

School of Environment and Sustainability

Master of Sustainable Environmental Management (MSEM)

The Master of Sustainable Environmental Management (MSEM) program provides a stimulating and supportive learning environment for those seeking to advance their applied knowledge and technical skills. Students wishing to enter this program may come from backgrounds such as the natural and physical sciences, social sciences and humanities, education, engineering, law, and business. Depending on their field of undergraduate study, and their selected courses and MSEM project, students will have opportunities to be employed in diverse professions at a variety of organizations, including environmental management departments, industries, consulting firms, environmental organizations at different scales, and academic institutions.



The MSEM program is a course-based, professional-style program. Students are required to complete a six credit unit research project and a minimum of 24 credits of course work, consisting of:

- Four core classes (twelve credit units);
- Two elective classes from a restricted list (six credit units);
- Two elective classes (six credit units) from either the restricted list or from anywhere else on campus, with approval from the graduate chair.

Research projects are identified or defined in consultation with the graduate chair and the MSEM coordinator, and can take a variety of forms, including a thorough review or assessment, a proposal for policy change, a case study, an evaluation of a management practice or system, or a modeling exercise.

Students will be required to present their project proposals to their peers and faculty. Also, students are required to register in, attend and participate in ENVS 990: Seminar in Environment and Sustainability.

The MSEM program can be completed in one year of full-time study. However, students can study on a part-time basis.

MSEM Program Curriculum

Required Courses

All students are required to complete the following four courses:

ENVS 801.3 – Ecosystem Science and Sustainability

This course is an introduction to how principles and concepts of ecology and ecosystems science are applied to advance environmental sustainability. Students will gain a solid understanding of how natural systems function, and how scientists apply their understanding and uncertainties about ecosystems to address environmental management problems and advance environmental sustainability.

ENVS 802.3 – Human Dimensions of Environmental Change

This course explores the past and present interactions between people and the natural world. It addresses ways that environment has molded human societies and ways that people have altered nature. Contemporary concerns for environmental sustainability are introduced by examining human entanglement with a range of natural and modified systems.

Required Courses (Continued)

ENVS 804.3 – Decision-making for Environment and Sustainability

Intended to enhance students' professional and scholarly effectiveness, this course introduces an interdisciplinary approach to environmental conservation problems (from the policy sciences) that enables them to critically appraise and constructively engage with environmental and sustainability policy processes, and develop functional understanding of conventional institutional approaches to environmental management and new emergent approaches.

ENVS 805.3 – Environmental Data Analysis and Management

Environmental data management is complex because of its volume, qualitative and quantitative forms, and temporal and spatial characteristics. This course introduces students to statistical, qualitative and visual methods of problem solving and data reduction and representation, and describes methods for managing large and complex data sets.

Elective Courses

Additionally, students must take 12 credit units of electives. Six credit units (two courses) must be chosen from a restricted set of electives, some of which include:

- ENVS 821.3 – Sustainable Water Resources
- ENVS 831.3 – Current Issues in Land Reclamation and Remediation
- GEOG 885.3 – Advanced Applications of Environmental Management
- GEOG 886.3 – Advanced Environmental Impact Assessment
- ENVS 898.3 – Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainability
- ENVS 898.3 – Legal Issues and the Environment
- ENVS 898.3 – Environmental Economics and Policy Making

The other six credit unit requirements can be met by any other courses taught at the University of Saskatchewan, but may also include additional courses from the restricted electives list. A student may take up to two senior undergraduate courses, with approval of the graduate chair, to fulfill elective requirements. Please note that not all elective courses will be offered each year.

Application Deadline

Students interested in applying for the MSEM program should do so early. Full application packages should be submitted by March 15 for a September start.

All applicants are required to have a four-year bachelor's degree, or equivalent, from a recognized college or university with a minimum scholastic standing of 70% cumulative weighted average in the last 60 credit units (or equivalent) of study. Also, candidates must meet the admission requirements of the College of Graduate Studies and Research at the University of Saskatchewan, as detailed on its website www.usask.ca/cgsr.

More Information

For more information regarding our programs, courses, pre-requisites, tuition and scholarships, please call (306) 966-1985 or visit www.usask.ca/sens.



“As a professional in mid-career who is returning for a graduate degree, the school provides a unique interdisciplinary setting for intense study of the core economic, social and environmental issues facing the global community. The school is a bold move by the University of Saskatchewan to train and prepare a new generation of leaders for a future economy that must be very different from today.”

Al Scholz
MSEM Student