

SOU Home

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2018-19 Catalog

Catalog Search

Entire Catalog

Search Catalog


☐ Whole Word/Phrase

[Advanced Search](#)
[Catalog Home](#)
[Previous Catalogs](#)
[Academic Programs](#)
[General Degree](#)
[Requirements](#)
[Core Curriculum](#)
[Requirements](#)
[Course Descriptions](#)
[Online Programs](#)
[Reading This Catalog](#)
[Welcome to SOU](#)
[Entering the](#)
[University](#)
[Registration](#)
[Tuition and Fees](#)
[Financial Aid](#)
[Affirmative Action](#)
[Policies](#)
[Academic Policies](#)
[Academic Outreach](#)
[and Enrichment](#)

Environmental Education


Dr. Stewart Janes, Program Director
541-552-6797

This program serves students seeking careers that require a scientific understanding of the natural world, awareness of the environmental problems affecting present and future generations, and the skills needed to become effective educators. The MS in Environmental Education program is designed to help students acquire scientific knowledge and professional skills in preparation for careers devoted to formal and informal education, sustainable resource use, protection of biodiversity, and preservation of wildlands. Graduates find jobs as teachers in school and field settings; as interpretive naturalists in museums, nature centers, and parks; and as environmental advocates working with governmental and nongovernmental organizations to educate the public. Graduates participate as responsible and informed citizens promoting wise policy decisions affecting the environment.



To enter the program, applicants need at least 20 quarter credits (or 13 semester credits) in the natural sciences, as approved by a director of the environmental education program. Students admitted to the program or admitted as postbaccalaureate students intending to enter the program should meet with the program director before taking classes. Instructions for application may be found on the Environmental Education website (sou.edu/ee). Application materials include the graduate application to SOU, a letter of intent, official GRE scores, official transcripts, and three letters of recommendation. Applications are reviewed on January 15 and April 15. It is recommended that students begin the program by taking [ED 557A](#) (Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment) during

Study Away
Programs
Other Academic
Support Programs

Faculty Listing
Credit for Prior
Learning Policy
My Portfolio

second Summer Session. This should allow for successful completion of the program by the end of fall term the following academic year.

Programs

Major

- [Environmental Education, MS](#)

Courses

Environmental Education

- [EE 501 - Research](#)
- [EE 503 - Thesis](#)
- [EE 507 - Selected Topics in Environmental Education](#)
- [EE 524 - Concepts in Environmental Education](#)
- [EE 525 - Special Methods in Environmental Education](#)
- [EE 526 - Trends in Environmental Education](#)
- [EE 527 - Place-Based Curriculum Development](#)
- [EE 528 - Environmental Issues](#)
- [EE 529 - Environmental Education Program Administration](#)
- [EE 592 - Leadership in Environmental Education: Program Development](#)
- [EE 593 - Practical Applications of Environmental Education](#)
- [EE 594 - Leadership in Environmental Education: Program Delivery](#)
- [EE 595 - Teaching in Environmental Education](#)
- [EE 599 - Special Studies](#)



Questions? [Contact SOU](#) – Call: [541.552.7672](tel:541.552.7672) | [SOU Home](#) | [Inside SOU](#) | [Visit](#) | [Donate](#) | [Apply](#)

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Southern Oregon University Catalog

2018-19 Catalog

Catalog Search

Entire Catalog

Search Catalog



☐ Whole Word/Phrase

[Advanced Search](#)

[Catalog Home](#)

[Previous Catalogs](#)

Academic Programs

General Degree

Requirements

Core Curriculum

Requirements

Course Descriptions

Online Programs

Reading This Catalog

Welcome to SOU

Entering the

University

Registration

Tuition and Fees

Financial Aid

Affirmative Action

Policies

Academic Policies

Academic Outreach

and Enrichment

Environmental Education, MS



The curriculum consists of 54 graduate credits, 39 of which are core credits, distributed as follows:

Required Courses

(37 credits)

- [EE 524 - Concepts in Environmental Education](#) 3 credits
- [EE 525 - Special Methods in Environmental Education](#) 3 credits
- [EE 526 - Trends in Environmental Education](#) 2 credits
- [EE 527 - Place-Based Curriculum Development](#) 3 credits
- [EE 528 - Environmental Issues](#) 3 credits
- [EE 529 - Environmental Education Program Administration](#) 3 credits
- [EE 592 - Leadership in Environmental Education: Program Development](#) 1 credit (2 total credits required)
- [EE 593 - Practical Applications of Environmental Education](#) 1 to 2 credits (2 credits total required)
- [EE 594 - Leadership in Environmental Education: Program Delivery](#) 4 credits (4 credits total required)
- [EE 595 - Teaching in Environmental Education](#) 4 credits
- [EE 507 - Selected Topics in Environmental Education](#) 1 credit
- [ED 557A - Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment](#) 3 credits
- [ED 557B - Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment](#) 3 credits

Study Away
Programs
Other Academic
Support Programs

Faculty Listing
Credit for Prior
Learning Policy
My Portfolio

Electives

Complete 15 credits of electives from the following two groups or courses:

A. Complete 2-5 elective courses from the list below:

(6-16 credits)

- BI 513 - Physiological Ecology of Animals 5 credits
- BI 514 - Advanced Animal Physiology 5 credits
- BI 515 - Mammalogy 4 credits
- BI 533 - Plant Systematics 4 credits
- BI 534 - Plant Form and Function 5 credits
- BI 538 - Conservation Biology 3 credits
- BI 544 - Vascular Plant Identification and Field Botany 3 credits
- BI 550 - Fish and Fisheries 4 credits
- BI 554 - Plant Ecology 4 credits
- BI 566 - Biology of Insects 3 credits
- BI 570 - Herpetology 4 credits
- BI 571 - Ornithology 4 credits
- BI 575 - Aquatic Ecology 4 credits
- BI 580 - Animal Behavior 4 credits
- ES 521 - Ecological Economics and Sustainable Development 4 credits
- ES 533 - Soil Science 4 credits
- ES 537 - Conservation in the United States 4 credits
- ES 579 - Biosphere, Ecology, and Global Environmental Change 4 credits
- ES 580 - Fire Ecology 4 credits
- ES 581 - Geomorphology 4 credits
- ES 582 - Climatology 4 credits

B. Select 0-3 courses from outside the sciences (if needed to reach 15 credits)*

Examples of potential courses include the following, although other courses may be used subject to advisor approval:

(0-8 credits)

- COMM 548 - Mediation and Conflict Management 4 credits
- COMM 555 - Conflict Resolution 4 credits
- ES 539 - Land Use Planning 4 credits
- PE 548 - Leadership and Management 3 credits
- PSY 538 - Group Dynamics 4 credits
- OAL 570 - Environmental Physiology 3 credits
- SOAN 520 - Environmental Sociology 4 credits
- SOAN 552 - Global Environmental Movements 4 credits

*Note: 52 credits are required for program completion, including 15 credits of electives. Choose a minimum of two courses and a maximum of five courses from Elective Section A. If more elective credits are needed to achieve 15 credits of electives, choose 0-3 courses from Elective Section B to reach 15 credits of electives.

Program Completion Requirements

1.

Completion of the required coursework (including four approved electives at the graduate level totaling 15 or more credits). Students must achieve a grade of B or better in all courses. SOU permits up to 15 credits of graduate-level courses (quarter hours or their equivalent) to be transferred into the program with advisor approval.

2.

Successful completion of the exit interviews regarding leadership and teaching in environmental education. The 30-40 minute interviews are conducted with two or more faculty members or instructors following the culminating field educational program delivered by the students (Fall in the Field) using the published scoring guides.

3.

All students must complete an oral examination which is attended by the student's Evaluation Committee which consists of a minimum of three Graduate Faculty, at least two of which are from the Environmental Education faculty or the Biology program. An outside representative from the Graduate Faculty will also attend the Oral Examination. The role of the

fourth member is to assure the student is treated fairly and that the standards of SOU are upheld. The oral examination typically takes one-and-a-half hours. It is the responsibility of the student to coordinate a time and place for the examination.

For those students completing the program with a thesis or project, the following applies. Students must apply for completion by thesis or project by the end of the second quarter of coursework at SOU with the Program Coordinator and have secured an advisor at the time of application. Students conducting research in the field of environmental education complete a thesis while those producing a product complete a project. The thesis or project substitutes for one of the science electives.

Program Options:

1.

Teacher licensure. Students may apply for the dual Environmental Education master's degree/Oregon Initial teacher license. Licensure is available at either the middle/high school level (3/4) or the upper elementary/middle school level (2/3). At the 3/4 level students may seek endorsements in either Integrated Science or Biology and must meet the prerequisite coursework before beginning student teaching. Students seeking licensure at the 2/3 level must meet course prerequisites for that program. Refer to the Education department webpage for a list of the course prerequisites for each program. Teacher licensure requires coursework and student teaching in addition to the requirements for the Environmental Education degree though less than if pursuing both the degree and licensure separately.

2.

Certificate in Nonprofit Management (CNPM). For those intending to work with a non-profit organization or initiate their own program, the CNPM provides vital skills and experiences. The CNPM may be earned with only 18 credits in addition to those required by the Environmental Education master's program. Refer to the [Certificate in Nonprofit Management \(CNPM\)](#) section of the catalog for a complete description of the program.