



International Affairs: Natural Resources & Development (M.A.)

Department Website: <http://www.american.edu/sis/sisabroad/graddual/UPeace.cfm>

1. Learning Outcomes

Graduate students in Natural Resources and Sustainable Development (International Affairs) will be able to:

- 1) Describe and distinguish among the major schools of thought in the field of Global Environmental Politics
- 2) Develop and execute research projects that integrate theory and empirics and develop analytical skills
- 3) Understand theoretically and empirically (including historically) the drivers of environmental harm and under-development, and possess conceptual clarity about the world political system and how it can respond to the challenges of sustainability on a world scale. This includes foundational knowledge in Global Environmental Politics (primary field), International Development (related field) and Economics.
- 4) Develop verbal and written communication skills so they can clearly and effectively convey their knowledge
- 5) Understand and utilize social and natural science methodologies.
- 6) Speak, write, and read Spanish at the Intermediate level
- 7) Develop hands-on professional practical skills such as: Ability to conduct environmental impact assessments, evaluate development financing projects, use Geographical Information Systems software, conduct LEED assessments, and design energy or green roof proposals for potential clients.
- 8) Develop experience in the policy-making process through internships, lobbying experience, participation in public policy forums and other forms of engagement with the sustainable development policy community.
- 9) Understand the architecture of the global governance system—actors and processes—be able to analyze the promises and shortcomings of the system for addressing the challenges of global sustainability.

2. Assessment Measures and Schedule

Measures	Learning Outcomes	Target	Timeline
Comprehensive Exam that asks students theoretical questions about the field.	1, 3, 4, 9	80% to show a level of 4 on a scale of 1-7. Based on quality of organization, depth of knowledge of the literature, and ability to integrate information and convey it with a clear argument.	Annual – exam questions to be revised based on results, beginning Spring 2010
Substantial Research Paper that demonstrates familiarity with relevant literature, analytical ability, and completion of a polished work	2, 4, 5	80% to attain a level of 4 on a scale of 1-7. Based on quality of organization, depth of knowledge of the literature, and ability to integrate information and convey it with a clear argument.	Annual – SRP guidelines to be modified and supervision altered based on results, beginning Fall 2010
Spanish Test	6	100% to attain a level enabling them to carry out internships	Every Two Years – admissions criteria to be re-evaluated based on results, beginning Spring 2011

Internship Evaluation from Internship Supervisors	7, 8	80% to receive strong positive evaluations based on supervisor's perceptions of the student's strengths and weaknesses in the professional setting (all of those doing internships)	Every Five Years – nature of faculty supervision of internship courses to be reconsidered based on results, beginning Fall 2010
Written Assignments and Class Presentations	4	75% to show marked improvement over two years in terms of basic writing and speaking skills, clarity, poise, and ability to conduct research.	Every Four Years – faculty consultation on how to develop basic skills, based on results, and amendment of syllabi to include more remedial work if necessary, beginning Spring 2010
Faculty Consultation	1,3, 4, 9	75% each year to meet individually with faculty on SRP and general academic work to see if students are receiving proper mentorship.	Every two years – faculty consultation to assess if our students are developing mentorship relationships with GEP faculty, beginning Spring 2011