Master of Science in Environmental Pollution Control

The Environmental Pollution Control programs are interdisciplinary, focused on all aspects of preventing and controlling air, water, and solid waste pollution and disposal. Students take a broad set of four core courses and then can tailor the program to match their interests with courses available in environmental science, environmental biology, environmental chemistry, policy, management and business.

The program is directed toward undergraduates from various majors with appropriate backgrounds in biology, chemistry, mathematics, and physics. Courses are structured so that a degree can be earned on a part-time or full-time basis. Graduates have a wide range of employment opportunities available due to the advanced technical competence they can gain through the program.

The Master of Science degree (M.S.) is for full-time students desiring to carry out extensive research and prepare a thesis. The related Master of Environmental Pollution Control degree (M.E.P.C.) program is for those with science or non-technical backgrounds and builds skills for professional practice.

Contact

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Program Website: https://harrisburg.psu.edu/ms-epc
Curriculum
A minimum of 30 credits is required for the degree. All candidates are required to take a core course in each of the four environmental areas: air, water, solid waste management, and policy/risk. The program suggests that students take the following courses to meet the first three area requirements. Please note that the graduate standing may be considered in lieu of prerequisites.

- ENVE 470 AIR QUALITY (3). Prerequisite: CHEM 301
- ENVE 411 WATER SUPPLY AND POLLUTION CONTROL (3). Prerequisite: CHEM 301, ENVE 301W
- ENVE 424 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT (3). Prerequisite: seventh semester standing

The college regularly offers several courses which meet the fourth area requirement of policy/risk, including ENVE 460 Environmental Law (prerequisite: senior standing, graduate standing, or permission of the program), ENVE 569 Environmental Risk Assessment, and P ADM 531 Environmental Policy.

Courses in the degree program may be taken at the 400 or above level, but a minimum of 18 credits must be at the 500 or above level. All students must take at least 1 credit of EPC 590 Seminar and complete a scholarly master's paper (3 credits) or thesis (6 credits). The seminar and the paper/thesis count toward the 500-level requirement. All students must complete a total of 30 credits to earn the degree.

Please note that not all courses are offered at the Harrisburg campus. Students should consult with their adviser on the appropriate courses to take consistent with their educational goals.

Time Limit
Students have eight years or nine consecutive summers from the date of admission to complete all the requirements needed to earn the master's degree.

Courses
Prerequisite Courses
Applicants who are not engineers or have no experience with environmental engineering, either through course work or job-related experience, may want to take CE 370, Introduction to Environmental Sciences and Engineering, or a similar introductory environmental course prior to entering any of these programs. Check with the program for other suitable courses.

Prerequisite Courses: Calculus I, Calculus II, Chemistry I, Chemistry II, Physics I, and Physics II.

Recommended Courses
A full list of recommended courses is available on the program website (see below). Coursework is available in the following fields of study:

- CIVIL ENGINEERING (CE)
- CIVIL ENGINEERING (C ENG)
- ENGINEERING (ENGR)
- ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING (ENVE)
- ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION CONTROL (EPC)
- MANAGEMENT/BUSINESS COURSES
- MATHEMATICS, STATISTICS, AND COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSES
- MECHANICAL ENGINEERING (ME)
- PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (P ADM)
- PUBLIC POLICY (PUB PL)

Supporting Courses
The program maintains a list of supporting courses and a tentative multi-year schedule of when those courses are to be offered; this Graduate Course Tentative Schedule is available online.

The graduate student should consult with their adviser on the appropriate courses to take consistent with their education goals.

For a complete list of courses, visit the Graduate Bulletin (Whitebook).

Visit for complete details.