The Doctoral Dual Major in Environmental Science and Policy allows a student to waive one of Requirements 2 (Interdisciplinary Environmental Natural Science and Policy) and Requirement 3 (Interdisciplinary Environmental Social Science and Policy) when the student already has sufficient background in the required area. Diverse, in-depth experience in the natural sciences or social sciences constitutes sufficient background. For the natural sciences, such experience might include physics or geology with chemistry and biology (ecology). Appropriate social science experience would include policy, economics, and behavior (behavior equates to sociology, anthropology, psychology or similar), with a focus on environmental topics. This experience may take the form of one or multiple courses. At least some experience must be at the graduate level. A ‘B/ 3.0’ average or higher is expected.

Students are encouraged to submit waiver requests based on an anticipated plan of study. Please provide a one page justification, with additional supporting materials, spelling out the courses you have taken and other training in natural or social science and the environment demonstrating that you have received sufficient training in the requested waiver area. Students must write why they need the substitution and why it is appropriate. Course descriptions and transcripts are required (if course has already been taken) and syllabi may be helpful.

The graduate committee will review requests for waivers on a rotating schedule of March 1, July 15 and October 1. You may submit your waiver requests at any time but the review will not begin until after the next deadline has passed. The council will then have two weeks to review all requests and let ESPP staff know which proposals were approved and denied. The staff will communicate those decisions to students via email with official letters attached to send to the student’s home department to become part of their academic record.

Please send requests to espp@msu.edu, with “Waiver Request” in the subject line.

NAME: ____________________________________________________________

DATE OF REQUEST: ________________________________________________