PROGRAM OVERVIEW
The Master of Science in Environmental Policy and Management (EPM) program, housed within the John Muir Institute of the Environment, provides advanced training in applying environmental science to real-world environmental policy and management issues. The program leverages the position of UC Davis as among the world’s strongest campuses in environmental research and science. The EPM program builds conceptual, quantitative, and communication skills for practice-oriented careers in environmental policy and management.

California, especially the Sacramento area, is replete with opportunities for environmental policy and practice specialists in government agencies, NGOs, and firms. The nearby Bay Area also has many such opportunities, in the most distinct northern California models and the growing southern Central Valley. These include the California Air Resources Board, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the California Resources Agency, as well as NGOs such as Natural Resources Defense Council, The Nature Conservancy, California Audubon, The Sierra Club, Defenders of Wildlife, and many other smaller organizations. Private sector opportunities span both corporate and environmental consulting firms operating within California and beyond. There is a significant market for graduates in environmental policy and practice worldwide, with many UC Davis graduates working in Washington, DC or overseas. Our environmental institutes have significantly increased their international collaborations in the past few years, enhancing demand for our graduates from outside the United States.
WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH THE EPM PROGRAM?
Every office of every local, state, and federal environmental agency requires specialists in environmental practice. Any sizable environmentally-related non-governmental agency and consulting firm, and many industries and legislative staffs, also require such specialists. Often these individuals are drawn from other professions, such as engineering, law, and management or from other individual disciplines. Individuals with a broader intellectual preparation for management and policy careers have a great advantage, particularly when combined with scientific or technical undergraduate or graduate backgrounds.

Graduates of the EPM program are equipped to integrate technical and scientific expertise in a social-political-natural context to provide effective environmental policy and management solutions. The program addresses needs in several areas:

- Students and employers often ask for better and more formal preparation to bridge the differences between scientific academic background and policy and management work, with emphasis on communicating technical information in various management and policy contexts.
- Increased attention is being placed on the co-development of science for policy and management. Doing so requires training individuals with the interdisciplinary skills to understand both communities.
- Environmental problem solving increasingly requires more analytical capability within a political and economic decision-making framework.
- Real and rigorous problem-solving skills involving analysis, communication, and negotiation are needed for students with scientific backgrounds involved in policy-making and management positions.

WHY UC DAVIS?
UC Davis is nationally and internationally recognized for its depth and breadth of expertise in environmental science. Our campus has developed institutional infrastructure to reach the management, policy, and practitioner community at both local and global scales. Global environmental challenges are immense and as a result it is critical to develop knowledge and skills in environmental policy and management across various sectors in society.

Advantages of a program at UC Davis include:
- UC Davis is consistently ranked at or near the top among U.S. institutions and worldwide in animal, plant, hydrological, oceanographic and environmental sciences, as well as in wildlife, fish, and conservation biology.
- Proximity to Federal and State agencies, stakeholders, and firms in Sacramento and the Bay area, as sources of environmental expertise, experience, and jobs. This region has one of the highest concentrations of environmental employment in the country, with major State (CalEPA, Resources Agency, etc.) and Federal (EPA region IX, USBR Mid-Pacific Region, etc.) offices, as well as a host of legislative, executive branch, consulting, and capital offices of regional and local governments (e.g., Sacramento offices of Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Kern County Water Agency, etc.), and numerous interest group offices.
- Proximity to a diverse range of important environmental problems in California and California’s Central Valley, such as air quality, toxic substances, water resources, water quality, and ecosystem sustainability.
- UC Davis’s reputation for leadership in environmental policy and management.
- UC Davis’s range and depth of on-campus environmental research expertise and the campus’s involvement in state, national, and regional environmental problem-solving.
- Availability of sister programs at the UC Sacramento Center and UC Washington Center. Existing programs at John Muir Institute of the Environment and Policy Institute for Energy, Environment and the Economy that place students into experiential learning environments.
- California’s reputation for leadership in environmental policy and management.
- Virtues of life and work in Northern California.
- The availability of an accelerated one-year program.

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