

Advisor and Advisory Committee

All students should begin the planning of their graduate program with the assistance of their major professor (advisor). An advisor will work with you to develop a coherent program of courses and a plan of research. Once on campus you should have a meeting with your advisor to plan your timeline and discuss common expectations including how often you should meet. This does not preclude seeking another advisor whose interests or expertise are more compatible with your needs.

During the second semester, students should develop a faculty committee with the counsel and approval of the advisor. The faculty members of this advisory committee should be balanced between the social and natural sciences. For an M.S. candidate, this interdisciplinary committee must be composed of three committee members representing at least two different departments or schools; at least one member must be from the social sciences and one from the natural sciences. The advisor will chair this committee. The committee will meet to assist the student in the certification process and the thesis defense examination. The faculty who act as official advisors and 2 of 3 members for a master's committee must be members of the Graduate School faculty. If at some point you wish to change your major professor or any other faculty committee members, please submit your request in writing to the Nelson Institute Academic Programs Office.

Effective Fall 2008 ER adopted the following policy on eligibility for co-advisors and committee members to take advantage of new flexibility permitted by the Graduate School: Graduate Committees of the Environment and Resources program of the Nelson Institute shall be allowed to include, as a third member of master's committees, qualified scholars and

practitioners who are not members of the graduate faculty. Approval reviewed by the APO office and the chair of the ER program with final approval by the chair of ER. In cases of dispute, appeal may be made to the ER program committee for a formal vote.