Master of Arts degree in Social Science — concentration in Environment & Community

Graduate Program Coordinator
Mark Baker, Ph.D.
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Program Faculty
Janelle Adsit, English
Mark Baker, Politics
Kayla Begay, Native American Studies
Renee Byrd, Sociology
Leena Dallashesh, History
Matthew Derrick, Geography
Yvonne Everett, Environmental Science & Management
Kevin Fingerman, Environmental Science & Management
Gregg Gold, Psychology
Nikola Hobbel, English
Arne Jacobson, Environmental Resources Engineering
Matt Johnson, Wildlife
Erin Kelly, Forestry & Wildland Resources
John Meyer, Politics
Nicholas Perdue, Geography
Sarah Ray, Environmental Studies
Laurie Richmond, Environmental Science & Management
Cutcha Risling Baldy, Native American Studies
Maxwell Schnurer, Communication
Marlon Sherman, Native American Studies
Tony Silaggio, Sociology
Jessica Urban, Critical Race, Gender & Sexuality Studies [CRGS]
Noah Zerbe, Politics

The Environment & Community Program

Students completing this program will have demonstrated:

- skills to analyze the environmental consequences of economic and political structures and decisions
- tools to address issues of race, class, and gender in environment-community relationships
- an understanding of community, place, and sense of place
- knowledge of and experience in diverse approaches to social science research and action
- insight from case studies that offer a problem-solving approach to learning
- preparation for careers in teaching, government, community, and environmental organizations
- an ethic of service and civic engagement.

This is a two-year, interdisciplinary graduate program focused on understanding and advancing sustainability and community resilience within the context of social and environmental change at multiple scales. The program is committed to conceptually rigorous, applied research on sustainability and equity in a manner that transcends a nature-society dichotomy. Students explore these topics through graduate seminars in three curriculum areas: economic and political dimensions; socio-cultural dimensions: race, class, gender and place; and environmental dimensions. Capstone topics for graduate students in this program include the following general themes: sustainable food systems, community-natural resource management interactions, environmental and social justice, environmental education, Native American/indigenous natural resource management, and sustainable urban communities. Our graduates pursue successful careers in the nonprofit sector, education, private sector; and public sector.

Program Admission Requirements

Postbaccalaureate Candidate Pathway

- Completed BA or BS degree
- GPA not less than 3.00 in the last 60 units of college coursework
- Three letters of recommendation
- Candidate essay describing goals and interests
- Ten-page writing sample
- Graduate coordinator approval after faculty committee review of application file

Dual Degree Pathway (3+2 BA and MA Degree)

The E&C program has developed, in conjunction with select undergraduate majors, dual degree (3+2) pathways that enable exceptional students to simultaneously earn a bachelor's and a master's degree in five years. Although the pathway does not change undergraduate major or graduate degree requirements, students in the program seamlessly progress from undergraduate to graduate status. Students are eligible to apply for the pathway upon completion of 50 units. A faculty committee evaluates student applications. Participation is based on prior academic performance and other measures of academic excellence. Contact the E&C coordinator for majors that participate.

Requirements for the Degree

For a description of degree requirements to be fulfilled in addition to those listed below, see "The Master's Degree" section of the catalog, pp. 83-84.

Total Units Required for the Degree: 36

Required Courses (15 units)

Complete during first semester:
EC 610 (3) Environment & Community Research

Complete three semesters (3 units total) of:
EC 615 (1) Graduate Colloquium

Complete 6 units of:
EC 690 (1-6) Master's Thesis or Project

Complete 3 units of field research or independent study:
EC 695 (1-3) Field Research

Approved Electives (6 units)

Complete one 3-unit research methods elective, chosen from an approved list, to be completed no later than the third semester.

Complete one additional course at the graduate or upper-division undergraduate level from a list of elective options approved by the graduate coordinator.

Graduate Seminars (15 units)

Complete at least one seminar from each of the following three curriculum areas. Seminars are developed by the advisory committee comprised of program faculty.

Economic & Political Dimensions
EC 620 (3) Economic & Political Dimensions, or
ENGR 532 (4) Energy, Environment, & Society

Course topics including: Politics of Sustainability, Globalism, Capitalism, and Environment, Political Ecology

Socio-Cultural Dimensions
EC 630 (3) Socio-Cultural Dimensions
Course topics including: Community and Place, Klamath River Issues, Socioeconomic issues of Natural Resources in the Mattole

Ecological Dimensions
EC 640 (3) Ecological Dimensions
Course topics including: Ecosystems and Society, Conservation Ecology and Society