

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) at Columbia University was established in 1946 to produce a new breed of elite – diplomats, but also business and civic leaders – better equipped to confront the challenges of America’s new international role after World War II. The MPA in Environmental Science and Policy is a graduate program in management and policy analysis, which emphasizes practical skills and is enriched by ecological and planetary science.

Master of Public Administration in Environmental Science and Policy

This program trains sophisticated public managers and policymakers who apply innovative, systems-based thinking to environmental issues. Our new program emphasizes integrated thinking and learning so that our graduates will see beyond linear and fragmented approaches to coping with environmental problems. Our goal is to cultivate a new profession that manages earth systems in ways that will ensure the long-term viability of life on our planet.

Skills

Graduates are well prepared for professions as earth systems problem-solvers. Their experience in the program has geared them for leadership positions in local, state, and federal government agencies, as well as in nonprofit organizations and the environmental divisions of private corporations. They are also well suited for designing cost-effective programs and implementing policies. Most importantly, a deep understanding of earth systems informs their work, allowing them to craft the kinds of solutions necessary for our increasingly complex environmental problems.

This MPA program requires more environmental science than any other public policy master's degree in the world. The skills and concepts involve an understanding of scientific method, including observation, hypothesis generation, and hypothesis testing; the chemical processes affecting environmental quality and public health; collection and analysis of field and laboratory data; and systems modeling.

SIPA attracts a highly motivated and diverse group of students with broad international perspectives from all over the world. Through the completion of their graduate work, students have developed a strong understanding of earth systems issues while gaining management strategies for coping with threats to planetary sustainability. To train effective earth systems professionals, the program focuses on the practical skills necessary to understand the formulation and management of public policy.

Career Goals

SIPA students have found employment in a variety of sectors. 43% of MPA graduates enter the private sector encompassing consulting, energy, financial services/banking, media and technology to mention a few. 33% of the graduates have worked in the public sector with multinational organizations and domestic and foreign governments. 24% join the non-profit sector, the majority working for foundations/institutions, public interest/ advocacy groups or universities.

The Curriculum

The following is an outline of the coursework required by the MPA program in Environmental Science and Policy. The curriculum, as outlined below, provides a management and policy analytic core curriculum and a natural and social science earth systems concentration. Further course descriptions can be found on the program’s website at www.columbia.edu/cu/mpaenvironment

Required MPA in Environmental Science and Policy Courses:

- Environmental Chemistry and Toxicology
- Climate and Water
- Populations and Land Use
- The Workshop in Applied Earth Systems Management I
- Earth Systems and Environmental Politics, Policy, and Management
- Public Management
- Microeconomics and Policy Analysis I
- Quantitative Techniques and Systems Analysis in Policymaking and Management I
- Political Context of Public and Private Management
- Ethics, Values, and Justice
- The Workshop in Applied Earth Systems Management II
- Financial Management
- Microeconomics and Policy Analysis II
- Quantitative Techniques and Systems Analysis in Policymaking and Management II
- The Economics of Sustainable Development
- The Workshop in Applied Earth Systems Policy Analysis

The classes that comprise the core curriculum prepare students to analyze and understand the formulation and management of public policy. Students learn about organizational analysis, budgeting, financial analysis and reporting, probability theory, applied regression analysis, and applied microeconomics. Throughout, the program emphasizes a hands-on approach so that students may acquire the analytic, communication, and work skills required to be problem-solving earth system professionals. These skills include memo writing, presentations, team management, and financial analysis.

The core also includes Workshops in Applied Earth Systems Policy Analysis and Management, which challenge students to apply their theoretical knowledge and functional skills to address real-world environmental policy and management issues. This unique aspect of the program helps the participants synthesize what they are learning and gives them valuable experience as they prepare for careers in public policy.

For more information, please call Louise Rosen, Assistant Director for the MPA Program at 212-854-0643, email lar46@columbia.edu, or visit <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/mpaenvironment>

