

Environment & Resources master's degree

-Must be an interdisciplinary research endeavor integrating some element of science (even if just basic science) with a human dimensions component

-Three-member advisory committee minimum

-At least 2 committee members must be on the UW-Madison Graduate Faculty.

-Assistant Professor, Associate Professor or Professor

-A non-faculty, or even non-UW, member may be the 3rd representative on the committee if approved by the student's advisor and the ER program chair.

-This 3rd representative would need at least a master's degree because that is the degree level at which the candidate is being examined.

-At least 2 departments or programs must be represented on the committee.

-At least 1 natural scientist (representing the biological or physical science division) and at least 1 social scientist/humanities (representing the social studies or arts/humanities division) representative are required on the committee.

-Student must hold a certification meeting with all committee members present to discuss the course work covering the curriculum requirements as well as the thesis proposal. The certification paperwork needs to be signed by all committee members and then submitted to the Academic Programs Office.

http://nelson.wisc.edu/docs/er_ms_cert.doc

Environment & Resources doctoral degree

Must be an interdisciplinary research endeavor integrating some element of science (even if just basic science) with a human dimensions component

Students must sit down with their advisor by the end of their first year in the program and submit an Initial Course Work Proposal to the Academic Programs Office (70 Science Hall).

http://nelson.wisc.edu/docs/er_phd_initial.doc

Five-member advisory committee minimum

- At least 4 committee members must be on the UW-Madison Graduate Faculty.
- Assistant Professor, Associate Professor or Professor
- A non-faculty, or even non-UW, member may be the 5th representative on the committee if approved by the student's advisor and the ER program chair.
 - This 5th representative would preferably have a doctoral degree because that is the degree level at which the candidate is being examined, but an exception can be made to the program chair regarding this if somebody is a specialist in their field despite not having a doctorate.
- At least 3 departments or programs must be represented on the committee.
- Preferably at least 2 natural scientists (representing the biological and/or physical science division) and at least 2 social scientist/humanities (representing the social studies and/or arts/humanities division) representatives are recommended for committee composition. Exceptions to a 3:2 committee balance may be put forth to the ER program chair.

Students must pass a Qualifying Exam (i.e., literature review) which typically entails both a written and a follow-up oral component. This exam is designed to test the boundaries of the candidate's knowledge in the relevant topical areas they're tying together as part of their research endeavor.

- The format can vary and often times is modeled after the advisor's home department.
- Usually there is one question per committee member, and the committee decides how long the candidate has to compose answers.
- A Qualifying Exam warrant (internal to Nelson and the ER program) must be signed by at least the advisor and submitted to the Academic Programs Office.

Students must then pass a Preliminary Exam which is the defense of their interdisciplinary research proposal/prospectus.

- A Preliminary Exam warrant must be requested through the Academic Programs Office at least three weeks prior to the exam.

At either the Qualifying Exam or the Preliminary Exam, the candidate should go over their Final Course Work Proposal document with their committee. This paperwork needs to be signed by all committee members and then submitted to the Academic Programs Office.

http://nelson.wisc.edu/docs/er_phd_final.doc