

JD/MA in Environment and Natural Resources Student Handbook

Joint degree description

Environment and Natural Resources and Law (JD/MA)
Doctor of Jurisprudence/Master of Arts

Offered by UW College of Law and the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), this concurrent degree program results in two degrees in three or four years. Coursework and thesis research provide exposure to interdisciplinary content, analytical tools and problem-solving skills used to address complex natural resource issues.

Students who earn a JD/MA have a variety of professional opportunities available to them, and in addition to practicing with top regional law firms, graduating students may take positions in academia, policy development, private industry, NGO's and non-profits, and local, state, and federal government agencies.

For more information:

Haub School of ENR, University of Wyoming, <http://www.uwyo.edu/enr/enr>

Contact: Courtney Carlson, Assistant Director, 307-766-2068, ccarlso9@uwyo.edu

Admissions process and requirements

1. Students are encouraged to submit an application to the MA ENR joint degree program concurrently with submitting an application to the College of Law. While ENR coursework does not usually begin until the second year of law school, mentoring and academic planning for JD/MA students may begin during year one. Students may apply to add the MA in ENR at any point during their JD program, although adding the dual degree later may delay graduation from both programs.
2. Beginning January 2011, students making application to the joint degree program must submit to the Haub School of ENR:
 - a. Copy of the LSAC report
Note: Students should make a written request to the College of Law to release this report to the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources
 - b. Three letters of recommendation
 - c. Curriculum vitae
 - d. Three-page Statement of Purpose
 - i. The statement of purpose should outline the student's goals in the Environment and Natural Resources program and beyond, explain the way in which the JD/MA in ENR will help achieve those goals, and describe relevant prior training and experience. The statement should also discuss the student's research interests and potential topics and approaches for the Plan B thesis.

Prospective students are evaluated on past academic success, potential to succeed in a rigorous interdisciplinary program, and clarity of purpose in their interest in the joint degree program.

Tuition and fees

1. Beginning January 2011, students will be assessed tuition at differential rates. College of Law coursework will be billed at the current College of Law tuition rate. Courses taken at any of the other UW colleges for inclusion in the MA ENR program of study will be billed at the applicable tuition and fee rate.

Note: See Accounts Receivable for an updated schedule of Tuition, Fees, and Expenses (<http://www.uwyo.edu/fsbo/accounts-receivable/index.html>).

2. Full-time students may be eligible for merit-based scholarships and grants administered through the Haub School of ENR. A current list of opportunities is available through the Haub School web page (<http://www.uwyo.edu/enr/haub-school/index.html>).

Coursework

During the second, third, and possibly fourth years of the degree program, each JD/MA student must satisfactorily complete a minimum of 30 credit hours in the ENR, Law, and distribution courses (see the last page for current curriculum guidelines). An updated list of courses that satisfy the MA ENR requirements will be maintained by the Assistant Director of the Haub School, will be reviewed and revised as necessary by the faculty advisory committee, and will be available to students prior to the start of each fall semester. Courses not on the list may qualify, with approval of the instructor, the Assistant Director of the Haub School, and the student's committee.

Early in their academic program but after formation of their thesis committee, students must complete a Program of Study form, which outlines the courses they expect to take.

Internship

Students must complete a 3-credit internship, ideally between their first and second years of law school (although the internship may be completed earlier or later in certain circumstances). Unlike law internships or externships, the ENR internship should primarily involve hands-on and applied experiences with natural resource management. Work in a law office or similar setting is not allowed. Some examples of appropriate internship locations include the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Wyoming State Parks, non-governmental organizations, or the energy industry. Students may work in Wyoming or elsewhere, and may be paid. It is the student's responsibility to identify and apply for internships, in consultation with ENR advisor, Courtney Carlson. Please see the ENR website and the weekly ENR newsletter for internship opportunities.

College of Law's Policy on Use of Non-Law Courses

Second and third year law students may earn up to 6 of the 89 hours required for the J.D. in non-law school graduate-level courses. Students in a joint degree program who use 9 graduate credit hours toward their J.D. degree may reduce their required number of graded credits from 76 to 73, in order to allow them to participate in other S/U offerings at the College of Law.

In order to receive law school credit for the non-law school course, a student will be required to earn a

grade of “B” or better in the non-law school course. The grade will not count, however, toward the student’s law school GPA. (The course will be counted as a “satisfactory” grade for purposes of the student’s law school GPA.) Students who wish to enroll in a non-law school graduate course on this basis must secure the prior approval of the course professor and of the Associate Dean of the College of Law. Approval will be based on the student’s submission of a brief written statement explaining how the proposed coursework relates to and enhances the student’s legal education.

Students should be aware that non-law school graduate courses completed on this basis will not count toward the 76 hours (73 hours for students in joint degree programs who used 9 graduate credits toward their J.D.) that students must complete in graded courses as a requirement for graduation. The non-law school coursework will instead be counted toward the 13 (or 16 for joint degree students) of 89 credits that law students are permitted to take on an S-U basis.

Master’s thesis – Plan B Guidelines and Expectations

The Plan B project serves as an independent research activity in the JD/MA program. To satisfy the Plan B thesis requirement, a student will produce a substantive, intellectually rigorous, and original work that deepens the student's knowledge of the interface of law and environment and natural resource issues.

Research Component & Synthesis of Research

All Plan B projects must have a research component that leads to original thought, synthesis, or integration of relevant elements of legal scholarship with issues pertinent to environmental or natural resource management. This does not necessarily require the collection of new data, but a simple literature review that offers no novel insights or analyses is not sufficient to satisfy the Plan B requirement. On the other hand, students are welcome to conduct primary research, including data collection and analysis, recognizing that data collection may add time to the student’s program.

The Plan B project should be written or created over the course of the student’s academic program, typically beginning in year two of law school. The student is encouraged to begin discussing a Plan B topic with his or her MA advisor concurrently with the development of an overall plan of study. While there is flexibility in what form an acceptable Plan B project will take, all Plan B projects must be negotiated by the student and his or her MA committee (composed of at least three members, representing some combination of College of Law and non-Law faculty) through an explicit proposal of the work to be completed.

Examples of acceptable Plan B projects include, but are not limited to:

- A 40–60 page paper (double-spaced), ideally written for submission to a peer-reviewed publication, which explains and synthesizes an important legal/ENR idea. Shorter and longer papers are possible, depending on the nature of the work and intended audience.
- Proposed draft legislation or regulations that pertain to a particular legal/ENR issue, accompanied by a narrative discussion of the considerations that guided development of the proposal.
- A paper prepared as a law review article for submission to the Wyoming Law Review (or other similar law review) on a legal/ENR issue, whether ultimately accepted for publication or not. For instance, the Plan B research might become a law review comment article, which deals with both legal and non-legal aspects of a particular issue.

Project Proposal

The student must prepare a proposal with citations to relevant literature, which outlines the proposed Plan B thesis topic. The thesis proposal should be presented in a committee meeting and must be approved by the committee. The thesis proposal should first outline the purpose or need for the proposed research and then clearly outline the objectives of the thesis, including any analytical methods to be used. It is strongly advised that the proposal be defended by the end of the student's 2nd year of law school, or at least two semesters prior to expected graduation.

Project Defense

The final Plan B Paper or Project must be reviewed and accepted by the MA committee. The Plan B paper or project should be delivered to the student's committee at least two weeks prior to the scheduled defense. The defense of the project requires a formal 30-45 minute presentation in which the student presents research results and conclusions to his or her committee and peers. In addition, the thesis will be submitted to the Haub School as well as for publication by ProQuest (more details available at <http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/registrar/graddegreeinfo.asp>)

Key JD/MA milestones, typical timeline, and required forms

Benchmark	Typical time frame	Required form
Admission - Apply to the JD/MA degree option concurrently with JD application	October-March of the academic year prior to the year of admission. Note that admitted Law students are also welcome to apply to the joint degree program during their second year.	None. See "Admissions process" above for specific guidelines on assembling an application.
Internship	Summer between Year 1 and 2	Internship Agreement Form (available from Courtney Carlson)
Assemble thesis committee – work with Nicole Korfanta to identify a primary advisor and potential committee members	Year 1 or very early in Year 2	Committee Assignment Form http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/uwgrad/info.asp?p=3341
Present thesis proposal to committee (generally, students also will obtain approval of their Program of Study at this time)	Year 2	Program of Study Form http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/uwgrad/info.asp?p=3341
Coursework	Years 2 and 3	Each semester of the degree program, students should check their degree evaluations on WyoWeb to ensure that courses are being applied to their degree program correctly.
Thesis presentation and defense. Advertise thesis presentation via flyers in the Law School, Haub School, and elsewhere. Post defense announcement in ENR electronic newsletter (contact Courtney Carlson).	Year 3 or 4. Thesis defense must occur at least two weeks prior to graduation.	Final Examination Results Form http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/uwgrad/info.asp?p=3341
Submit revised thesis to the Haub School and via ProQuest	Year 3 or 4	None. More information at http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/registrar/graddegreeinfo.asp
Declare intent to graduate	Submitted early in the semester of graduation. <i>Important</i> <i>JD/MA students must submit two forms – one for their JD degree and another for their MA degree.</i>	Anticipated Graduation Date Form http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/registrar/graddegreeinfo.asp

Key contacts

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307-766-2068

Bim Kendall House, Room 110

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- Admissions
- ENR course advising

Nicole Korfanta, Associate Director, Environment and Natural Resources
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Bim Kendall House, Room 107

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- Thesis advising

Deb Donahue, Professor of Law
307-766-2191

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College of Law, Room 204

- Primary law faculty contact

Lori Lewis, Deputy Director of Admissions and Student Services, UW College of Law
307-766-3359

College of Law, Room 108

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- Law admissions

Christine Michel, Alumni Relations, UW College of Law
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JD/MA of Environment and Natural Resources
Curriculum requirements (revised Feb. 2011)

1. ENR Core Courses - 6 credit hours

- ENR 5000 Approches to ENR Problem-Solving (3 credits; fall). Explores important environmental policy, collaborative and adaptive decision-making and the integration of diverse disciplines in the study and resolution of complex ENR challenges. This is the first course in the ENR Capstone series (along with ENR 5900) and students should take both capstone courses in the same academic year.
- ENR 5900 Solving Multidisciplinary Problems in ENR. (3 credits; spring). Participation in a multidisciplinary research team to solve a real or simulated problem in environment and natural resources. Prerequisites: graduate standing and ENR 5000.

2. Distribution Courses - 9 credit hours (one course from each category)

A. Human Dimensions		B. ENR Science and Engineering	
AMST 4640	Art and Ecology	ATSC 4010	Atmospheric Processes
AMST 5300	American Culture and the Public Sector	ATSC 5880	Atmospheric Science Problems
AMST 5400	American Built Environment	BOT 4745/5745	Terrestrial Ecosystem Ecology
ANTH 5310	Environmental Anthropology	BOT 5700	Vegetation Ecology
ENGL 4480	Regional Literature of the US: The West	BOT 5780	Biogeochemistry
GEOG 4500	American Landscapes	CHE 4000	Environment, Technology, and Society
GEOG 5880	Images of Wyoming and the West	ENVE 5895	Environmental Engineering Seminar
GEOG 5880	Contested Landscapes	ENR 5890	Energy and Environment
GEOG 5880	Experience of Place	GEOG 5450	Fluvial Geomorphology
GEOG 5540	Topics in Cultural Ecology	GEOG 4460	Biogeography
HIST 5475	American Environmental History	GEOG 5470	Fire Ecology
PHIL/RNEW 5340	Issues in Environmental Ethics	G&R 5060	Landscape Ecology
POLS 4052	Federal Land Politics	GEOL 4490	Geochemistry
POLS 5051	Environmental Politics and Administration	GEOL 4880	Earth Surface Processes
REWM 4900	Rangeland Management Planning	GEOL 5444	Geohydrology
SOC 4110	Sociology of International Development	GEOL 5777	Geochemistry of Natural Waters
WMST 4580	Women and Third World Development	PATB 5140	Principles of Toxicology
SOC 5600	Global Population Issues	REWM 5285	Wildland Hydrology
		REWM 4700	Wildland Watershed Management
		REWM 5710	Watershed Water Quality Mangement
		REWM 4850	Rangeland Vegetation Management
		REWM 5000	Rangeland Resource Management
		ZOO 4425	Genetic Markers
		ZOO 5300	Principles of Wildlife Ecology and Mgmt.
		ZOO 5310	Fisheries Management
		ZOO 5430	Ecology of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosys
		ZOO 5550	Wetland Ecology
C. Quantitative/Qualitative Methods			
AGEC 5450	Negotiation	GEOG 5300	GPS for Natural Resource Management
EDRE 5550	Action Research	GEOG 4880-4	Spatial Modeling (Topic of current interest)
EDRE 5600	Educational Research I: Survey Research	GEO/BOT 5111	Remote Sensing of the Environment
EDRE 5640	Intro. to Qualitative Research in Education	REWM 5200	Spatial Analysis of Watersheds & Ecosyst.
ENR 4890	Applied GIS	STAT 5050	Statistical Methods for the Bio. Sciences
ENR 5500	Risk Analysis	STAT 5070	Statistical Methods for the Social Sciences
ENR 5890	Negotiation Analysis	STAT 5080	Statistical Methods for the Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences
GEOG 4200/4210	Geographic Information Sciences I/II	STAT 5450	Biological Sampling and Estimation of Animal Abundance
GEOG 4280/5280	Quantitative Methods in Geography		

3. College of Law Courses - 12 credit hours of environmental or natural resources law courses

LAW 6510-01	Administrative Law (Fall, 3)	LAW 6890-01	Land Use law (Spring, 3)
LAW 6660-01	Environmental Law (Spring, 3)	LAW 6910	Seminar: Endangered Species Act (Spring, 2)
LAW 6735-01	Native American Natural Resources Law (Spring, 3)	LAW 6910	Seminar: Advanced Water Rights (Spring, 2)
LAW 6780-01	Mining law (Spring, 2)	LAW 6915-01	Environmental Policy -Topics in Law (Fall, 3)
LAW 6790-01	Oil and Gas (Fall, 3)	LAW 6915-04	EENR Practicum - Topics in Law (Fall, 3)
LAW 6800-01	Public Lands (Spring, 3)	LAW 6915	Energy & Climate Policy - Topics in Law (Spring, 3)
LAW 6860-01	Water Rights (Spring, 3)	LAW 6915	International Oil & Gas Law - Topics in Law (Spring, 2)
LAW 6865-01	Natural Resources Law (Fall, 3)		

4. Internship - 3 ENR credit hours (TBD in consultation with ENR advisor)

5. Plan B thesis