Twin Cities Campus

Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy M.S.

HHH Administration

Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs

Link to a list of faculty for this program.

Contact Information:
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- Program Type: Master's
- Requirements for this program are current for Spring 2019
- Length of program in credits: 36 to 41
- This program does not require summer semesters for timely completion.
- Degree: Master of Science

Along with the program-specific requirements listed below, please read the General Information section of the catalog website for requirements that apply to all major fields.

The MS in science, technology, and environmental policy (STEP) provides students with an understanding of the role of science and technology in society, including food and agriculture, the economy, energy and the environment, security, health, and education; the impact of science and technology on the political and economic relationships within and among nations; and the analysis and design of policies for appropriate promotion and regulation of science and technology regionally, nationally, and internationally. The program educates students with natural and social science backgrounds to assume roles in public policy development.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Prerequisites for Admission

The preferred undergraduate GPA for admittance to the program is 3.00.

A four-year bachelor's degree from an accredited US university or foreign equivalent at time of enrollment.

Other requirements to be completed before admission:
While no specific experience or academic pathway is required, students with a strong liberal education background and sound quantitative and analytical skills will be best prepared for academic success at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

Previous coursework in mathematics, statistics, and economics is recommended. Past applicants needing to strengthen this part of their skill set have found courses in introductory microeconomics, college algebra, and introductory statistics to be helpful preparation.

Applicants applying to the MS-STEP program should have completed a degree or taken advanced level coursework in the natural or engineering sciences prior to the date of their planned enrollment.

Special Application Requirements:
A complete application will include a University of Minnesota application, personal statement, resume or C.V., transcripts, GRE scores, TOEFL scores (if applicable), at least three letters of recommendation, and an optional diversity statement.

Applicants must submit their test score(s) from the following:

- GRE

International applicants must submit score(s) from one of the following tests:

- TOEFL
  - Internet Based - Total Score: 100
  - Paper Based - Total Score: 600
- IELTS
  - Total Score: 7

Key to test abbreviations(GRE, TOEFL, IELTS).

For an online application or for more information about graduate education admissions, see the General Information section of the catalog website.

Program Requirements

Plan A: Plan A requires 29 to 31 major credits, 0 credits outside the major, and 10 thesis credits.The final exam is oral.

Plan C: Plan C requires 36 major credits and up to null credits outside the major.The is no final exam.

This program may be completed with a minor.

Use of 4xxx courses towards program requirements is not permitted.

A minimum GPA of 2.80 is required for students to remain in good standing.

At least 1 semesters must be completed before filing a Degree Program Form.

Elective credits are chosen in consultation with the student's advisor.

Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy Overview
PA 5711 - Science, Technology & Environmental Policy (3.0 cr)
PA 5715 - Deliberating Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy (1.5 cr)

Sustainability Systems Science
PA 5722 - Economics of Environmental Policy (3.0 cr)
PA 5741 - Risk, Resilience and Decision Making (1.5 cr)
PA 5752 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)

Social and Policy Processes
PA 5002 - Introduction to Policy Analysis (1.5 cr)
PA 5012 - The Politics of Public Affairs (3.0 cr)

Foundational Methods
Statistics
PA 5031 - Statistics for Public Affairs (4.0 cr)
or PA 5045 - Statistics for Public Affairs, Accelerated (4.0 cr)
Take one of the following:
PA 5032 - Applied Regression (2.0 cr)
or PA 5044 - Applied Regression, Accelerated (2.0 cr)
Take one of the following:
PA 5033 - Multivariate Techniques (2.0 cr)
or PA 5041 - Qualitative Methods for Policy Analysts (4.0 cr)

Focus Area - Take one of the following:
Only the following 5790 titles are applicable: "Environmental Mgmt of Food, Water, and Energy Systems" and "Urban Agriculture and Food Systems Policy."
PA 5721 - Energy Systems and Policy (3.0 cr)
or PA 5723 - Water Policy (3.0 cr)
or PA 5724 - Climate Change Policy (3.0 cr)
or PA 5731 - Emerging Sciences and Technologies: Policy, Ethics and Law (3.0 cr)
or PA 5751 - Addressing Climate and Energy Challenges at the Local Scale (3.0 cr)
or PA 5790 - Topics in Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy (1.0 - 3.0 cr)

Electives
Electives to bring total credits to required number, in consultation with the advisor.

Plan Options

Plan A Requirements
Take 10 master's thesis credits.

PA 8777 - Thesis Credits: Master's (1.0 - 18.0 cr)

-OR-

Plan C Requirements - Take one of the following:
PA 8081 - Capstone Workshop (3.0 cr)
or PA 8082 - Professional Paper-Writing Seminar (3.0 cr)
or PA 8921 - Master's: Professional Paper (Individual Option) (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
Joint- or Dual-degree Coursework:MS-STEP/JD (Joint Degree Program in Law, Health, and the Life Sciences)Student may take a total of 24 credits in common among the academic programs.