

**From:** [Smith, Randy](#)  
**To:** [Davies, Matt](#); [Osborne, Jeanne](#)  
**Cc:** [Andridge, Rebecca](#); [Reed, Katie](#); [Smith, Randy](#); [Miriti, Maria](#); [Duffy, Lisa](#); [Bricker, Adrienne](#); [Toman, Eric](#); [Christy, Ann](#)  
**Subject:** Proposal to revise the Master of Environment and Natural Resources degree program  
**Date:** Thursday, March 23, 2023 8:37:49 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Jeanne and Matt:

The proposal from the School of Environment and Natural Resources to revise the Master of Environment and Natural Resources degree program was approved by the Council on Academic Affairs at its meeting on March 22, 2023. Thank you for attending the meeting to respond to questions/comments.

No additional level of review/approval is necessary. This action will be included in the Council's next Annual Activities Report to the University Senate (July 2023).

The Office of the University Registrar will contact you if there are any implementation issues.

Please keep a copy of this message for your file on the proposal and I will do the same for the file in the Office of Academic Affairs.

If you have any questions, please contact the Chair of the Council, Professor Rebecca Andridge ([andridge.1@osu.edu](mailto:andridge.1@osu.edu)), or me.

Randy



**W. Randy Smith, Ph.D.**

Vice Provost for Academic Programs

**Office of Academic Affairs**

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**From:** [Carpenter, TJ](#)  
**To:** [Reed, Katie](#)  
**Cc:** [Osborne, Jeanne](#); [Miriti, Maria](#)  
**Subject:** FAES - MENR Revision  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 7, 2023 3:33:11 PM  
**Attachments:** [FAES - MENR Revision Combined Proposal 3-7-23.pdf](#)  
[image001.png](#)

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Katie,

Please find a proposal to revise the Master of Environment and Natural Resources.

The School of Environmental and Natural Resources in the College of Food, Agriculture, and Environmental Science is proposing to revise the Master of Environmental Science by removing the examination requirement for the tagged masters. The MENR is a tagged professional master's degree requiring completion of a robust professional development curriculum including core courses, specialization courses, professional network building through two semesters of program specific seminar activities, and a summative internship experience in natural resources management. The program has identified over the last several years that the masters examination does not align with the goals and outcomes of the program and is not necessary for student preparation for the workforce. Due to the increase enrollment of the program the program felt it was time to consider the removal of this requirement. The change does not impact the number of credit hours for the program as the final examination bears no credit and will have no impact on the learning goals or outcomes of the program.

This proposal has been reviewed and approved by the combined GS/CAA subcommittee and Graduate Council. The contacts for the proposal are cc'd on this email.

Please let me know if you need additional information to add this proposal to the agenda of the upcoming CAA meeting.



**Dr. Maria N. Miriti**  
**Professor, Dept. of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology**  
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[carpenter.1112@osu.edu](mailto:carpenter.1112@osu.edu) / [www.gradsch.osu.edu](http://www.gradsch.osu.edu)  
Pronouns: He/Him/His



TO: Randy Smith, Vice Provost for Academic Programs

FROM: Graduate School Curriculum Services

DATE: March 7, 2023

RE: Proposal to revise the Master of Environment and Natural Resources in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Science

The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Science is proposing to revise the Master of Environment and Natural Resources.

The proposal was received by the Graduate School on February 17, 2023. The combined GS/CAA subcommittee first reviewed the proposal on February 27, 2023, and recommended it for approval by the Graduate Council on March 7, 2023. The proposal was approved by the Graduate Council on March 7, 2023.



February 17, 2023

Vice Provost W. Randy Smith  
Office of Academic Affairs  
203 Bricker Hall  
190 North Oval Mall

Dear Vice Provost Smith,

The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences is requesting Council on Academic Affairs approval for revisions to the tagged, professional (non-thesis) Master of Environment and Natural Resources (MENR) Graduate Program in the School of Environment and Natural Resources as outlined in the attached document.

The School of Environment and Natural Resources proposes that the master's examination requirement be removed from the MENR degree plan, which is consistent with other tagged, professional masters' programs in CFAES and in other units across the university.

This proposal has been approved by the School of Environment and Natural Resources and by the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences Committee on Academic Affairs. Please let me know if any additional information is needed in support of this request.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Osborne  
Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs  
College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences  
[Osborne.2@osu.edu](mailto:Osborne.2@osu.edu)  
Tel: 614-292-2389

Cc: Dr. David Barker, Dr. Matt Davies, Renee Johnston, Susie Burks, Dr. Ann Christy



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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January 31, 2023

Vice Provost W. Randy Smith  
Office of Academic Affairs  
203 Bricker Hall  
190 North Oval Mall  
Columbus, OH 43210

Dear Vice Provost Smith,

Enclosed please find materials to support a proposed degree revision for the Master of Environment and Natural Resources (MENR), which is a tagged, professional (non-thesis) master's degree program in the School of Environment and Natural Resources (SENR), College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CFAES).

We request the master's examination requirement be removed from the MENR degree program plan. Tagged professional programs at OSU do not require a master's examination unless requested by the unit. After several years of administering the program with the added examination requirement, we have found that it no longer aligns with program goals nor assists with student preparation for entry into their target career field. Students' mastery of material is assessed under other existing program components and the master's examination is an unnecessary redundancy that requires significant additional faculty involvement and staff resources. Increasing MENR program enrollment has prompted us to revisit our program goals, learning outcomes, and assessment measures. The removal of the master's exam does not change our program goals and learning outcomes and it only removes those assessment methods related to the examination process.

After careful consideration and discussion by the SENR Graduate Studies Committee and broader faculty, it was determined by a favorable faculty vote to remove the MENR master's examination requirement.



Per the GS/CAA guidelines for degree revision, we are submitting the following:

- A statement of the percentage change in credit hours to the existing program
- A narrative of the rationale and motivation for this revision
- A transition plan
- A statement on changes to the learning goals, program objectives, and/or assessment plan
- The academic program learning outcomes assessment plan document
- A revised MENR curriculum planning sheet

Thank you for your review of this request. We look forward to receiving your feedback so that we may improve our MENR program to best support student success and fulfill SENR's commitment to helping prepare career professionals in environmental management.

Sincerely,

Prof. G. Matt Davies

Chair, Environment and Natural Resources Graduate Studies Committee  
Associate Professor of Soil and Plant Community Restoration

**Proposal to Revise MENR Tagged Master's Degree Program:  
Removing the Master's Exam Requirement**



**Statement of the percentage change to the existing program**

There will be no credit hour change (0%) to the MENR program by this action as no credit hours are associated with the MENR Exam.

### **Rationale and motivation for the revision**

The MENR is a tagged professional master's degree requiring completion of a robust professional development curriculum including core courses, specialization courses, professional network building through two semesters of program specific seminar activities, and a summative internship experience in natural resources management. Under the Graduate School's options for master's degree programs, a master's examination is not required for a tagged professional program unless the unit requires it. SENR as a unit has voted to remove the MENR exam requirement and is requesting this be officially changed for the MENR program structure. Importantly, the exam requirement does not currently serve the purposes of the MENR. Rather it acts as a roadblock to program growth, including proposed specialization tracks under development.

The exam component is more commonly required for the MS, non-thesis option, which SENR no longer has. <https://gradsch.osu.edu/handbook>

An example program operating under the tagged professional master's with no examination requirement is John Glenn College of Public Affairs, Master of Public Administration (MPA). <https://glenn.osu.edu/web/sites/default/files/2021-10/graduate-handbook.pdf>

### **Transition plan**

Current students will be grandfathered under the system that was in place when they were admitted, meaning those who were admitted when the exam requirement was in place will be provided with the opportunity to take the master's examination if they so choose. No MENR exam will be administered to those students admitted after the start date of the new structure.

### **Changes to Learning Goals, Program Objectives, and/or the Assessment Plan**

The learning goals and program objectives will not change as a result of removing the MENR Exam. However, some measures and methods that appear in the current assessment plan related to the exam will be eliminated. The learning goals and program objectives related to the MENR exam are already covered by other program measures and methods, as shown on the revised assessment plan (see provided document). The remaining measures and methods of program assessment are not only sufficient but are better aligned with a tagged professional master's program.

Specifically, the program learning goals, with each of their supporting or contributing outcomes, will be measured by an appraisal of progress towards completion of the degree program, which will include academic performance across core and specialization courses as well as professional development experiences, including the student's performance in their internship experience.

The MENR program includes core courses to support interdisciplinary study across legal frameworks for natural resource management, environmental natural sciences, and social sciences.

The program also includes specialization courses that allow students to develop knowledge and skills in their focus areas that align with their target career outcomes. Under the old structure, students were asked to identify one of their specialization courses as a "keystone" course which was used to identify a focus area of study to facilitate the examination process; as there will no longer be an examination, this "keystone" course designation is no longer necessary and will be eliminated.

The final component of this tagged professional program is a series of professional development courses which include seminar experiences to build knowledge, skills and professional network, and an internship experience to gain professional experience in the target career field.

All program learning goals and outcomes will remain in place. There are no credit hours associated with the exam, so this is a zero-percent credit hour change to the program. Removal of the master's examination is the only substantive change being proposed for the MENR by this request.

# Environment and Natural Resources – Master of Environment and Natural Resources {ENVNATR-MENR}

## Academic Program Learning Outcomes Assessment Plan

Program Learning Goals <i>Broad descriptive statements of what students are to be able to do, know, and care about upon the completion of the program</i>	Supporting/Contributing Outcomes <i>Detailed descriptions of what a student must be able to do to reach a goal under the specific conditions</i>	Measures – Means/Methods <i>the method or means by which the quality of student learning for each goal and associated outcome will be measured and assessed</i>				Criteria <i>The standards the program will use to evaluate the quality of student learning for each goal and associated outcome</i>
			Course or program requirement	Embedded course assignment, exam, exercise, or activity to serve as authentic assessment method	Relevant topic or reference to program element	
<b>1.0</b> Demonstrate mastery of foundational knowledge in Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) through MENR core courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ENR legal framework</li> <li>• ENR Social Science</li> <li>• ENR interdisciplinary studies course</li> <li>• ENR Ecology</li> </ul>	<b>1.1</b> Develop understanding of legal framework that defines the responsibilities of ENR agencies and organizations	1.1.1	Appraisal of progress toward completion of degree program	Direct --completion of core legal course  Academic performance in core course on ENR legal framework.	Course grade indicating B or better in course	A
		1.1.2	Master's Exam	Direct --MENR Master's Examination  Performance on written examination	Written examination via use of ENR Rubric for MENR Program	B

	1.2 Develop fundamental understanding of the social science foundations of ENR issues and potential responses	1.2.1	Appraisal of progress toward completion of degree program	Direct --completion of core social science course  <i>Academic performance in core ENR Social science course.</i>	Course grade indicating B or better in course	A
		<del>1.2.2</del>	<del>Master's Exam</del>	<del>Direct --MENR Master's Examination  Performance on written examination</del>	<del>Written examination via use of ENR Rubric for MENR Program</del>	<del>B</del>
	1.3 Develop fundamental understanding of the ecological foundations of ENR problems and issues	1.3.1	Appraisal of progress toward completion of degree program	Direct --completion of core ecological science course  <i>Academic performance in core ENR Ecological science course.</i>	Course grade indicating B or better in course	A
		<del>1.3.2</del>	<del>Master's Exam</del>	<del>Direct --MENR Master's Examination  Performance on written examination</del>	<del>Written examination via use of ENR Rubric for MENR Program</del>	<del>B</del>
2.0 Demonstrate professional skills applicable to ENR field of professional practice	2.1 Develop professional skills related to ENR field of professional practice	2.1.1	Appraisal of progress toward completion of degree program	Direct --completion of skills courses  <i>Academic performance in skills courses</i>	Course grades indicating B or better in skills courses	A

3.0 Demonstrate mastery of knowledge in ENR field of study	3.1 Develop depth of knowledge in ENR field of study	3.1.1	Appraisal of progress toward completion of degree program	Direct --completion of specialization courses  <i>Academic performance specialization courses.</i>	Course grades indicating B or better in specialization courses	A
		3.1.2	<del>Master's Exam</del>	Direct <del>MENR Master's Examination</del>  Performance on written examination	Written examination via use of ENR Rubric for MENR Program	B

4.0 Demonstrate professional development in ENR through MENR professional development courses:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MENR Seminars</li> <li>• MENR Internship</li> <li>• <del>MENR Keystone Course</del></li> </ul>	4.1 Interact with ENR professionals from diverse backgrounds	4.1.1	Appraisal of progress toward completion of degree program	Indirect -- completion of ENR 7981 MENR Seminar  <i>Attendance at ENR and related events</i>	Overall course grade of Satisfactory	C B
	4.2 Obtain experience working directly with ENR agency or organization through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-career internship,</li> </ul>	4.2.1	Appraisal of progress toward completion of degree program	Direct -- completion of ENR 7191 MENR Internship	Overall course grade of satisfactory	D B, C

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paid internship, or</li> <li>• Volunteer experience</li> </ul>					
	<b>4.3</b> Develop depth of knowledge in ENR field of study relevant to student-identified professional practice goal	<b>4.3.1</b>	<b>Appraisal of progress toward completion of degree program</b>	Direct —completion of MENR Keystone course  <i>Academic performance in Keystone course</i>	Course grades indicating B or better in course	<b>A</b>
		<b>4.3.2</b>	<b>Master's Exam</b>	Direct —MENR Master's Examination  Performance on written examination	Written examination via use of ENR Rubric for MENR Program	<b>B</b>



## Criteria

Indicate the standards the program will use to evaluate the quality of student learning for each goal and associated outcome. Programs are to indicate both the minimum criteria required to assert a learning outcome (and thus collectively with other outcomes the associated goal) was achieved, and criteria of excellence the program is striving toward.

A	Minimal acceptable criterion for this identified supporting learning outcome is 75% of the enrolled MENR students earn a <b>grade of B (3.0) or above</b> for the course. When 90% of the enrolled MENR students obtain <b>grades of B (3.0) or above</b> for the course, the aspirational performance standard constituting programmatic excellence for this learning outcome will be attained.
B	<del>Minimal acceptable criterion for this supporting outcome method is 75% of all MENR students who complete and pass their examination (scholarly paper, comprehensive examination or project), reflected by 75% of <b>meets expectations or higher</b> on the examination as demonstrated on the ENR Rubric for MENR Examination. When 90% of all MENR students complete their examination with ratings of <b>meets expectations or higher</b>, the aspirational performance standard constituting programmatic excellence for this learning outcome measure will be attained.</del>
€ B	Minimal acceptable criterion for this identified supporting learning outcome is 75% of all MENR students earn a <b>grade of Satisfactory</b> for the course. When 90% of all MENR students obtain <b>grades of Satisfactory</b> for the course, the aspirational performance standard constituting programmatic excellence for this learning outcome will be attained.
Ð C	Minimal acceptable criterion for this identified supporting learning outcome is 75% of all MENR students participating in an internship will receive a <b>positive evaluation</b> from their supervisor. When 90% of all MENR students participating in an internship receive a <b>positive evaluation</b> from their supervisor, the aspirational performance standard constituting programmatic excellent for this learning outcome measure will be attained.

# MENR Program of Study

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Projected Term of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

## Core Courses (8-9 credits)

		Semester	Credit
ENR 7520	Environmental Science and Law	_____	_____
_____	Social Science: _____	_____	_____
_____	Ecology: _____	_____	_____

## Professional Development Courses (minimum 7-8 credits)

ENR 7981	MENR Seminar (1 credit)	_____	_____
ENR 7981	MENR Seminar (1 credit)	_____	_____
ENR 7191	MENR Internship (3 credits)	_____	_____
_____	Keystone course: _____	_____	_____

## Specialization Courses (minimum 13-15 credits)

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

## Skills Courses (minimum 6 credits)

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

## Master's Examination options

Comprehensive Exam ☐ Scholarly Paper ☐

Total Program Credit (minimum of 36 credits)

Total credits

Signatures required on back of form

Conditional Admission Requirements

If you were admitted with the condition that you complete specific course requirements, please list those courses below:

Course Number	Course Subject	Course Title	Semester	Credit

Committee Members

MENR Director

Print Name

Signature

Graduate Program Manager

Print Name

Signature

Student

Print Name

Signature

Date submitted to GSC \_\_\_\_\_

Chair, ENR Graduate Studies Committee

Date