and Policy Accelerated Master's**

Last approved: 06/03/24 12:35 pm

Last edit: 02/27/25 11:55 am

Changes proposed by: jbazaz

**Catalog Pages Using this Program**

- [Global Affairs, BA](#)
- [Environmental and Sustainability Studies, BA \(CHSS\)](#)
- [Geology, BA](#)

**Are you completing this form on someone else's behalf?**  
No

**Effective Catalog:** 2025-2026

**Program Level:** Undergraduate & Graduate (BAMs)

**Program Type:** Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's

**Title:**  
Bachelor's Degree (selected)/Environmental Science and Policy Accelerated Master's

**Registrar's Office Use Only – Program Start Term**

**Registrar/OAPI Use Only – SACSCOC Status**

**Concentration(s):**

**College/School:** College of Science

**Department / Academic Unit:** Environmental Science & Policy

### In Workflow

1. Registrar-Programs:Workflow Review
2. ESP GR Committee
3. ESP Chair
4. SC Curriculum Committee
5. SC Assistant Dean
6. Assoc Provost-Graduate
7. Assoc Provost-Undergraduate
8. Registrar-Programs

### Approval Path

1. 02/07/25 9:29 am Deborah Mcgarrah (dmcgarra): Approved for Registrar-Programs:Workflow Review
2. 02/27/25 11:56 am Esther Peters (epeters2): Approved for ESP GR Committee
3. 02/27/25 11:58 am Gad Perry (gperry23): Approved for ESP Chair

### History

**Jointly Owned Program?**

Yes

**Participating Colleges**

**Participating Departments**

**Justification**

1. Oct 31, 2017 by clmig-jwehrheim
2. Mar 6, 2018 by rzachari
3. Mar 13, 2018 by rzachari
4. Apr 5, 2018 by pchampan
5. Mar 25, 2019 by Tory Sarro (vsarro)
6. Mar 2, 2021 by Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz)
7. Jan 19, 2022 by Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz)
8. Apr 28, 2023 by Tory Sarro (vsarro)
9. Jun 3, 2024 by Deborah Mcgarrah (dmcgarra)
10. Jun 3, 2024 by Deborah Mcgarrah (dmcgarra)

What: Removing requirement for "immediate" graduate coursework to begin.

For reserve graduate credit, specifying that 12 credits is the maximum counted toward both the UG and GR degrees.

Why: As this program aligns with the university's BAM requirements, we're removing some duplicative language, the links provided direct students to university-level policies.

### Catalog Published Information

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**Accelerated Description/Dual Degree Description:**

# Bachelor's Degree (selected)/Environmental Science and Policy, Accelerated MS

## Overview

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This bachelor's/accelerated master's degree program allows academically strong undergraduates with a commitment to advance their education to obtain a [Green Leaf-designated](#) bachelor's degree and the [Environmental Science and Policy, MS](#) degrees within an accelerated timeframe. Upon completion of this 141-credit accelerated program, students will be exceptionally well prepared for entry into their careers or into a doctoral program in the field or in a related discipline.

Students are eligible to apply for this accelerated program once they have earned at least 60 undergraduate credits and can enroll in up to 18 credits of graduate coursework after successfully completing 75 undergraduate credits. This flexibility makes it possible for students to complete a bachelor's and a master's in five years.

For more detailed information, see [AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degrees](#). For policies governing all graduate degrees, see [AP.6 Graduate Policies](#). For more information on undergraduates enrolling in graduate courses, see [AP.1.4.4 Graduate Course Enrollment by Undergraduates](#).

## Admission Requirements

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Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in the [Graduate Admission Policies](#) section of this catalog.

Important application information and processes for this accelerated master's program can be found [here](#).

The GRE exam is not required for this accelerated master's program.

Students should submit three letters of recommendation (at least one from a former professor or someone with a PhD), a recent resume, a statement of interest/research goals and interests (including information on the candidate's proposed MS research), and a letter from their advisor ([Prospective \(Perspective Advisor Form\)](#)) stating that the advisor agrees to take on the candidate as an MS student, how the candidate would be a good fit for them and why candidate's research topic would be suitable.

Students with an overall GPA of at least 3.20 who are pursuing any [Green Leaf-designated](#) major or minor may apply to this accelerated master's program after completing two semesters of chemistry (including [CHEM 211](#) General Chemistry I ([Mason Core](#))) and [CHEM 212](#) General Chemistry II ([Mason Core](#))) and three semesters of biology, including a course in ecology, or the equivalent, for example:

Select one of the following options:

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### Option 1:

[BIOL 213](#) Cell Structure and Function

[BIOL 214](#) Biostatistics for Biology Majors

[BIOL 308](#) Foundations of Ecology and Evolution ([Mason Core](#))

### Option 2:

[EVPP 210](#) Environmental Biology: Molecules and Cells

[EVPP 301](#) Environmental Science: Biological Diversity and Ecosystems

[EVPP 302](#) Environmental Science: Biomes and Human Dimensions

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[EVPP 305](#) Environmental Microbiology Essentials

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[EVPP 306](#) Environmental Microbiology Essentials Laboratory

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**Option 3:**

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[CONS 401](#) Conservation Theory

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[CONS 402](#) Applied Conservation

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6 credits of BIOL or CONS electives

### Graduate Advisor

By at least the beginning of their senior year, students should seek out a faculty member in the [Department of Environmental Science and Policy](#) who is willing to serve as their advisor. This advisor will aid the student in choosing the appropriate graduate courses to take and help to prepare the student for graduate studies. Admission into a research-oriented master's concentration is dependent upon securing the agreement of a faculty advisor. Faculty from a variety of departments and colleges at George Mason University (called "program faculty") can serve as master's advisors. Potential students are encouraged to speak with the graduate program coordinator in the department to obtain guidance on this issue.

## Accelerated Option Requirements

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After the completion of 75 undergraduate credits, students may complete 3 to 12 credits of graduate coursework that can apply to both the undergraduate and graduate degrees.

In addition to applying to graduate from the undergraduate program, students in the accelerated program must submit a bachelor's/accelerated master's transition form (available from the [Office of the University Registrar](#)) to the [College of Science's Office of Academic and Student Affairs](#) by the last day to add classes of their final undergraduate semester. ~~Students should enroll for courses in the master's program in the fall or spring semester immediately following conferral of the bachelor's degree, but should contact an advisor if they would like to defer up to one semester.~~

Students must maintain an overall GPA of 3.00 or higher in all graduate coursework and should consult with their faculty advisor to coordinate their academic goals.

## Reserve Graduate Credits

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Accelerated master's students may also take up to 6 graduate credits as reserve graduate credits. These credits do not apply to the undergraduate degree, but will reduce the master's degree by up to 6 credits. With the maximum 12 graduate credits counted toward the undergraduate and graduate degrees plus the maximum 6 reserve graduate credits, the credits necessary for the graduate degree can be reduced by up to 18.

## Graduate Course Suggestions

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The following list of suggested courses is provided for general reference. To ensure an efficient route to graduation and post-graduation readiness, students are strongly encouraged to meet with an advisor before registering for graduate-level courses.

<a href="#">EVPP 518</a>	Conservation Biology	3
<a href="#">EVPP 529</a>	Environmental Science Communication	3
<a href="#">EVPP 621</a>	Overview of Biodiversity Conservation	3
<a href="#">EVPP 635</a>	Environment and Society	3

### Program Outcomes

Have you reached out to the Libraries to determine whether there are adequate resources to support your program? If not, please email Meg Meiman, Associate University Librarian for Learning, Research, and Engagement at [mmeiman2@gmu.edu](mailto:mmeiman2@gmu.edu).

## OAPI Use Only – Determination of SACSCOC Impact

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### Comments or Notes

### Additional Attachments

### Reviewer Comments

### Additional Comments

### Is this course required of all students in this degree program?

%wi\_required.eshtml%

Key: 117