

UC Davis Environmental Policy and Management
STUDENT GUIDE TO IDENTIFYING A PRIMARY ADVISOR

Your advisor will give you feedback on and assist with:

1. Developing your choice of specialization
2. Choosing elective courses
3. The documents that make up your Comprehensive Exam:
 - Professional Development Plan (PDP)
 - Practicum Proposal
 - Practicum Report
4. Internship/practicum opportunities

Suggested steps:

1. Consider the EPM list of potential advisors (UCD faculty and staff) posted here<insert link>
 - This list is not exhaustive—if you are interested in an advisor that is not on the list, please email the Program Coordinator, Jessica (japenrose@ucdavis.edu).
2. Identify a few potential advisors to contact
 - Try sorting the list by specialization to identify potential advisors in your area(s) of interest (whether or not you are pursuing an EPM specialization)
 - Note: some advisors do not fall into one of the specializations
 - Consider the potential advisor's research area, experience, and potential contacts (see links to individual websites)
 - Talk with EPM staff, faculty and students to share questions and suggestions
3. Reach out to potential advisors and discuss mutual interests by email and/or in person
 - Some in our long list of advisors (>65) have not advised an EPM student before—please let your potential advisor know that they can contact Jessica for a quick introduction if needed
 - Meeting in person is preferred, especially if the match is particularly promising. It is important to meet in person with the individual who will become your primary advisor (unless this is not possible)
 - Because we have such a large number of potential advisors across campus, you may end up reaching out to someone who hasn't yet been an EPM advisor. We suggest including something like this in your email: *"If you haven't worked with an EPM student before, this [Guide for Advisors](#) summarizes the EPM advisor role. You can also find general information about the program here: <https://epm.ucdavis.edu/>."*
4. Once confirmed, email Jessica with the name of your advisor
5. If you're having trouble or are unsure at any point, please contact Jessica or the program Chair

Many students find it helpful to assemble a team of advisors that extends beyond their primary advisor—keep this in mind during your search.