ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, MASTER OF (M.ENV.S.)

Program goal
The goal of the Master of Environmental Studies (M.Envs.) degree program is to provide an interdisciplinary master's degree program in environmental studies that emphasizes the critical links between environmental life sciences and public policy. This goal necessitates training that crosses disciplinary boundaries. Through a program of study combining environmental science, environmental technology and environmental policy, the successful graduate will gain a range of skills designed to facilitate a science-based understanding of the natural world and human interactions with it. The M.Envs. is specifically designed to provide students with professional training to prepare them for careers involving leadership in environmental science and policy.

Student learning outcomes
1. Graduates will be able to use emerging environmental technologies and apply them under real-world conditions.
2. Graduates will be able to conduct objective research and/or interpret research findings, and apply scientific concepts and information to the decision-making process for environmental regulations and policies.
3. Graduates will be able to effectively bridge the realms of policy and science on critical environmental issues and be able to make significant contributions in an interdisciplinary professional and academic environment.
4. Graduates will possess a sophisticated and practical understanding of methods for collection, analysis, presentation and critical interpretation of environmental data using appropriate statistical and quantitative tools.

VCU Graduate Bulletin, VCU Graduate School and general academic policies and regulations for all graduate students in all graduate programs
The VCU Graduate Bulletin website documents the official admission and academic rules and regulations that govern graduate education for all graduate programs at the university. These policies are established by the graduate faculty of the university through their elected representatives to the University Graduate Council.

It is the responsibility of all graduate students, both on- and off-campus, to be familiar with the VCU Graduate Bulletin as well as the Graduate School website (http://www.granduate.vcu.edu/) and academic regulations in individual school and department publications and on program websites. However, in all cases, the official policies and procedures of the University Graduate Council, as published on the VCU Graduate Bulletin and Graduate School websites, take precedence over individual program policies and guidelines.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-reg/)
Students admitted to the program are generally drawn from applicants with a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale or equivalent). Applicants holding an undergraduate degree from recognized foreign institutions should display an acceptable level of English proficiency by achieving a minimum score of 600 on the TOEFL paper-based examination or 100 on the Internet-based examination.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/graduation-info/), students must:

1. Complete a minimum of 33 graduate credit hours, approved by the program director, with an overall minimum GPA of 3.0 on all graduate coursework attempted after acceptance into the program (At least one-half of required course work must be at the 600 level or higher.)
2. Complete three required core courses (9 credit hours)
3. Complete an additional 21 credit hours of approved graduate electives
4. Complete 3 credit hours of practical experience (either 3 credit hours of internship or independent study)
5. Successfully complete a comprehensive oral examination administered by three faculty members

**Curriculum requirements**

### Core requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 601</td>
<td>Survey in Environmental Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 603</td>
<td>Environmental Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 543</td>
<td>Statistical Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
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**Practical experience**

Select three credit hours from the following: 1

- ENVS 692 Independent Study
- ENVS 693 Internship in Environmental Studies

Select courses from electives list below 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 650</td>
<td>Pesticides, Health and the Environment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 655</td>
<td>Hydrogeology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 670</td>
<td>Pollution Physiology</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

**Total Hours**

33

**The minimum total of graduate credit hours required for this degree is 33.**

The center offers opportunities for qualified undergraduate students to earn both an undergraduate and graduate degree in a minimum of five years by completing approved graduate courses during the senior year of their undergraduate program. See the program page in the Undergraduate Bulletin (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/vcu-life-sciences/center-environmental-studies/environmental-studies-bs/#acceleratedbsandmenvstext) for details.

**Contact**

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**Program website:** vcu.edu/cesweb (http://vcu.edu/cesweb/)