

University of Denver
Environmental Science Program

Requirements for Graduation with Distinction in Environmental Science

A program leading to graduation with Distinction in Environmental Science is open to students majoring in Environmental Science who maintain a minimum 3.60 grade point average in the major, and a minimum 3.40 gpa overall. Strongly motivated students are invited to pursue this program based on a strong academic record, and an interest in research in environmental science and professional development. Students wishing to earn Distinction in Environmental Science must be sponsored by a faculty mentor, who will be the student's thesis/project advisor.

Students pursuing Distinction in Environmental Science will meet with their thesis/project advisor to identify a research-based problem or project topic, outline a research proposal, and identify a minimum of 12-16 hours of upper division coursework that must be completed by the student (a maximum of 4 of these credits may be in ENVI 3991/GEOG3991: Independent Study, or ENVI2992/GEOG 2992: Directed Study; additional hours may be taken in these courses, but not applied to the 12-16 hours required for Distinction in Environmental Science). This discussion should take place no later than the beginning of autumn quarter of the student's senior year, however, students are encouraged to begin this project during the junior year in order to have sufficient time to complete a high quality thesis/project. The student will then write the research proposal and present it to the advisor and one additional faculty member; the two faculty members must approve the proposal, and will constitute the student's thesis/project committee.

The thesis/project should represent an original contribution, and be of publishable quality. The thesis/project should be completed by the end of the fifth week of the spring quarter of the student's senior year, and presented to the thesis/project advisor. Upon completion of the thesis/project, the members of the thesis/ project committee must approve the thesis/project. Students achieving Distinction in Environmental Science are required to present the results of their research/project at the annual Symposium for Undergraduate Research, and are encouraged to present their work at other appropriate regional or national conferences.