

Master of Jurisprudence in Energy Law

To complete this 30-credit, online program in two years, students typically take two courses per semester and attend a one-time, on-campus Education Immersion Weekend.

The curriculum is organized as follows:

Semester	Course #	Course Name	Credits
Semester 1	EVRL 6000 ERGL 6400	Environmental Law, Regulation and Policy Survey Introduction to Legal Study, Research, and Legal Writing I	3 2
Semester 2	ERGL 6000 ERGL 6401	Energy Law, Regulation and Policy Survey Introduction to Legal Study, Research, and Legal Writing II	3 2
Semester 3	ERGL ERGL 5800	Administrative Law Dispute Resolution	3 2
Semester 4	ERGL 6250	Federal Regulation of Public Utilities Elective #1	3 2
Semester 5	ERGL 6250	Environmental Justice & Public Trust Elective #2	3 2
Semester 6	ERGL 6990	Capstone Elective #3	3 2
Immersion Weekend		Education Immersion Weekend <i>Students are required to attend a 2-day, on-campus Immersion Weekend once during the program, either their first or second year. The immersion weekend is typically at the end of July or early August.</i>	0
<i>Total program credits</i>			30

Note: Courses are subject to change without notice

Note: Each semester is 15-weeks in length. Students attend classes 3 semesters per year: Fall, spring, summer with short breaks between each semester. Typical completion time is 24-months.

Course Descriptions

Required courses:

EVRL 6000 - Environmental Law, Regulation and Policy Survey (3 credits)

The fields of energy and environmental law are intertwined at many junctions and anyone working in or regulating the industry will be confronted with, and therefore must have a solid grounding in the legal issues and doctrines related to environmental issues. This course is designed to provide that essential background. This course presents a survey of programs that govern the use and protection of natural resource systems, including energy, mining, timber, grazing, transportation and water resource development. It also addresses issues that arise in connection with management statutes for public lands, forests, parks, refuges, wilderness areas, and endangered species.

EVRL 6400 - Introduction to Legal Study, Research and Legal Writing I (2 credits)

This foundational course introduces students to sources and functions of law in our society relating to energy law. The course begins with an overview of the American legal system and sources of law and introduces students to statutory interpretation and plain language analysis. In Legal Analysis I, students will learn to read and interpret statutory law and regulations, read and brief cases, and develop basic legal writing and analysis skills. Students will also learn to find and research legal information through multiple short research assignments focusing on energy law issues. Through multiple short writing assignments such as a case brief, an IRAC essay analyzing a statutory issue, and an e-memo interpreting statutory & regulatory law relating to an energy law topic, students learn to apply statutes and regulations to analyze legal issues relating to energy law.

ERGL 6000 - Energy Law, Regulation and Policy Survey (3 credits)

This course introduces students to the general field of energy law. It begins with an overview of the global energy situation in terms of supply and demand as well as balanced projections for the coming decades both in the U.S. and abroad. It then will proceed to examine the primary sources of energy along with the multi-faceted role of electricity as the central source of secondary energy in our economy. This portion of the course will offer a survey view of how these energy sources are used and regulated from economic, reliability, and environmental perspectives. This will include an overview of legal and regulatory principles governing fossil fuel extraction and use, the coal industry, nuclear power, a range of renewable energy sources, and finally the regulation of electricity generation, transmission, and distribution. The course will conclude with a brief review of the growing role of conservation and climate change in energy markets here and to some extent abroad.

EVRL 6401 - Introduction to Legal Study, Research and Legal Writing II (2 credits)

This course builds on Legal Analysis I to introduce students to the relationship between enacted & administrative law and common law. The course continues instruction on legal research methods in finding and analyzing cases and common law. Students learn to read and synthesize multiple cases and learn analogical and policy-based reasoning. Through multiple short writing assignments, such as a memo analyzing a statutory issue in the context of a litigated issue arising out of administrative enforcement action, students learn to apply statutes, regulations, administrative materials, and case law to analyze complex legal issues relating to energy law. (2 credits)

Required Courses (cont.)

Administrative Law (3 credits)

The course explores the history, present status and nature of administrative agencies. The main emphasis is placed on administrative procedure, contrasting it with the judicial process, as well as constitutional limits on administrative action and the due process rights of persons who are adversely affected by agency action. Topics covered will include delegation of powers, the law of judicial review of agency actions, and procedural requirements of administrative rulemaking and adjudication.

ERGL 5800 - Dispute Resolution (2 credits)

This course is designed to expose students to a variety of alternative (to litigation) dispute resolution mechanisms. These include mediation, administrative conciliation, and arbitration. Students will be instructed both in the legal doctrines governing the manner in which these mechanisms are implemented and enforced as well as the skills attendant to participation as a party to one or more of these mechanisms. Particular focus will be put on instructing students in the preparation and participation in these alternative mechanisms. This will be accomplished through drafting of documents and participation in simulated exercises.

ERGL 6250 – Federal Regulation of Public Utilities (3 credits)

This course provides an overview of the Federal Power Act (FPA) and the agency charged with its implementation, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Students will learn how “electric public utilities” are defined under the FPA, and which of their activities are regulated by the federal government under the FPA. They will also learn the rules that govern FERC’s regulation of various utility activities, from rates and services to mergers and acquisitions. Students will explore the differences between types of public utilities (including independent power providers, regional transmission organizations, and vertically integrated utilities). The course will also address FERC’s policymaking procedures and will include a discussion of ongoing public policy initiatives.

EVRL 6250 - Environmental Justice & Public Trust (3 credits)

This course explores the complex dynamic of environmental justice concerns which involve environmental, social, economic, public health, and political problems. The course discussion regarding the concept of environmental justice involves a comprehensive examination of United States environmental law, case law, history, political science, and environmental policy. The course examines this environmental and public health problem and explores the growth of the nascent Environmental Justice Movement. It analyzes the complex mixture of environmental laws and civil rights legal theories adopted in environmental justice litigation. It examines, among other things, EPA’s Title VI administrative complaint, investigation, and resolution processes; and the quest by U.S. citizens living in Louisiana’s Cancer Alley for a human right to a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment in an international human rights forum. The course examines the idea of an environmental rights amendment in the bill of rights sections of state constitutions and the United States Constitution as a way to ensure a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment for all Americans.

Capstone course (3 Credits)

This course will require the students to draw upon the knowledge and skills learned in the previously taken courses by applying that knowledge and technique to four separate projects. Three of these projects will require the student to prepare a detailed paper consisting of a position statement in response to energy law-based administrative enforcement inquiry, documentation relevant to participation in a mediation or arbitration of an energy law-based dispute, a business plan for the development of an alternative energy source. Two of these projects will be done on an individual basis. The third will be a collaborative effort by members of a team assigned by the instructor. The fourth project will consist of participation in the negotiation of, and subsequent drafting of, a contract between commercial entities in the energy industry.

Elective courses:**EVRL 6500 - Natural Resources Law (2 credits)**

This course will expand on the materials introduced in the Environmental Law, Regulation and Policy Survey course from Term 2. It will begin by examining the definition of natural resources and then examine such issues as alternative methods of conservation, preservation, the public trust doctrine, relative merits of private ownership versus governmental regulation of common areas, fragmentation, riparianism, threatened species, and bioregionalism. Special attention will be given to the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Forest Service Organic Act, and the property and takings clauses of the U.S. Constitution.

EVRL 6100 - Clean Air Law (2 credits)

This course will expand on the materials introduced in the Environmental Law, Regulation and Policy Survey from Term 2 relative to water pollution. The focus of this course will be a comprehensive and detailed examination of the content of the federal Clean Air Act and the role of the federal Environmental Protection Agency in interpreting, applying, and enforcing the terms of this statute. But as there is also a large body of state and local regulation of air pollution, students will also be exposed to the issues addressed by this legislation and their methods of enforcement. Attention will also be given to drafting or amending emissions standards, greenhouse gas regulation, and environmental justice issues.

EVRL 6150 - Clean Water Law (2 credits)

This course will cover the role and influence of the legal system on the use, allocation, and stewardship of water resources in the United States. Since the field of water resources management is rapidly evolving to accommodate storm protection, ecosystem restoration and sea level rise an understanding of the policies that underlay our current laws and the factors that are influencing current policy and lawmaking will be an important part of the course's focus. Students will be required to participate in one group project in which they will be asked to develop, present and defend a position paper on some aspect of the water resources management challenges arising in a coastal region of the United States.

Electives in development:

- **Alternative Energy Sources: Regulation and Development (2 credits)**
- **Pollution Control (2 credits)**
- **Hazardous Waste Law (2 credits)**
- **Law & Climate Change (2 credits)**
- **Fossil Fuel Regulation and Development (2 credits)**