

Curriculum

The Environment and Resources Program requires a minimum of 30 graduate-level credits (courses numbered 300 and above) for an M.S. degree. The credits are distributed among four categories to provide both depth and breadth in knowledge related to environment and resource problems.

Category 1: A minimum of 6 credits for the M.S. is required in natural science (physical and/or biological sciences).

Category 2: A minimum of 6 credits for the M.S. is required in social science and/or humanities.

Category 3: A minimum of 6 credits for the M.S. is required in measurement and analysis. Examples of study areas include statistics, mathematics, quantitative analysis, remote sensing, cartography, modeling, computer sciences, and methodology.

Category 4: The key to each study plan is the individual program focus, requiring a minimum of 12 credits for the M.S. Courses in this category should reflect a cohesive area of study. Seminars taken for credit may be used in this category.

The seminar requirement acts as an integrating tool for students in the program. A research seminar is most useful for those students who need to develop a thesis topic and/or research and presentation skills, while a topical seminar may be of interest to students who are more advanced or experienced. Enrollment in more than one seminar is encouraged, and may be required by individual advisors. Student pursuing a graduate level certificate may wish to use a seminar from the certificate to meet this requirement.

No more than 6 research credits for M.S. students may be used to satisfy the course work requirements of Category 4. Research credits refer to “990” courses (such as Envir St 990), which are normally used in enrolling for thesis research. Do not enroll for 990 course work in more than one department. At the time you initially enroll for such course work, you will need to obtain the conference number code for your major professor. For assistance, contact the graduate program assistant in the department through which you intend to enroll for research credits. If enrolling for Envir St 990, contact program assistant Jean Touchett in the Nelson Institute Academic Programs Office. She will authorize your enrollment on the university computer system thereby allowing you to enroll for Envir St 990. Computer authorization for Envir St 990 is required each semester a student intends to enroll for research credits.

The environment and resources course requirements can be filled from a variety of departments on campus. A list of courses typically used by environment and resources students for meeting the requirements of the first three categories is available from our Academic Programs Office. This list is **not** all-inclusive. Final selection of courses should be made in consultation with one's faculty advisory committee.

Note about foreign language courses: There is no specific foreign language requirement. Furthermore, language courses may not be substituted for environment and resources requirements. However, a student who intends to conduct research in a foreign language area must demonstrate the necessary language proficiency.