

## Advisor and Advisory Committee

All students should begin the planning of their graduate program with the assistance of their major professor (advisor). If you have not yet identified an advisor, please visit the Nelson Institute Academic Programs Office in 70 Science Hall as soon as you arrive on campus, and we will assist you with this process. An advisor must be an approved member of the environment and resources faculty; however, faculty not currently affiliated with the Environment and Resources Program may contact our office in order to be added if they desire. When selected, an advisor will work with you to develop a coherent program of courses and a plan of research. Once you have your advisor you should have a meeting to plan your timeline and discuss common expectations including how often you should meet. The admissions committee or Academic Programs Office may assign you an initial advisor. This does not preclude seeking another advisor whose interests or expertise are more compatible with your needs.

During the second semester, students should develop a faculty committee with the counsel and approval of the advisor. The faculty members of this advisory committee should be balanced between the social and natural sciences. For an M.S. candidate, this interdisciplinary committee must be composed of three faculty members representing at least two different departments or schools; at least one member must be from the social sciences and one from the natural sciences. The advisor will chair this committee. The committee will meet to assist the student in the certification process and the thesis defense examination. The faculty who act as official advisors and voting members of these committees must be members of the Graduate School faculty. If at some point you wish to change your major professor or any other faculty committee members, please submit this request in writing to the Nelson Institute Academic Programs Office.