

## Advisor and Advisory Committee

All students should begin the planning of their graduate program with the assistance of their major professor (advisor). 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. An advisor will work with you to develop a coherent program of courses and a plan of research. You should have a meeting with your advisor your first semester when together you plan your timeline and discuss common expectations including how often you should meet.

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 a Ph.D. candidate, the committee must consist of five members representing at least three different departments or schools; once again, the committee must be balanced between the natural and social sciences. The advisor will chair this committee. The committee will meet to assist the student in the certification process, and will conduct the qualifying and preliminary examination for a Ph.D. candidate and the dissertation 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.