

# Environmental Policy and Management

**E**nvironmental Policy and Management involves exploring the development and maintenance of long-term natural resource use and environmental quality. Students study the economic and social decision making that goes on in both the public and private sector. How policies are formulated and implemented and what their impact will have on society are the basis of this field of study. Students typically find work as lobbyists, environmental consultants or with additional education, as environmental attorneys. Students in this major will take courses in natural resources administration, planning, economics, environmental science and law, water, wilderness or public lands policy as well as other courses based on the students focused interests and career goals.

The Environmental Policy and Management program has designed six unique career tracks to prepare students for the following areas of specialization:

- environmental consulting,
- environmental health and safety,
- resource management,
- the non-profit sector,
- graduate school,
- and law school.

## Pursuing Environmental Policy and Management at Ohio State

Students interested in environment and natural resources should have a good high school foundation in math and science. They should have a strong desire to work with people and possess excellent written and verbal communication skills. The criteria for admission to Ohio State include completion of the applicant's high school college preparatory program, superior class rank and/or grade point average, and acceptable performance on either the ACT or SAT. All freshmen applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus. Admitted students who indicate their major as Environmental Policy and Management on their application are directly enrolled in the School of Environment and Natural Resources.

Students begin their first year by building their foundational coursework in English composition, Calculus and analytical geometry, general chemistry, introduction to environmental science, society and natural resources as well as a career exploration course. They will work with our pre-major academic advisor for the first year. Once a student has completed the foundational coursework, they will work with the academic advisor to help select a faculty member from the student's area of specialization. This faculty member will serve as their faculty advisor and mentor throughout the remainder of their degree program.

## Specialized Career Tracks

The *Environmental Consulting career track* prepares students to work in the consulting industry as authorities on statutes, regulations, and procedures relevant to natural resources

remediation and rehabilitation. Students will learn to work with engineers or serve as scientists and politicians to manage and direct projects.

The *Environmental Health and Safety career track* is for students with interest in the environmental and public health arena. Students will take specialization courses related to environmental and medical health environmental safety, city and regional planning, environmental compliance enforcement, hazardous waste policy management, soil and water policy management, and food and environmental security.

The *Resource Management Agencies career track* is for students who are interested in working for a local, state or federal agency. Students will enroll in a variety of courses that will prepare them for understanding environmental management in an agency context. Also, students will formulate a basic understanding of the functions and processes of public affairs as well as the collaborative efforts of the government and shareholders.

The *Non-Profit Sector career track* prepares students to work with non-profit and non-government organizations. Courses will include business administration, professional writing, as well as many environmental management based classes. Students interested in this area should be familiar with grassroots activism as well as public service. An internship and practicum is recommended for this career track.

The *Graduate School Preparation track* will prepare students who are interested in obtaining a higher education degree in a natural science field. Students will be required to take upper level undergraduate and some graduate level coursework. Also, students will have the opportunity to select courses that further their academic interests, have opportunities to participate in undergraduate research, and have increased exposure to scientific journals.

The *Law School Preparation career track* is for students who are planning to pursue a professional law degree in environmental or natural resources law. The coursework in this career track will focus on environmental legislation as well as scholarly writing and policy analysis. Students will take courses that emphasize policy formation, historical context and future implications.

## Co-Curricular Opportunities

Training or technical skills are an important part of working in any career field in natural resources. The School of Environment and Natural Resources has its own Career Services office to assist environment and natural resources students with one on one counseling. A counselor will help the student to identify job opportunities, assist in preparing cover letters and resumes, and preparing for interviews. They offer workshops, conduct career fairs and help students all along the way to make sure they are building a successful resume.

**For more information, check these web sites:**

**Environmental Policy and Management:**

[senr.osu.edu/undergrad/epm.html](http://senr.osu.edu/undergrad/epm.html)

**School of Environment and Natural Resources:** [senr.osu.edu](http://senr.osu.edu)

**College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences:**

[cfaes.osu.edu](http://cfaes.osu.edu)

**Ohio State:** [osu.edu](http://osu.edu)

## Curriculum Sample

This is a sample list of classes a student may take to pursue a degree in Environmental Policy and Management. Since university students need more than a specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete the General Education Curriculum (GEC). The GEC will allow students to develop the fundamental skills essential to collegiate success across major programs. Course work options satisfying the GEC often come from a variety of academic areas of study allowing students to tailor their GEC toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in Environmental Policy and Management. Consult the departmental web site, [senr.osu.edu/undergrad/epm.html](http://senr.osu.edu/undergrad/epm.html), for details on each specific track.

### Freshman Year:

|                                       |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| CFAES Survey                          | 1         |
| Mathematical Analysis for Business I  | 4         |
| Introduction to Environmental Science | 5         |
| Elementary Chemistry I & II           | 10        |
| English composition                   | 5         |
| Natural Resources Data Analysis       | 5         |
| Biology                               | 5         |
| Society & Natural Resources           | 5         |
| Survey of Park & Policy Careers       | 1         |
| Arts & Humanities course              | 5         |
| <b>Total hours</b>                    | <b>46</b> |

### Sophomore Year:

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Second Writing Course                    | 5         |
| Biology                                  | 5         |
| Microeconomics                           | 5         |
| Soil Science                             | 3         |
| History                                  | 5         |
| Env & Natural Resources 300 level course | 3         |
| Natural Resources Policy                 | 5         |
| Major Option                             | 5         |
| Arts & Humanities Course                 | 5         |
| Elective                                 | 5         |
| <b>Total hours</b>                       | <b>46</b> |

### Junior Year:

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Natural Resources Planning                | 8         |
| Perspectives of Natural Resources Admin   | 5         |
| Natural Resources Administration          | 5         |
| Environment & Natural Resources Economics | 5         |
| Evaluation of Environmental Impact        | 4         |
| Major Option                              | 12        |
| Social Science                            | 5         |
| <b>Total hours</b>                        | <b>44</b> |

### Senior Year:

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Third Writing Course                         | 5         |
| Natural Resources Management                 | 5         |
| Environment, Risk, & Decision Making: Theory | 5         |
| Advanced Policy Course                       | 5         |
| Major Option                                 | 15        |
| Elective                                     | 10        |
| <b>Total hours</b>                           | <b>45</b> |

The School of Environment and Natural Resources is administratively part of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. Collectively, there are around 35 student organizations that are directly related to majors within this area. One of those, MANRRS, Multicultural Students in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences offers leadership opportunities, role models and networking events that help students propel forward in their careers. The Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society participates in workshops to gain hands on training in wildlife management and research techniques. Environmental Policy and Management students may be interested in the Students for a Sustainable Campus or other similar organizations.

Additionally, students may find other unique opportunities in the Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Learning Community. Students will live with others who share the same interests and majors where they will get an opportunity to interact with faculty and staff, participate in structured study groups, in-hall academic advising and travel around Ohio and the U.S. on special trips.

## Honors & Scholars Programs

*ENR Scholars* live as a community in a residence hall; take several clustered courses with other ENR Scholars, and attend seminars and lectures by leading environmental researchers. In addition, ENR Scholars have the opportunity to travel to exciting domestic and international locations like Costa Rica or Iceland to expand their knowledge of various environmental issues. They travel to pursue outdoor recreational activities such as hiking, camping, and sea kayaking as well. Students are eligible for the ENR Scholars program if they are in the top 20% of their graduating class and typically have scored a 27–29 on the ACT.

The *Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Honors* program was established to challenge superior students by providing a program in greater breadth and depth and to provide special recognition and Honors Scholarships for outstanding scholastic achievement. Students in the ENR Honors program have flexibility and the ability to design their own study plan that guides their course selection and honors research. Freshman with university honors standing may be accepted directly as a candidate for the ENR Honors program. Those students will have a 30 or better ACT and be in the top 10% of their high school graduating class. Students not meeting those requirements may apply after 2 quarters of enrollment and with the completion of Math 150, Chemistry 121 and Biology 113 as well as a GPA of a 3.4 or higher.

## Career Prospects in Environmental Policy and Management

Students in Environmental Policy and Management go on to a variety of careers. Many of them will work in consulting. Students in this career field will find themselves working in conjunction with engineers, scientists, and others to evaluate findings from environmental site assessments and oversee projects to make sure compliance is being met. Students may work with environmental advocacy organizations on policy and protection issues. Many of our students go on to apply and attend law school in pursuit of becoming an environmental attorney.

**Revised July 2008.** For the most up-to-date information on the Environmental Policy and Management program, please visit [senr.osu.edu/undergrad/epm.html](http://senr.osu.edu/undergrad/epm.html).

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