Prescott College

Master of Science in Resilient and Sustainable Communities (MRSC)

Course Curriculum for the 36 Credit MRSC Program

Number	Course Title	Credits
	Online Orientation	0
Core Coursework (9 courses – 27 credits required)		
ENV 571000	Ecology, Culture and Community	3
ENV 57876	Understanding Climate Change	3
ENV 58750	Sustainability and Resilience: From Theory to Practice	3
SBM 53000	The Economics of Sustainable Organizations & Communities	3
ENV 52225	Energy and Environment	3
ENV 51250	Land-Use Planning and Policy	3
ENV 57903	Food Systems	3
ENV 57700	Social Equity and Community Engagement	3
SBM 57501	Organizational Transformation and Sustainable Leadership	3
Capstone Coursework (2 courses – 3 credits required)		
COR 57700	Capstone Project (Thesis or Applied Professional Project)	3
	Or	
COR 57702	Capstone Portfolio	3
Elective Coursework (choose any 2 courses – 6 credits – samples below)		
ENV 53050	Alternative Dispute Resolution	3
ENV 55505	Community Health	3
ENV 58800	Emergency Management and Communication	3
ENV 51950	Ecological Design	3
ENV 53000	Resilient Infrastructure and Transportation	3
AHU 53000	Community Arts and Placemaking	3
	Any approved course(s) from any Prescott College graduate program	3(+)

Master of Science in Resilient and Sustainable Communities Core and Capstone Course Descriptions:

Title: **Ecology, Culture, and Community**
Number: ENV57100
Description: This course provides students with the experience and direction necessary to understand their own communities within a bioregional context. This requires students to identify and map where they live in terms of geology, biology, and climate, rather than relying on political borders, and to research and interpret the natural and cultural histories of their regions in order to understand how their own bioregions enable some possibilities of human community development while limiting others. In addition to researching and writing a Deep History of their bioregions, students will compile an annotated list of resources that provide an expanded temporal representation of the region's geology, botany, wildlife biology, human population dynamics, cultural practices, and environmental impacts.
Type: Required Core Course

Title: Understanding Climate Change
Number: ENV57876
Description: This course provides an overview of the dynamic Earth system and the causes and implications of climate change. Students will gain a better understanding of how deep earth history, ocean currents, and geology shape the earth's climate system. They will also explore how human activities are altering this system and the various ways that scientists document and analyze human-induced climate change. Students will have a better understanding of climate models and how they are used, impacts on communities and resources, and how the global community is working towards addressing the challenges posed by climate change.
Type: Required Core Course

Title: Sustainability and Resilience: From Theory to Practice
Number: ENV58750
Description: Beginning with the history of theories of sustainability and resilience, as well as their standard applications in policy and practice, this course will examine critiques of these theories as paradigms and goals of community development, and evaluate responses to these critiques from within the sustainability movement. Students will experiment with ways of measuring sustainability and resilience, and consider how the language associated with these theories can be used in setting community goals and motivating stakeholder action.
Type: Required Core Course

Title: The Economics of Sustainable Organizations & Communities
Number: SBM53000
Description: This course examines the principles and tools of economics for management decision-making in sustainable organizations, communities, and projects. Beginning with an introduction to theories of economic and community development, students will evaluate classic and alternative economic models and become familiar with existing policies that may facilitate or hinder sustainable economic development and effective management of sustainable organizations.
Type: Required Core Course

Title: Energy and Environment

Number: SBM52225

Description: This course explores the institutional frameworks and interaction of different modes of energy, infrastructure, and transportation in a carbon-constrained world. Beginning with an examination of past and present energy sources, including the environmental and social impacts of conventional energy production and distribution, the course will lead students to consider the local 462 questions of electricity generation siting for the 21st century, to deal with questions of grid security, and to evaluate the possibilities of various future modes of energy production and distribution.

Type: Required Core Course

Title: Land-Use Planning and Policy

Number: ENV51250

Description: This course reviews traditional legal controls over land in the United States, including zoning ordinances and subdivision regulations at the local level, and state-wide planning initiatives found in states such as Vermont and Oregon. Students will attain a solid understanding of constitutional legal principles and foundations of land use planning. Students will consider those land-use laws and societal factors that contribute to blighted inner cities and suburban sprawl, assess growth management techniques, develop familiarity with relevant policies in their own bioregions, and consider modern planning techniques and emerging trends in sustainable and resilient community development.

Title: Food Systems

Number: ENV57900

Description: Food systems are complex systems and the tools for understanding and influencing food system sustainability are interdisciplinary. This exploration of local, regional, national, and international food systems supports students' understanding of how to analyze individual elements of the systems, their interrelationships and how to begin assessing the "sustainability" of those food systems at different scales and in different bioregions.

Type: Required Core Course

Title: Social Equity and Community Engagement

Number: ENV57700

Description: Students in this course will identify social and cultural barriers to community involvement, considering how issues of race, class, ethnicity and gender affect community decision-making. Students will research local laws, policies, and customs that may contribute to—or inhibit— equitable access to community resources, while learning to engage with multiple stakeholders in order to assess community health and needs, build and manage effective coalitions, evaluate methods for community development according to scale, and measure community participation and success in achieving sustainability.

Type: Required Core Course

Title: Organizational Transformation and Sustainable Leadership

Number: SBM57501

Description: This course examines leadership theory relating to community and organizational transformation with a focus on leading for socially responsible institutions. Students consider variables that influence effective leadership in general, and the idiosyncrasies that characterize environmental issues and social change in particular. Throughout the course students examine

several integral and connected issues—leadership theory and systems thinking, key environmental and related social issues for organizations, and a variety of different leadership modalities, along with Triple Bottom Line management concepts. These broad topics intertwine to provide a solid grounding to develop students' understanding of their strengths and potential as leaders for innovating environmental and social change.

Type: Required Core Course

Title: Capstone Project

Number: COR57700

Description: Taken near the end of graduate studies, this course engages students to develop a Capstone Project that represents the culmination of their graduate studies. Students may choose from an academic thesis or an applied professional project. Both formats offer opportunities to deeply study a topic and produce a project that may be applied to the student's current employment, help them change careers, engage them in a new community, or many other potential outcomes. During the first weeks of the course, students will draft a substantive Capstone Proposal and assemble a Capstone Committee, after which they will typically take an incomplete at the end of the block, which is designed to allow ample time for them to complete and write up the project

Or

Title: Capstone Portfolio

Number: COR57702

Description: Following completion of the coursework, the student will draw upon the completed materials to create a portfolio that demonstrates accomplishments in accordance with program goals and a set of goals the student has drafted. Typically a student will decide at the end of the first year if they are moving working toward a capstone project or a portfolio. The portfolio is tied together by a substantive reflective paper, which describes the case for the academic integrity of her coursework, the activities she has engaged within the coursework, and the connection to the student's career.

Master of Science in Resilient and Sustainable Communities Electives

(choose two electives from these or other relevant graduate courses)

Title: Alternative Dispute Resolution

Number: SBM53050

Description: This course will introduce students to a range of contemporary theories about the nature of conflict, the principles of Alternative Dispute Resolution, and the role of creative problem solving in facilitation and negotiation. Students will explore the laws governing mediation in their own bioregions, and learn the skills needed to facilitate agreement among a range of stakeholders. There will be some group work, related to reviewing and providing feedback on the arguments and materials that another of your classmates has prepared for a hypothetical negotiation.

Title: Community Health

Number: ENV55505

Description: After becoming familiar with existing health systems and agencies at the local, state, and national levels, students will produce an inventory of environmental, social, and behavioral health-related issues in their own communities, and investigate the possibilities for collaboration between agencies, health advocacy groups, and relevant community organizations.

Title: Emergency Management and Communication

Number: ENV58800

Description: Students in this course will develop a bioregional risk analysis examining floods, wildfires, earthquakes, climate change impacts, public health crises, and food and social inequities. Students will gain knowledge and skills required of emergency managers and communicators by staffing virtual scenarios that apply principles of the National Incident Management System (NIMS), and by developing resiliency-based pre-plans and responses for immediate and long-term impacts of emergencies.

Title: Ecological Design

Number: ENV51950

Description: Rotating through a series of special topics, this course provides students an opportunity to explore a variety of approaches to ecological design. Some topics might include, but are not limited to, permaculture, sustainable architecture, design and build projects, and creating comprehensive plans for communities.

Title: Resilient Infrastructure and Transportation

Number: ENV53000

Description: This course examines existing and potential transportation methods, policies, and infrastructures at the municipal level, with a special interest in energy efficiency, safety, and resilience in the face of possible disruptions. Students will use their own communities as case studies, collecting and interpreting data and developing a preliminary set of recommendations.

Title: Community Arts and Placemaking

Number: AHU53150

Description: Students in this course will explore the theoretical foundations and practical expressions of community art and recreation projects, with special attention to how such community cultural development contributes to the larger project of creating more resilient and sustainable communities. In particular, students will explore the possibilities of instigating such projects in their own communities, evaluating their potential in terms of increasing social cohesion and providing a range of health benefits.