Environmental Sciences Graduate Major (MA, MS, PhD, PSM)

Graduate Areas of Concentration
Biogeochemistry, ecology, environmental education, natural resources, quantitative analysis, social science, water resources

The Environmental Sciences Graduate Program provides curricula leading to MA, MS and PhD degrees in Environmental Science. The curricula integrates thinking across disciplines, especially life, physical, and social sciences. Environmental science explores natural processes on earth and their alteration by human activity. OSU has exceptional strength in many of the disciplines, including science, agriculture, forestry, engineering, public health, liberal arts, social science, and oceanography and atmospheric science. Strength in these disciplines allows the ES Graduate Program to provide high-quality interdisciplinary education for environmental scientists and continuing postgraduate educational opportunities to scientists who are already active in the field. The degrees administered by the program are OSU’s contribution to the Joint-Campus Graduate Program for Environmental Sciences, Studies, and Policy, which links environmental graduate programs among the major research universities in Oregon.

The ES Graduate Program develops scientists who will be able to analyze and understand environmental systems, predict environmental change, and participate in the management of the environment. Each student completing a major in the ES Graduate Program will perform research and complete a thesis, dissertation, or research project. Each student will complete a core of ES graduate courses that will integrate concepts across the physical sciences, life sciences, and social sciences. Each student will also develop depth in a carefully designed, interdisciplinary area of concentration or track. Tracks that are currently available include ecology, biogeochemistry, social science, quantitative analysis, water resources, and environmental education. Methods and numerical skill courses, electives, and thesis make up the remainder of a student’s program.

Students in the ES Graduate Program may choose advisors from faculty members already appointed at OSU, as well as other scientists who apply and are accepted in the environmental sciences graduate faculty. The Environmental Sciences Graduate Program fosters interdisciplinary education, and seeks connections between institutions.
Degree Requirements

MA and MS Degrees (45 credits)
Environmental science core courses (9)
Methods and numerical skills courses (6)
ES area of concentration (Track) (15)
Elective courses (3–9)
Thesis (6–12)
Note: The MA degree requires proficiency in a foreign language.

PhD Degree (108 credits)

Environmental sciences core courses (10)
Methods and numerical skills courses (9)
ES area of concentration (Track) (30)
Elective courses (3–23)
Thesis (36–56)

Professional Science Master’s Degree in Environmental Science

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The Professional Science Master’s degree in Environmental Sciences (PSM@ENSC) provides advanced training for early- and mid-career professionals with a need for expertise in environmental sciences. Preferably applicants would have at least two years of experience working in the environmental field, but this is not mandatory for admission. The PSM@ENSC degree is offered as a non-thesis program only. Students have an advisor and graduate committee to review their program of study, provide career and internship advice, and evaluate a final report based on the internship or project experience.

PSM Degrees Requirements (45 credits)

Environmental Sciences core courses (9 credits)
Numerical skills (6–8 credits)
Environmental Sciences track electives (8–10 credits)
Professional core courses (8 credits)
Professional electives (6 credits)
Internship or project (6 credits)

For general information about the PSM@ENSC degree option, visit the website: http://psm.science.oregonstate.edu/environmental-sciences or contact the Interim Director of Environmental Sciences, Carolyn Fonyo Boggess at carolyn.fonyo@oregonstate.edu or 541-760-4196.

Course substitutions must be approved by the program advisor. Many of our courses are offered through Ecampus, but some may be offered through Corvallis, Cascades or Hatfield Marine Science Center. Please check course offerings through the online catalog or consult with the program advisor.
**Major Code:** 6420