

Procedure for Applying to the Environmental Science & Policy (ESP) Graduate Specialization

Philosophy. In the 21st century, environmental professionals will need both interdisciplinary breadth and disciplinary depth. This is the model that some have called the “T-shaped” graduate program. Disciplinary depth is the pillar of the “T” that provides command of a literature in detail and the meticulous skills required to conduct sound research. Interdisciplinary breadth is the crossbar of the “T”, providing language and conceptual frameworks that allow communication across disciplines. Together, these develop professionals who understand the context of their research and can work effectively in multidisciplinary teams.

Program. Doctoral students pursue a Ph.D. in one of MSU’s many existing doctoral programs that offer an environmental focus. In addition, they complete four courses for the Specialization in Environmental Science & Policy. The Specialization provides students with an understanding of the diverse disciplines brought to bear on contemporary environmental problems. Each course is designed to provide an understanding of how various disciplines conceptualize environmental issues and how scientific information can be brought to bear on environmental decision-making and environmental policy.

Eligibility. All admissions to the ESP Graduate Specialization are conditional on acceptance to an [MSU doctoral program](#) that offers an environmental focus. Exceptions can be made when doctoral programs require admission to a Master’s program rather than directly to the Ph.D. program.

Application materials. To apply, you should forward to ESPP (espp@msu.edu):

- A letter requesting admission to the ESP Specialization and describing your professional interest in environmental science and policy.
- A Curriculum Vitae.
- If you are applying to an MSU doctoral program: Ask the doctoral program to which you are applying to forward to the Environmental Science & Policy Program (ESPP) a copy of their application package.
- If you are already enrolled in an MSU doctoral program: Ask your graduate advisor to send a letter to ESPP indicating that you are in good standing and that the advisor supports your application to ESPP. This letter should be copied to the doctoral program coordinator of your department or program.

Decision. The ESPP Director and Associate Director will review all applications and make admissions decisions. The students, their advisor and their graduate program coordinator will be advised of the decision. Admissions decisions are made on an ongoing basis.

Program Requirements. See environment.msu.edu for detailed program requirements.



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