NATURAL RESOURCES AMP

All students must meet the Requirements for the Accelerated Master’s Degree Programs

OVERVIEW

The Accelerated Master’s Degree Program (AMP) in Rubenstein is designed to give select UVM undergraduate students the opportunity to earn a Bachelor’s and a Master’s Degree in Natural Resources in 5 years. This option is only available for the thesis, and not the project, masters in Natural Resources.

Following admission to the Graduate College, students may earn up to 9 credits toward the MS degree in Natural Resources during their BS/BA, six of these credits also count toward their BS/BA. The three additional credits taken for the MS during their undergraduate degree program cannot count toward the BS/BA degree. The remaining 21 credits will be fulfilled after completion of the BA/BS when the MS degree becomes the primary curriculum.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for Admission to Graduate Studies for the Degree of Master of Science

Students should apply for admission into the Accelerated Master’s Degree Program (AMP) in the Rubenstein School in the beginning of the spring semester of their junior year, but can apply in their first semester of their junior year as well. Consideration for admission requires the following:

- A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00.
- Identification of a research advisor.
- Completion of the Graduate College Application form:
  - Three letters of recommendation from UVM faculty members: one letter must be from the proposed MS advisor in the Rubenstein School, one must be from another UVM faculty member, and one from the program director.
  - Address the work to be conducted as part of your statement of purpose to the grad college

Students must be admitted through the Graduate College before taking any courses that will count toward their MS degree requirements. Students taking 200 level courses approved for graduate credit as part of the AMP must notify the faculty that they are taking this course as a graduate student before the class begins. Students are expected to start their MS research in the summer/semester following their undergraduate graduation. Students who graduate in January (and not May) can begin their master’s research in the spring semester and are expected to continue research in the summer.

Minimum Degree Requirements

The master of science requires from fifteen to twenty-seven credits of course work in related fields (including NR 395: Applied Ecology, Environment and Society, and NR 306: Envisioning a Sustainable Future), a public research seminar presented at the annual graduate student symposium, a research proposal, a comprehensive examination, and six to fifteen credits of thesis research.

Comprehensive Examination

A written comprehensive examination is required for all master’s students. Generally taken during a students third or fourth semester, the examination will cover broad knowledge of the student’s discipline. The details and format of the examination and its form (written or oral or both depending on the requirements of each concentration) are decided upon by the Studies Committee and will be discussed with the student well in advance of the exam.

Requirements for Advancement to Candidacy for the Degree of Master of Science

Successful completion of any required courses, and at least 15 graded graduate credits earned in compilation of the graduate GPA. A GPA of 3.00 or greater is also required.

AQUATIC ECOLOGY AND WATERSHED SCIENCE CONCENTRATION

The Aquatic Ecology and Watershed Science concentration provides students with advanced understanding of aquatic ecosystems and their watersheds, and the skills and methodologies required to analyze and solve technical problems concerning the effects of human activities on these systems. Current areas of research emphasis include watershed processes and management; stream and lake ecology; fish ecology and fisheries management; aquatic ecotoxicology; pollutant studies; biogeochemical dynamics, and the modeling of aquatic systems, processes and populations.

Minimum Degree Requirements

In addition to the general M.S. in Natural Resources requirements, this concentration requires enrollment in a one credit special topics seminar organized by faculty and students in the concentration, and at least twelve additional credits of course work in the aquatic and watershed sciences, or supportive fields (approved by the student’s graduate studies committee). Students in this concentration pursue a thesis and must complete a minimum of six thesis research credits.

ENVIRONMENT, SOCIETY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS CONCENTRATION

Through the M.S. concentration in Environment, Society and Public Affairs, graduate students build theoretical understanding, analytical skills, and applied knowledge in the social dimensions of environmental and natural resource issues. Specific areas in which students may build understanding, skills, and knowledge include:

- environmental policy and planning
- community studies, human behavior, and environmental sociology
- ecological economics
- park and wilderness management
• public participation, conflict resolution, and decision making
• geospatial analysis

**Minimum Degree Requirements**

In addition to the general M.S. in Natural Resources requirements, this concentration requires twenty-one to twenty-four credits of advanced courses (including a methods course, three courses reflecting this concentration's emphasis, and one ecology course), and six credits of thesis research. Students pursue a thesis.

**ENVIRONMENTAL THOUGHT AND CULTURE CONCENTRATION**

In this concentration graduate students build interdisciplinary analytical skills and theoretical understanding of environmental and natural resource issues, with a focus on their human, ethical, and cultural dimensions. Specific areas include: environmental communication and cultural studies; environmental education and interpretation; environmental ethics and philosophy; environment, development, peace, and global justice studies; environmental politics and advocacy; religion and environment; sustainability; and sustainable development.

**Minimum Degree Requirements**

In addition to the general M.S. in Natural Resources requirements, this concentration requires eighteen to twenty-one credits of advanced courses and fifteen credits in a specialization within environmental thought and culture, and six to nine credits of thesis research. Students pursue a thesis.

**FORESTRY CONCENTRATION**

The goal of this Master of Science concentration is to provide graduate students with advanced training in forest science and the opportunity to further their knowledge and proficiency in some specialized aspect of forestry. The faculty has research interests which span the broad areas of ecology, management, pathology, physiological ecology, sustainable forestry, and community forestry.

**Minimum Degree Requirements**

In addition to the general M.S. in Natural Resources requirements, this concentration requires eighteen to twenty-one credits of advanced forestry and related courses, a comprehensive examination with both a written and oral component, and six to nine credits of thesis research. Students pursue a thesis.

**WILDLIFE BIOLOGY CONCENTRATION**

This Master of Science concentration is designed to provide a vehicle for a wildlife biologist to develop research abilities and pursue a specialized course of study. Current areas of research emphasis include applied avian ecology, behavioral ecology, game management, nongame wildlife populations, reserve design, and landscape ecology.

**Minimum Degree Requirements**

In addition to the general M.S. in Natural Resources requirements, the Wildlife Biology concentration requires eighteen to twenty-one credits of course work in wildlife and related fields, a comprehensive examination with both a written and oral component, and six to nine credits of thesis research. Students pursue a thesis.