

Environmental Science and Policy

PhD in Environmental Science and Public Policy (EVPP)

Program of Study & Degree Audit Verification

PURPOSE OF THIS FORM: This document serves as your official academic plan, outlining your coursework and milestones to help you progress toward candidacy and complete your final graduation audit under the PhD program requirements as of Catalog Year 2025 (minimum of 72 total credits).

- **Phase 1 (Coursework Proposal):** A coursework proposal must be completed and approved by the student's advisor and the Graduate Program Director by the **end of the fourth semester**.
- **Phase 2 (Advancement to Candidacy):** Fill out completed courses and use flexible placeholders for remaining future requirements prior to qualifying exams. Courses cannot be used in multiple bins. **Must be completed within 6 years.**
- **Phase 3 (Final Graduation Audit):** Submit finalized form - different from this one. Every course listed must match your official GMU Degree Audit and transcript 100%.
- ****Time Limit**:** All degree requirements (including dissertation defense) must be completed within 9 years from initial enrollment. You must advance to candidacy within 6 years from initial enrollment.
- If using MS transfer credits, note both the original course name and number as well as the equivalent GMU course name and number. See example Program of Study.

Student & Program Information

Submission Type:	☐ Phase 1: Coursework Proposal Plan ☐ Phase 2: Advancement to Candidacy (Working Plan)
Semester & Year:	_____ (Update for each phase)
Student Name & G#:	Name: _____ G#: _____
Admission Term & Advisor:	Term/Year Admitted: _____ Advisor: _____

1. Doctoral Core Requirements (16 Credits Total)

Select at least one course from each of the required core categories below:

Category	Course Options	Selected Course # & Title	Term/Year	Credits
Natural Science Core	EVPP 518, 527, 550, or 581			3
Policy and Social Science Core	EVPP 530, 534, or 675			3
Methods Core	EVPP 585, 630, or 651			3
Transdisciplinary & Professionalization Core	EVPP 505 ("Career Development for Environmental Scientists")	EVPP 505 Career Development for Enviro Scientists		3
Doctoral Seminar (4 cr total)	EVPP 991 (Adv. Seminar in Enviro Science)	EVPP 991 (Adv. Seminar in Enviro Science)		2
Doctoral Seminar (4 cr total)	EVPP 991 (Adv. Seminar in Env Science)	EVPP 991 (Adv. Seminar in Env Science)		2

2. Natural Science Courses (Min 9 Credits Total)

List all Natural Science coursework to meet the 9-credit minimum (selected from biology, chemistry, environmental science, geology, geography, or environmental engineering, in addition to the Natural Science Core course).

Course #	Title	Term / Year	Credits	MS Transfer?
				☐
				☐
				☐
				☐
				☐

3. Public Policy Courses (Min 9 Credits Total)

List all Public Policy coursework to meet the 9-credit minimum (selected from public affairs, economics, sociology, and/or business, in addition to the Policy Core course).

Course #	Title	Term / Year	Credits	MS Transfer?
				☐
				☐
				☐
				☐
				☐

4. Research Methods & Technology (Min 3 Credits Total)

Selected from statistics, remote sensing, GIS, analytical chemistry, molecular biology, modeling, or IT (in addition to the Methods Core course).

Course #	Title	Term / Year	Credits	MS Transfer?
				☐
				☐

5. Electives / Directed Studies / Internship (11–23 Credits)

List electives selected in consultation with advisor (e.g., EVPP 693 Directed Studies – 1-4 credits/semester and maximum of 8 credits total, EVPP 793 Directed Research – 1-3 credits/semester and maximum of 6 credits total, EVPP 894 Supervised Internship, Consortium courses, etc.).

[illegible]

6. Doctoral Dissertation Proposal & Research

A combined total of 12–24 credits of EVPP 998 and EVPP 999 is required (maximum of 12 credits of EVPP 998). After advancing to candidacy, you must enroll in at least 3 credits of EVPP 999 during your first semester. You are required to remain continuously enrolled in EVPP 999 every semester until graduation. If you graduate during the summer term, you must still enroll in at least 1 credit of EVPP 999.

Course #	Title	Terms / Years Taken and Credits
EVPP 998	Doctoral Dissertation Proposal (max 12 cr)	
EVPP 999	Doctoral Dissertation Research (min 3 cr; 3 cr/sem)	

Program Credit Summary

Category	Post-Admission GMU Residency (Min 37 cr)	Previous MS Reduction (Max 30 cr)
Doctoral Core Requirements (16 cr)		
Natural Science Courses (Min 9 cr total)		
Public Policy Courses (Min 9 cr total)		
Research Methods & Tech (Min 3 cr total)		
Electives / Internship (11–23 cr)		
Dissertation (EVPP 998/999 - 12–24 cr)		N/A
SUBTOTALS		(30 max)
TOTAL CREDITS	(72 Minimum Total Credits)	

Program Guidelines & Rules

1. **Coursework Proposal:** Must be completed and approved by the advisor and Graduate Program Director by the end of the second semester.
2. **Annual Committee Review:** Students must meet with their full dissertation committee at least once per calendar year.
3. **Qualifying Examinations:** Taken upon completing coursework; includes both written and oral examination components.
4. **Advancement to Candidacy:** Requires passing written & oral qualifying exams and formal dissertation proposal approval by the Dissertation Committee, Graduate Program Director, Department Chair, and COS Dean.
5. **Dissertation Registration:** Minimum of 3 credits of EVPP 999 the first semester (excluding summers) after advancing to candidacy. Continuous enrollment in EVPP 999 of at least 1 credit/semester.
6. **Time Limit:** Degree completion required within 9 years from initial enrollment. Must advance to candidacy within 6 years from initial enrollment semester.
7. **Graduation Clearance:** A finalized form matching the GMU Degree Audit and transcript 100% must be submitted to the ESP Graduate Office early in the semester of intended graduation.

Qualifying Exams & Signatures

Written Exam Passed Date: _____ Oral Exam Passed Date: _____

By signing below, the student and committee approve this program of study as a valid plan (Phase 1) or completed audit (Phase 2) meeting departmental requirements.

Student Printed Name and Signature: _____	Date: _____
Dissertation Chair Printed Name and Signature: _____	Date: _____
Committee Member Printed Name and Signature: _____	Date: _____
Committee Member Printed Name and Signature: _____	Date: _____
Graduate Program Director Printed Name and Signature: _____	Date: _____