



Specialized Work of the MA in Environmental Studies Concentration

This is a highly individualized concentration guided by individual study plans developed by each student in collaboration with program faculty. You are encouraged to combine theory, content, and practice in ways that you find useful. Throughout each semester, you and your advisor remain in communication as you submit packets of materials documenting your studies and your advisor responds to them. This is a four-semester program of study with 48 credits awarded upon completion. The concentration concludes with a final product that may involve research leading to an extended piece of academic writing, a substantial and well-documented practice that is placed within a larger theoretical context, or some combination of these two approaches. In addition, there are a number of resources and common experiences available to students. These include:

Mini-courses, Workshops, and Seminars

A series of short-courses, workshops, and seminars is offered during residencies. Some may continue into the semester. They explore the core areas of inquiry, the concept(s) of place, and relevant issues, skills, and methodologies.

Common Readings and Resources

An on-line list of print and electronic resources providing access to the diverse environmental and place studies ideas, content, and methodologies is available to provide a useful starting point for your studies and research. This can be found at: <http://web.goddard.edu/ESresources>. From time-to-time, students in this concentration will also have an opportunity to engage in discussions of common readings.

Integrative Field Experience

You will engage in a place-based field experience that integrates the concentrations core areas of inquiry in a “real-world” setting. This field experience might emerge naturally from your environmental practice or thesis project. It could consist of an internship or be integrated into a

semester's regular program of study. Residency workshops and conversations with your adviser will help you to address the learning that is foundational and essential for a successful field study.

A Place-Based Ecological Identity Essay

You will write an extended essay in which you explore your own ecological identity and relationship to place. This can explore the cultural, social, autobiographical, philosophical, and place-based experiences and perceptions, and roots of your personal perspective on the environment and environmental issues. The goal is to identify, reflect upon, and clarify your personal environmental worldview, values, and behavior and to place them within larger cultural and environmental contexts. Workshops during the residency will assist you in this process.