Key Features of an Environmental Science and Policy Major

- Study in a multidisciplinary major that includes social and natural sciences.
- Gain experience and academic credit for internships in a wide variety of settings, including science labs, non-profit and/or government agencies, wildlife sanctuaries, and more.
- Choose from eleven different concentrations, allowing you to tailor your ENSP major to your interests. (Note that Biodiversity and Conservation Biology is the only Limited Enrollment Program within ENSP; all others are non-LEPs).
- Develop an understanding of environmental issues by studying the ways in which the natural and social sciences interact as systems.

Career Options

Entry-level positions in ENSP include:

- Research/technical assistant - federal agencies (science)
- Program analyst - federal agencies (policy)
- Policy analyst - non-profit organizations
- Environmental scientist - engineering and environmental services firms
- Field- and/or research assistant - wildlife ecology and other sciences
- Sustainability coordinator - in businesses and universities
- Environmental/outdoor educator
- Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, Chesapeake Conservation Corps and Teach for America volunteers
- Go here for more detail

After 5-10 years, many ENSP alumni continue on as:

- Mid-level employees and/or policy-makers in governmental, consulting, and/or non-profit agencies related to environmental science, policy, or advocacy.
- Regional/environmental planners
- Attorneys
- Scientific researchers
- Public school educators

Salary information is available here: http://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/home.htm
Advising

If you would like more information regarding the ENSP major, you can easily meet with an advisor:

- Dr. Wendy Whittemore, Associate Director
- Phone: (301) 405-8571
- Email: wwhitte@umd.edu Please send three different days/times that would be good for you to meet and she will e-mail back to confirm one of them. Please include your UID in your message.

Declaring an Environmental Science and Policy Major

All incoming ENSP students begin as "Undeclared in ENSP" in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, where you will explore concentrations and careers; internships, and campus activities. Your advisor will help you choose courses that help you explore your interests while keeping options open. Students must meet for advising at least once each semester, but may meet as often as they wish. To declare ENSP:

1. Please prepare a hand-written (draft) graduation plan to bring with you to advising. Prospective ENSP students with more than 40 credits completed will not be declared into ENSP without a draft graduation plan in hand at the time of your meeting.
2. E-mail: Dr. Whittemore at wwhitte@umd.edu. Please send three different days/times that would be good for you to meet and she will e-mail back to confirm one of them. Please include your UID in your message.
3. Once you have met with Dr. Whittemore and she has reviewed your graduation plan, you will be able to change your major.

Q & A

Do I have to know which concentration I want when I declare the ENSP major?

If you have fewer than 40 credits, you may enter the major as “Undeclared in ENSP.” You will then explore the various concentrations through the required introductory classes, meetings with your advisor, and activities within the department. Upon reaching 40 credits, you will need to prepare a graduation plan for your intended concentration. You must be in your degree-granting concentration by 60 credits. If you have completed 40 or more credits, you must submit a draft graduation plan at your first advising meeting.

Is there an ENSP minor available?

At this time, there is no ENSP minor. However, you can still take courses within the discipline, using them as “supporting courses” towards your major (whatever it may be). You can list these courses on your resume, thus alerting potential employers of your particular interest in environmental issues and policy. You can also gain exposure to ENSP topics by completing an internship, doing research, joining environment-related clubs and activities, and/or writing academic research papers about environment-related topics.

Explore the ENSP webpages for more information and sample graduation plans: www.ensp.umd.edu

You are also welcome to explore our Blog: http://enspatingnews.blogspot.com/