A truly multidisciplinary master’s program

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Biodiversity, Conservation and Policy Master’s Program combines classes from the University’s Department of Biological Sciences and the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy to prepare you for a career that requires knowledge of both ecology and public policy. As a student in the program, you will learn basic concepts in conservation biology, politics, policy and planning and how these fields interact in the real world. Biologists with a basic understanding of how policy relates to the goals of preservation and conservation are essential to conservation efforts. Our program, with its multidisciplinary approach, allows you to examine decision-making processes as both a scientist and a policy analyst.

In addition to the M.S. degree in Biodiversity, Conservation and Policy, you can earn professional certificates, such as the Certificate in Geographic Information Systems offered by the Department of Geography and Planning. Graduate certificates are available in other UAlbany units, such as the School of Education and the School of Business. In addition, you can gain a wealth of experience through graduate-level internships and in the course of planning and conducting your thesis research.

CONTACT US

Interested in applying to our program? Speak with one of our faculty members before beginning the application process. Email George Robinson, Interim Program Director, at grobinson@albany.edu, or call or write our Office of Graduate Education:

Biodiversity, Conservation and Policy
Department of Biological Sciences
University at Albany
1400 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12222
(518) 437-3608

Learn more: albany.edu/biodiversity

Learn more: albany.edu/biodiversity

A truly multidisciplinary master’s program
Thesis research can follow several different paths, including independent, student-initiated projects, working on faculty-designed projects, and mixes of both. Our program allows flexibility in research topics, including:

- original field and laboratory studies on organisms of conservation interest
- analytical studies working with accumulated information on behalf of conservation organizations
- studies of the policy dimensions of conservation activities and initiatives.

Visit our program's website to find lists of past and current student research topics, as well as copies of completed theses and resulting publications.

Thesis research can also draw on studies conducted during internships. Located in New York's capital, we are surrounded by agencies and organizations involved in day-to-day decisions that affect biological conservation.

Opportunities for internships are available from many of our partners, including:

- The Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission
- The New York State Museum
- The NY Natural Heritage Program
- The NY Coastal Management Program
- The NY Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation
- The NY Department of Environmental Conservation
- The U.S. Geological Service
- The Nature Conservancy
- Other land conservancies and regional conservation organizations
- The UAlbany Office of Sustainability.

As a graduate of this program, you can join many alumni in careers with private and government organizations, working on natural resource management, land and water conservation, environmental education, and research in the public interest.

Our M.S. degree can also be a stepping stone to doctoral studies in biology or other natural sciences, and some of our alumni have gone on to earn a Ph.D.

Prerequisites
Upon entering the program, you should have a Bachelor's degree in Biology or an equivalent natural science, with a minimum 3.0 GPA. Special cases may be considered by program faculty or directors. Once admitted you may concentrate on biological aspects of conservation, or you may emphasize policy, planning or other social sciences.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the Department of Biological Sciences to arrange an interview or a campus visit. Application procedures are the same for all university graduate programs, with applications completed on-line through the Office of Graduate Education. Complete the standard application form and submit a personal statement, copies of official undergraduate transcripts, three letters of recommendation and copies of Graduate Record Examination scores (general GRE exam only). Applications for September admissions should be submitted no later than April 1, although applications will be considered at any time. Top-ranked candidates may be eligible for assistantships and tuition scholarships.

For application materials, please contact the Office of Graduate Admissions at the University at Albany (albany.edu/graduate). Applications are submitted through this office and are reviewed when completed.

The Biology, Conservation and Policy Master's Program requires a total of 30 credits, 18 of which must be in Biology. Also required are:

- maintaining a course grade point average of at least 3.0/4.0
- successfully completing a first-year comprehensive Core Examination
- attending and giving presentations at graduate seminars
- assembling a thesis committee of faculty advisors
- defending and submitting an approved M.S. Thesis.

Please visit our website for the most up-to-date course offerings and credit requirements.

A key feature of our program is the opportunity to build a personal network within the professional conservation community, with contacts in both science and policy arenas. Many of our alumni have become leaders in their organizations, and they often join with current students as visiting instructors to discuss their own experiences and to offer research and internship opportunities. Most of our alumni have found their training in public policy to be particularly valuable, and stress the benefits of using science and policy together to make a real difference for conservation.