Accelerated Professional Science Masters in Environmental Assessment

The Accelerated Professional Science Masters degree is designed for qualified students enrolled in the KU Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Arts, or Bachelor of General Studies in Environmental Studies degree track. The program allows students to complete the Professional Science Masters (PSM) in Applied Science graduate degree with a concentration in Environmental Assessment in a single year (five years total for both degrees). Key foci in the science curriculum of this program are environmental impact assessment; soil, air, water, and ecosystems science; environmental health and policy; community and climate resilience; and an understanding of environmental law and policy and the regulatory environment.

The Professional Science Master's (PSM) is an interdisciplinary graduate degree that combines advanced coursework in science with a set of professional skills courses (project management, technical writing/communications, environmental policy), and a capstone/internship experience. The environmental assessment graduate program combines physical and natural science, resilience, and sustainability principles with project management and communications training to develop science professionals with the skills to accurately collect, synthesize, and clearly communicate data, develop and implement solutions, and successfully lead teams. The PSM is designed for graduates who will be employed in private firms, public agencies, and not-for-profit organizations that address a range of environmental issues.

Admission to Graduate Studies

Admission Requirements

- All applicants must meet the requirements outlined in the Admission to Graduate Study (https://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/admission-to-graduate-study/) policy.
- Bachelor's degree: A copy of official transcripts showing proof of a bachelor's degree (and any post-bachelor's coursework or degrees) from a regionally accredited institution, or a foreign university with equivalent bachelor's degree requirements is required.
- English proficiency: Proof of English proficiency (https://gradapply.ku.edu/english-requirements/) for non-native or non-native-like English speakers is required. There are two bands of English proficiency, including Admission and Full proficiency. For applicants to online programs, Full proficiency is required.

Application Deadlines for FAST-TRACK:

An applicant seeking to pursue graduate study in the College may be admitted as either a degree-seeking or non-degree seeking student. Policies and procedures of Graduate Studies govern the process of Graduate admission. These may be found in the Graduate Studies (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies/) section of the online catalog.

Early Conditional Admission to the Accelerated Fast Track:

Students apply to the Accelerated Applied Science PSM Program with a concentration in Environmental Assessment (PSM-EA) in the spring of their junior year for permission to start the Accelerated track. However, acceptance to the track does not guarantee acceptance to the Applied Science PSM graduate program the following year.

Requirements for Early Conditional Admission (second semester, Junior Year):

- All requirements for a B.S., B.A., or B.G.S. degree in Environmental Studies from KU in progress with a 3.2 GPA or above;
- Two letters of recommendation from faculty qualified to judge the student's preparation for, and potential to successfully complete, the accelerated track; at least one of the letters must be from an EVRN faculty member;
- Statement of interest: This 1-2 page narrative should succinctly summarize your education, employment history (if applicable), your long#term career goals, and how the accelerated degree program will help you achieve these goals.

Upon acceptance by the Program to the accelerated track, the student will meet with the PSM-EA Program Director, the PSM Graduate Advisor, and the Undergraduate Advisor for Environmental Studies to plan the final year of undergraduate courses, graduate courses to be taken for elective undergraduate credit, and outline the schedule of courses.

In the final semester of their senior year, a student on the accelerated track must contact the PSM-EA Graduate Advisor to finalize the application process to the Applied Science PSM-EA graduate program. In the final semester of undergraduate study (Year 4), the student will meet with the PSM-EA Program Director, the PSM Graduate Advisor, and the Undergraduate Advisor for Environmental Studies together to review the student's performance in the PSM-EA graduate courses taken for elective undergraduate credit. To continue in the track, students must earn a combined minimum GPA of 3.0 in the 9 credit hours of undergraduate courses, with a grade of "B" or better attained in each course.

Following completion and award of the undergraduate degree (end of Year 4), the admitted student will again meet with the PSM-EA Program Director and the PSM Graduate Advisor to review the courses taken in the final year of undergraduate studies and review/update the course plan for the fifth year of study.

If the baccalaureate degree is not completed at the end of Year 4, the student will not be permitted to enroll in courses for graduate credit toward the PSM-EA degree until the baccalaureate degree has been conferred.

The KU Environmental Studies dual accelerated degree allows qualified KU undergraduate students to completed a Environmental Studies B.A., B.G.S., or B.S. and the a Professional Science Masters in Environmental Assessment in 5 years.

Undergraduate KU students interested in the program may submit the application for graduate study in their junior (penultimate) year.

Students who are approved by the program to begin course work will then meet with the PSM-EA Program Director, the PSM Graduate Advisor, and

the Undergraduate Advisor for Environmental Studies to plan the course work to be taken during the senior year.

Following completion and award of the undergraduate degree (end of Spring Semester Year 4), the student will meet with the PSM-EA Program Director, the PSM Graduate Advisor, and the Undergraduate Advisor for Environmental Studies together to review the student's performance in the PSM-EA graduate courses taken for elective undergraduate credit during the summer and/or fall. A grade of "B" or better must be attained in these courses to continue in the program and receive full admission to the graduate program and final, 5th year of study.

If the baccalaureate degree is not completed at the end of Year 4, the student will not be permitted to enroll in courses for graduate credit toward the PSM-EA degree until the baccalaureate degree has been awarded.

Students must complete all requirements for the PSM within 1 year post-bachelor's. If a student does not complete the requirements within 1 year post-bachelor's, or is at any time determined to be ineligible to continue in the accelerated program, the student may petition the program for admission to the standard 33-hour PSM degree. Upon acceptance, students will be expected to either 1) repeat for graduate credit PSM course work taken only for undergraduate credit, or 2) take additional elective coursework to complete the 33 hours. Specific coursework requirements in each case will be by agreement with the adviser.

The Environmental Assessment PSM is a coursework-only degree that includes a required capstone course project. All PSMs must include a core of communication, project management, and business or data science skills.

Code	Title	Hours
Core Courses		
EVRN 721	Environmental Regulation and Policy	3
PFS 804	Project Management for Professionals	3
PFS 730	Writing and Speaking for Decision Makers	3
or PFS 810	Organizational Communication Strategies	
Select one from the following list of courses. Other professional skill or data science courses may be chosen in consultation with an advisor.		3
PFS 802	Managing Teams and Leading People	
PFS 803	Financial Management for Professional Success	
EVRN 510	Advanced Environmental Applications in Geospatial Techniques	
GEOL 754	Contaminant Transport	
GEOL 758	Applied Groundwater Modeling	
PUAD 828	Nonprofit Management and Policy	
PUAD 835	Managing Public Money	
PUAD 854	Innovation and Organizational Change	
Science Courses		
EVRN 770	Environmental Impact Assessment	3
Select two from		6
EVRN 611	Water Quality, Land Use, and Watershed Ecosystems	
EVRN 740	Soil Science for Environmental Assessment	
or EVRN 76(	Soil Ecology & Restoration	
EVRN 750	Environmental Air Quality Assessment	
Electives		**9**
Select 3 courses to total at least 9 credit hours		
EVRN 510	Advanced Environmental Applications in Geospatial Techniques	
EVRN 650	Global Environmental Justice	
EVRN 701	Climate Change, Ecological Change and Social Change	
EVRN 730	Environmental Toxicology	
EVRN 736	Environmental Remote Sensing	
EVRN 737	Water Resource Sustainability	
EVRN 743	Natural Hazards and Environmental Risks	
EVRN 747	Fluvial Geomorphology	
EVRN 748	Wetland Delineation	
EVRN 753	Community Resilience	
EVRN 755	Energy and Environment	
EVRN 760	Soil Ecology & Restoration	
GEOL 557	Environmental Site Operations, Management, and Safety: HAZWOPER Health and Safety Standards	
GEOL 755	Site Assessment	
Capstone		
EVRN 814	Professional Science Masters Environmental Assessment Capstone I	1
EVRN 815	Professional Science Masters Environmental Assessment Capstone II	2
Total Hours		**33**

At the completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Apply disciplinary and/or thematic training to practical situations through quantitative analysis, critical thinking assignments, or case studies.
- Synthesize and evaluate disciplinary concepts and ideas to assess environmental conditions and make responsible decisions in the best interest of populations impacted by environmental issues as displayed in discussions, projects, homework problems and essays.
- Identify and develop new or original interpretation or analysis of a relevant environmental topic through the application of program curriculum in course projects and the Capstone Experience course proposal and report.
- Communicate effectively in a professional environment through technical reports, graphical illustrations, or presentations.
- Demonstrate effective management and collaboration skills through project development and group work.