

CAL POLY HUMBOLDT
University Senate

**Resolution to Recommend the Concentration Elevation of Environment and Community
Masters of Arts**

20-23/24-ICC - March 26, 2024 - Curriculum Reading

RESOLVED: That the University Senate of Cal Poly Humboldt recommends to the Provost that the elevation of the Environment and Community Concentration to a stand alone Masters of Arts program detailed in proposal [23-2314](#) be approved.

RATIONALE: The Environment and Community MA program (E&C) is an interdisciplinary program that focuses on the diverse relationships between environment and community using interdisciplinary perspectives. The program focuses on just and sustainable solutions to complex social and environmental challenges, grounded in the knowledge that racial justice, settler colonialism, and environmental problems are deeply intertwined. The elevation is accompanied by curriculum changes that align with the new mission of the polytechnic for Humboldt, the values and identity of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences.

The elevation of Environment and Community from a concentration in the Social Science MA to a stand-alone MA requires no additional faculty, facilities, space needs or staffing. The program will continue to be housed in the Department of Environmental Studies with the new curriculum going into effect with the 25/26 Catalog.

Masters of Arts in Environment and Community Program Learning Outcomes

1. Interrogate the epistemological foundations of multiple disciplinary approaches in order to explore power/knowledge relationships as they pertain to environment & community
2. Analyze just sustainability and environmental justice using frameworks that acknowledge the power-laden connections between race, other axes of social difference, and environment
3. Explore the diverse forms of colonialism (settler, franchise, etc.) within environment-community relations
4. Acquire the necessary skills, knowledge, and ways of knowing to prepare for careers, engagement, and leadership roles in environmental stewardship and community programming.
5. Demonstrate how diverse forms of knowledge production and representation are vital to responsible environmental policy that acknowledges the more-than-human environment

Masters of Arts in Environment and Community Curriculum

Unit Requirement: 30-33

Required Seminars (15 units)

EC 601: E&C Cohort Field & Immersion Experience (3)

EC/NAS 610: Environment and Community Methods: Decolonizing Methodologies (3)

EC 620: Climate Resilience Topic (3)

EC 630: Social Change & Advocacy Topic (3)

EC 640: Critical Ecology Topic (3)

Required Colloquium (3 units)

EC 615 Graduate Colloquium (1 unit, taken each of first 3 semesters)

Thesis/Project (690) or Comprehensive Exam (691) Units (3 units)

Thesis/Project Field Research OR Additional Seminar/Elective Course (3-6 units)

For those students opting for a thesis/project, units will be taken in final fall and/or spring semester. For those students opting for a Master's Exam, they are required to take one additional seminar or elective course.

Elective Courses (1 must be graduate level) (6 units)

Associated Course Proposals

[EC 610 - 22-1874 - Course Change](#)

Renumber course to EC 500

[EC 620 - 22-1870 - Course Change](#)

Renumber course to EC 520

[EC 630 - 22-1871 - Course Change](#)

Renumber course to EC 530

[EC - 640 - 22-1872 - Course Change](#)

Renumber course to EC 540

[NAS - 510 - 22-1833 - New Course](#)

Establishes Decolonizing Methodologies: Place-Based Community Research, currently running as a topic under EC 630, into an independent course.

[NAS - 530 - 22-1840 - New Course](#)

Establishes Klamath River Issues, currently running as a topic under EC 630, into an independent course.