

## **Environmental Studies Program and School of Law Concurrent JD/Master's Degrees**

The joint degree program offers concurrent Juris Doctorate and Master of Arts or Master of Science in environmental studies degrees, allowing students to condense the time frame for achieving both degrees and enjoy the advantage of an interdisciplinary focus in the environmental field. The Environmental Studies Program at the University of Oregon draws upon the strengths of our campus community and our connections to the greater geographic area of the Pacific Northwest. Students have the opportunity to integrate coursework in the sciences, social sciences and humanities, as well as the professional programs of management, public policy, design, and law. In addition to law courses, students are introduced to scientific, social, and cultural aspects of environmental issues through completion of two areas of concentration, completion of a thesis or terminal project, and participation in a law or environmental internship.

The JD/Master's concurrent degree program provides students who have the time, qualifications, and commitment:

- \* a broad base of legal and environmental skills supporting an expanded range of career paths
- \* exposure to an array of professionals in the legal and environmental communities
- \* a wide range of complementary course work and skills development not otherwise available
- \* opportunities for both legal and environmental internships

The first two years of the concurrent degree program are comprised of core coursework for both the JD and the MS/MA in Environmental Studies (ENVS). Some students complete one year of law school first, then enter the ENVS program their second year; others start with ENVS, then enter law school in their second year. Subsequent years are usually based in the School of Law, with remaining environmental course and thesis credits taken in conjunction with the second and third years of law school.

The School of Law and ENVS operate on different academic calendars, the former being on a semester system, and the latter on a quarter system. Semesters in the School of Law will be charged at law school tuition rates. Quarters spent in ENVS will be billed at Graduate School tuition rates.

The joint degree program allows students to receive two degrees in four years rather than the standard five. Up to 15 quarter hours (10 semester hours) of Environmental Studies coursework may be applied to the 85 semester hours required for the JD. The remaining 75 semester hours must be in law courses and cannot include externships or irregular courses. Up to 18 quarter hours of relevant environmental law coursework can be applied to the 57 quarter hours required for the Masters degree in Environmental Studies. Thus, a total of up to 10 semester hours and 18 quarter hours may be waived, saving the student as much as a year of study over the time it would take to earn the JD and Master's degrees separately. The two degrees are separate, with each school maintaining the academic probation, course, and grade requirements for its own degree program.

If a student fails to complete the Master's degree, only five semester hours of non-law course work can be applied toward the JD degree. If a student fails to complete the JD degree, the entire program in Environmental Studies must be completed before the Master's degree can be awarded.

## *ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM*

Students must apply separately to, and be admitted by, both the School of Law and the Environmental Studies Program. Note that each entity has different application deadlines. Please indicate if you are applying to both programs as a joint student.

For the law school, applications are accepted beginning in September with the priority deadline being **March 1**. Applicants will be notified in writing of the committee's decision between February 7 and April 15 depending on application volume. Applicants must submit the following items to the School of Law before being considered for admission:

- \* application form
- \* application fee
- \* Law School Admission Test (LSAT)
- \* LSDAS report
- \* Recommendations
- \* TOEFL (international students)

For the Environmental Studies Program, applications are due by **January 15**. Admissions decisions are usually made between late February and early March. We admit students for fall term only. Applicants must submit the following items to the Environmental Studies Program before being considered for admission:

- \* online application form (we receive this automatically when you apply online)
- \* resume
- \* statement of purpose
- \* applicant course plan
- \* 3 letters of recommendation
- \* official transcripts from all universities/colleges you have attended
- \* Official GRE scores sent to us directly from ETS. (The GRE is recommended but not required. Because GRE scores demonstrate quantitative aptitude (in addition to the verbal and analytic aptitude demonstrated on the LSAT), those who do not submit GRE scores are encouraged to demonstrate their quantitative aptitude to the ENVS Admissions Committee in other ways. This can include specifically identifying relevant courses from transcripts, providing other standardized test scores in addition to the LSAT, documenting relevant research or work experience, or by having letters of recommendation writers address the issue. You are required to submit a copy of your law school application, which must include LSAT scores.)
- \* TOEFL (international students)
- \* UO Admissions Office must receive a \$50 application fee (submitted with your online application) and an official transcript from the university/college where you received your degree.

For further information on application requirements and procedures, please see the Environmental Studies Program web page at <http://envs.uoregon.edu> or contact Gayla WardWell, Graduate Coordinator for the Environmental Studies Program at 541-346-5057, [gaylaw@uoregon.edu](mailto:gaylaw@uoregon.edu) and the School of Law web page at <http://www.law.uoregon.edu/academics/degree.php#environmental> and <http://www.law.uoregon.edu/org/enr/degree.html> or contact Heather Brinton, Assistant Director of the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Program at 541-346-3741, [hbrinton@uoregon.edu](mailto:hbrinton@uoregon.edu).