



JD/MA in Environment and Natural Resources Student Handbook



Overview of Doctor of Jurisprudence/Master of Arts in Environment & Natural Resources (JD/MA ENR)

Law students accepted into the University of Wyoming (UW) are invited to add a joint Juris Doctor/Master of Arts in Environment and Natural Resources (JD/MA ENR) to their degree program.

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

JD/MA ENR students collaborate across campus to practice critical thinking and collaborative problem solving for natural resource challenges. You'll take on a Plan B thesis project to research an environment and natural resources challenge of your choice. You'll also learn with Haub School graduate students who bring expertise from a range of disciplines. Students who earn a JD/MA ENR have a variety of professional opportunities available to them; in addition to traditional practice in a law firms, graduating students may take positions in academia, policy development, private industry, non-profits, and local, state, and federal government agencies.

Learning Outcomes

Students in the JD/MA ENR will:

- Be conversant across a range of fields of environmental significance, spanning science and technology, policy and regulation, to human dimensions of natural resources;
- Understand and evaluate the relationship of their disciplines to other relevant ENR fields; and
- Produce discourse, scholarship, and practical solutions that address the complexity of ENR challenges.

Admissions Process and Requirements

Application Time Frame

We accept and evaluate applications on a rolling basis. **There is no due date for applications.** However, students are encouraged to submit an application to the JD/MA ENR degree program concurrently with submitting an application to the College of Law. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact Doug Wachob wachob@uwyo.edu or Temple Stoellinger tstoelli@uwyo.edu prior to submitting their application to discuss the program.

Students may apply to add the JD/MA ENR at any point before or during their law program, although adding the dual degree later may delay graduation from both programs. Graduation

with the JD/MA ENR degree is simultaneous with the JD degree, i.e., you will not graduate with the JD until the JD/MA ENR degree is completed.

Application Evaluation

Haub School faculty evaluate applications based on the following criteria:

- Past academic success;
- Potential to succeed in a rigorous interdisciplinary program; and
- Clarity of purpose and interest in the JD/MA ENR program.

Application Packet

Applicants to the JD/MA ENR program must submit the following as a digital packet to the Haub School of ENR:

- Statement of Purpose (~ 1500 words) addressing the following:
 - State your goals for the JD/MA ENR program;
 - Outline your career aspirations;
 - Explain how the JD/MA ENR program will help achieve your goals and career aspirations;
 - Describe relevant prior experience and research interests; and
 - Outline potential topics or areas of interest for the Plan B thesis.
- Curriculum vitae
- Copy of your LSAC report
 - Note: Students must make a written request to Lisa Nunley (lisa.nunley@uwyo.edu) at the College of Law to release this report to the Haub School.
- Three letters of recommendation
 - Two letters may be copies of recommendation letters submitted with College of Law application.
 - One letter must specifically address your qualifications for the JD/MA ENR degree.
 - Letters of recommendation may be sent via email directly from the recommender to Temple Stoellinger and Doug Wachob (see contact information below).

Submit your digital application packet via email to **both** of the following Haub School faculty:

Doug Wachob, Academic Programs Director
Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources
307-766-5081, Bim Kendall House Room 203, wachob@uwyo.edu

Temple Stoellinger, Assistant Professor
Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources
307-766-6450, College of Law Room 118, tstoelli@uwyo.edu

Coursework

Each JD/MA ENR student must satisfactorily complete 30 credit hours in ENR, ENR Law, ENR Internship and Plan B thesis. Most coursework is completed during years 2 and 3. Students must complete a Program of Study Form ([Graduate Student Forms](#)) in consultation with a Haub School advisor and the student's graduate committee. The Program of Study outlines the courses the student will take. The student's graduate thesis committee must approve this plan.

While ENR coursework does not usually begin until the second year of law school, mentoring and academic planning for JD/MA ENR students should begin during your first year.

Program Summary

- ENR Coursework – 15 credits
 - 2 required ENR core courses (6 credits)
 - 3 elective courses selected from 7 ENR categories (9 credits)
- ENR Law Coursework – 12 credits
 - 4 ENR Law courses selected from 14 Law courses
- Plan B Thesis Seminar – 1 credit
 - A seminar course providing instruction on the Plan B Thesis requirements. This course is suggested to be taken during your 2L year.
- Plan B Thesis – 2 credits
 - Student will produce an interdisciplinary, rigorous, and original work that deepens the student's knowledge of the interface of law and ENR issues.

ENR Coursework

Required ENR coursework includes 5 courses for 15 credits:

ENR Core Courses – 2 required courses for 6 credits

- Approaches to Environmental Problem Solving (ENR 5000)
- Environmental Assessment (ENR 5900) - Domestic (Section 1) or International (Section 2)

ENR Electives – Choose 3 elective courses for 9 credits. Your electives should inform your thesis.

An updated list of courses that satisfy the JD/MA ENR requirements is maintained by the Haub School, and will be available to students prior to the start of each fall semester. Courses not on the list may qualify for ENR electives, with approval the Haub School advisor and the student's graduate committee.

ENR Law Coursework

Required ENR Law coursework includes 4 elective courses in environmental or natural resources law for 12 credits. Courses include (but are not limited to):

- Administrative Law (LAW 6510)
- Environmental Law (LAW 6660)
- Native American Natural Resource Law (LAW 6735)
- Mining Law (LAW 6780)
- Oil & Gas Law (LAW 6790)
- Public Lands (LAW 6800)
- Water Law (LAW 6860)

- Advanced Water Law (LAW 6915)
- Advanced Water Law & Policy: Field Seminar (LAW 6910)
- Indian Law (6700)
- Climate Change and Policy (LAW 6915)
- Land Use Law (LAW 6890)
- Seminar: Endangered Species Act (LAW 6910)
- Seminar: Advanced Water Rights (LAW 6910)
- Environmental Policy – Topics (LAW 6915)
- Energy & Climate Policy – Topics (LAW 6915)
- International Oil & Gas Law –Topics (LAW 6915)

College of Law Policy on Use of Non-Law Courses

The following applies to coursework for the JD degree and does not apply to the ENR Coursework portion of the JD/MA ENR.

For *non*-JD/MA ENR students, the College of Law permits up to 6 credits of graduate courses from non-law departments to apply to the required 90 credit hours for the JD degree. Of the 90 credits, 14 credits may be graded S/U and 76 credits graded by standard letter grades. The 6 non-law credits can only be applied as S/U credits (B or better to earn an “S” grade).

However, JD/MA ENR students may use 9 non-law graduate credits toward their JD degree, thereby reducing 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.

To receive law school credit for a 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.

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 JD/MA ENR who used 9 graduate credits toward their JD) that students must complete in graded courses as a requirement for graduation. The non-law school coursework will instead be counted toward the 14 (or 17 for joint degree students) of 90 credits that law students are permitted to take on an S/U basis.

Plan B Master’s Thesis – Guidelines and Expectations

The Plan B thesis serves as the independent research activity in the JD/MA ENR program. To satisfy the Plan B thesis requirements, a student will produce a substantive, interdisciplinary, intellectually rigorous, and original work that contributes to scholarship and understanding of complex ENR issues. Completing this work will serve to deepen the student’s understanding and simultaneously provide scholarly value to society.

The graduate committee functions to guide the student in developing and approving a program of study, design of the Plan B thesis, requirements for completion of the degree, and acceptance of final Plan B thesis. Once you have identified a topic or area of interest for the Plan B thesis the following steps are recommended.

Step 1: Select Chairperson

The primary role of the chairperson (senior or major professor) is to serve as the supervisor overseeing the design, implementation, and completion of the Plan B thesis. The chairperson also oversees formation of the committee and program of study, and chairs the committee meetings, including the final defense. The chairperson is the student's primary resource for completion of the Plan B thesis. The ENR Advisor can assist with suggestions for a primary advisor and committee members.

Step 2: Select Graduate Committee

The primary role of the graduate committee is to approve the program of study, assist the student with study design and review and approve the final Plan B thesis. The graduate committee, constructed by the student and chairperson, consists of at least three members from faculty approved by Academic Affairs to serve on master's committees:

- **Chairperson** Faculty from Haub School or another department. May not be from College of Law faculty.
- **Outside Member** Faculty member of a department **other** than Haub School or College of Law. Must be a tenured professor.
- **Third Member** Faculty member from the College of Law or Haub School
- **Optional External Member** Person serving as an optional, fourth voting member. The external member is a faculty member at a peer institution or an individual holding professional expertise. The external member cannot replace the outside member.

Step 3: Draft Program of Study

In consultation with your chairperson and ENR advisor, draft a program of study that serves your future career goals and your Plan B thesis development. Program of study should be drafted concurrently with the Plan B thesis proposal.

Step 4: Propose Plan B Thesis Study Design

The student must prepare a proposal that outlines the proposed Plan B thesis. The thesis proposal should be presented in a committee meeting no later than the end of the student's second year of law school and must be approved by the committee. The proposal should outline the following:

- Purpose or need for the proposed research;
- Objectives of the thesis;
- Study Design – data collection, analytical methods; and
- Relevant literature.

Types of Plan B Theses

All Plan B theses must have a research component that leads to original thought, synthesis, or integration of relevant legal scholarship to issues pertinent to environmental or natural resource management.

Three broad categories of Plan B theses are permitted (see Appendix 1 for more detail):

- Original Research Study
- Extensive Literature Review
- Law or Policy Review

The Plan B thesis should be written or created typically beginning in year two of law school and defended near the end of year three. Students must register for 2 thesis credits while completing their Plan B thesis. For more information on Plan B theses go to [Graduate Student Regulations & Policies](#).

Step 5: Conduct Study & Write Thesis

Students should discuss what formatting style to use in their Plan B thesis with their committee chair. If publication is sought in a legal journal then Bluebook is the most appropriate formatting style; however, if publication is sought in a science or policy journal then that journal's formatting requirements should be used.

The Plan B thesis is typically a 40- to 60-page paper, depending on the nature of the work and intended audience. Length is not the primary metric of an acceptable thesis. The primary metric is completing the work in a rigorous and scholarly fashion. Ideally the paper is written for publication in an appropriate venue.

Step 6: Thesis Defense

The final Plan B thesis must be reviewed and accepted by the graduate committee. A final draft Plan B thesis should be delivered to the student's committee for review at least two weeks prior to the scheduled defense.

The defense is to be scheduled like a traditional thesis defense. Please schedule a two-hour block so that the defense will not be rushed. It is the student's responsibility to find a room and reserve it. Public announcement of the defense must happen 3 weeks prior to the defense date. The defense should be scheduled with enough time to complete revisions before the Record of Final Examination submission deadline (typically noon on the last day of classes).

Suggested Format For the Defense Meeting

The committee has the option to meet alone for the first 5-10 minutes, after which the student and public are invited in. The student will give a 20-30 minute presentation. It is the responsibility of the chairperson to determine presentation length, and to review the presentation prior to the public defense.

After the presentation, the public should be given an opportunity to ask questions. Afterward, the public is dismissed and the committee meets with the student to ask questions, clarify points, and make suggestions for revisions.

When the committee is satisfied with the student's response to questions and the discussion is complete, the student is dismissed while the committee discusses the decision. When they have come to a consensus, the student is invited back in and the committee shares the results and expectations for completion. These may include (but are not limited to):

- Whether the committee members will sign off on the Report of Final Examination.
- What revisions need to be completed for the signature of the chairperson.

- A timeline for completion with enough time to have the Report of Final Examination signed by all necessary parties and turned in by the deadline.

The Report of Final Examination form with all committee members' and Haub School Director signatures needs to be submitted to the Office of the Registrar by noon on the last day of classes. The Haub School requests the final copy of the Plan B thesis be uploaded to the Scholars Repository of the UW library system (http://repository.uwyo.edu/student_scholars/).

Tuition and Fees

Students will be assessed tuition at differential rates. College of Law coursework will be billed at the College of Law tuition rate. Courses from other UW colleges and the Haub School 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>).

JD/MA ENR students may be eligible for merit-based scholarships and grants administered through the Haub School. A current list of opportunities is available at <http://www.uwyo.edu/enr/haub-school/index.html>.

Faculty Contacts

For admissions, ENR course advising, and Plan B Thesis advising contact:

Temple Stoellinger, Assistant Professor

Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources

307-766-6450, College of Law Room 118, tstoelli@uwyo.edu

Doug Wachob, Academic Programs Director

Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources

307-766-5081, Bim Kendall House Room 203, wachob@uwyo.edu

Appendix 1: JD/MA ENR Plan B Thesis Overview

Type of Project Components or Sections	Chapter 1 Introduction Purpose Problem Research Question(s) ~1500-2000 words	Chapter 2 Literature Review	Chapter 3 Methods Study Design Setting Data collection Analysis tools	Chapter 4 Results Results of hypothesis testing or model construction Analysis output	Chapter 5 Discussion Conclusions Implications Recommendations
Original Research Study Original data collection & analysis	All of above sections + Review available literature pertaining directly to research question(s). Clearly, concisely sorted & presented ~20-40 articles or cases.	Literature review	All of above sections	Data analysis answering the research question(s) Present in an understandable format- e.g., graphs, tables, visuals	Tie together entire project Discuss results relative to research question(s) & implications for ENR management, policy or law Make recommendations for use of results.
Extensive Literature Review Extensive literature review to identify a literature-based answers to question(s)	All of above sections Explain <u>how</u> literature was reviewed	In-depth review of key points from available literature pertaining directly to question(s). Clearly, concisely sorted & presented by topic ~40-60 articles and or cases.	No Methods Chapter	No Results Chapter	Discuss how question(s) are answered by the literature. Emphasis on synthesis of literature to question(s) Make recommendations for use of results
Law or Policy Review Article	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. For example, the Plan B research might become a law review comment article, which deals with both legal and non-legal aspects of a particular ENR issue.				

Appendix 2: Key JD/MA Benchmarks, Special Timelines, and Required Forms

Benchmark	Typical Time Frame	Required Form
Admission Apply for the JD/MA ENR degree concurrently with JD application	Concurrent with JD Application or During the Year 1 of Law School	See “Admissions Process & Requirements” section
Internship	Summer between Year 1 and 2 Students must register for 1 internship credit.	Internship Agreement Form (Available from ENR advisor)
Form Graduate Committee Work with ENR advisor to identify a chairperson and potential committee members	Year 1 or very early in Year 2	Committee Assignment Form
Thesis proposal to committee Program of study approval by committee	Year 2 Students must register for 2 thesis credits while completing their Plan B thesis.	Program of Study Form
Coursework	Years 2 and 3	Check degree evaluations on WyoWeb to ensure that courses are correctly applied to degree program.
Declare Intent to Graduate	Early in the semester of graduation Important JD/MA ENR students must submit two forms – one for JD degree and for JD/MA ENR degree	Anticipated Graduation Date Form
Thesis presentation and defense Advertise thesis presentation via flyers in the Law School, Haub School. Post defense announcement in ENR electronic newsletter (contact ENR advisor).	Year 3 or 4 Thesis defense must occur at least two weeks prior to graduation.	Report of Final Examination Form
Submit final thesis to Haub School & via Scholars Repository	Year 3 or 4	

Forms available at: [Graduate Student Forms](#)



HAUB SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

JD/MA Environment and Natural Resources – MA Coursework (30 credits)

Students must apply for admission to the joint degree JD/MA in Environment & Natural Resources. Contact haub.school@uwyo.edu for more information about the program and how to apply

CORE (9 credit hours)

- Approaches to Environmental Problem Solving (ENR 5000)
- Environmental Assessment (ENR 5900)
 - Domestic focus **or**
 - International focus
- ENR Plan B Thesis Seminar (1 credit minimum)
- ENR Plan B Thesis (2 credits minimum)

ENR ELECTIVES (9 credit hours)

Choose **3** elective courses that will inform your Plan B Thesis.

COLLEGE of LAW ELECTIVES (12 credit hours)

12 credits of environmental or natural resources law Courses include (but are not limited to):

- LAW 6510 Administrative Law
- LAW 6660 Environmental Law
- LAW 6735 Native American Natural Res. Law
- LAW 6780 Mining Law
- LAW 6790 Oil & Gas Law
- LAW 6800 Public Lands
- LAW 6860 Water Rights
- LAW 6890 Land Use Law
- LAW 6910 Seminar: Endangered Species Act
- LAW 6910 Seminar: Advanced Water Rights
- LAW 6915 Environmental Policy - Topics
- LAW 6915 Energy & Climate Policy - Topics
- LAW 6915 International Oil & Gas Law - Topics

Plan B Thesis Project

Students earning the MA in ENR must complete a Plan B thesis project. 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.

The Plan B project will be written over the course of the student's academic program, typically beginning in year two of law school. 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 her/his MA advisor and MA committee (composed of at least three members, with representatives from the Haub School, College of Law, and other non-Law UW faculty). Each student will complete benchmarked tasks on a determined timeline, in consultation with his/her MA advisor and committee chair.

Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources will

- Be conversant across a range of fields of environmental significance, spanning science and technology to human dimensions of natural resources,
- Understand and evaluate the relationship of their disciplines to other relevant ENR fields, and
- Produce discourse, scholarship, and practical solutions that address the complexity of ENR challenges.