

## Environmental & Earth Sciences (EVES) Graduate Program

This graduate research group focuses on the history, function, and condition of earth's environments from local to global scales. Faculty research interests encompass all aspects of the natural sciences including geology, biogeochemistry, hydrology, soil science, assessment of biodiversity, microbial ecology, and global change. Most of this research uses combinations of geospatial data technologies, computer modeling, state-of-the-art analytical instruments, and field investigations to advance our knowledge of earth processes and the management of water resources, shorelines, wetlands, and terrestrial landscapes to sustain healthy environments and to rehabilitate and restore damaged environments.

**Core courses:** All students are expected to take the following 2 credits of core coursework (the student's committee may require additional courses as appropriate):

**Graduate Seminar, 1 credit for each seminar, 2 seminars required:** Graduate students provide one talk on their proposed research in the early phase of their careers and one talk on their research results in a later phase. This creates an active student body knowledgeable about their peers' research, and fosters collegiality among the student body and mentoring of younger grads by senior grads. Students must take this twice for credit (i.e., two presentations are required), but are required to attend the seminar each semester when in residence at URI.

**Summary of proposed credit structure:** All students are expected to take 2 credits of Grad seminar. For MSc and PhD students this leaves 16+ credits for other courses.

Program	Coursework credits (minimum required)	Research Credits (599, 699)	Special Problems (591, 592, 691, 692)	Total
M.S.	18 - 21	6 - 9	0 - 3	30*
PhD.	18	42+	0 - 12	72**

\*MSc students are required to take 6-9 research credits; the remaining credits (30 or minimum for MSc degree) can be taken as Special Problems course(s) or additional coursework. Note that current URI Graduate School policy (Section 7.44.1 of Graduate Manual) states that MSc students can take a maximum of 9 thesis research (599) credits, whereas for PhD students there is no maximum number of the thesis research (699) credits. MSc students may transfer a limited number of credits from another institution (see Section 7.20 of Graduate Manual for details).

\*\*Coursework for PhD students is decided in close consultation with the student's PhD committee and with careful consideration of past coursework completed and the student's career goals. PhD students with a MSc degree may transfer up to 30 credits from their MSc program and thus must complete at least 42 credits at URI. PhD students without a MSc degree may be allowed to transfer up to 20% of credits (e.g., 15 credits for a 72 credit program) from another institution but restrictions apply (see Section 7.50-54 of Graduate Manual for details). All BES PhD students must complete at least 18 coursework credits with the remaining credits satisfied by additional URI courses, research credits or special problems. Note that the required 18 coursework credits for BES PhD students can be satisfied entirely or in part by transfer course credits with approval of the students's PhD committee.

## Environmental and Earth Sciences – Program Requirements

	<b>M.S. Program</b>	<b>Ph.D. Program</b>
<b>Program of Study</b>	No later than end of 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester.	No later than end of 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester.
<b>Thesis Proposals</b>	No later than end of 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester.	Due by the end Year 2 (24 months).
<b>Advisory Committee</b>	3 thesis faculty members.	3 core faculty members. 2 additional faculty for oral exams and defense.
<b>Committee Selection</b>	Selected by the end of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester.	The Doctoral committee should be selected by the end of academic year 2, earlier is preferred.
<b>Annual Review Form</b>	Documents adequate progress and is due no later than the end of each academic year. Preferred is 4-6 weeks into 2 <sup>nd</sup> / Spring semester.	Documents adequate progress and is due no later than the end of each academic year, starting at year 2, earlier is preferred.
<b>Qualifying and Comprehensive Examinations</b>		<u>Qualifying exam</u> Format determined by thesis committee to determine if a student without a M.S. degree is prepared to do Ph.D. level work. To be done by end of second year. <u>Comprehensive exam</u> (written, oral) prepared and given by the committee to evaluate the student's ability to think critically and assess knowledge of their field within the BES program. Taken no later than 12 months after completing required coursework.
<b>Time limit</b>	Five calendar years.	Seven calendar years.
<b>Coursework</b>	30 credits (see table above for distribution of credits). All non-research Program of Study (POS) coursework should be completed by the end of the 4 <sup>th</sup> semester.	72 credits (see table above for distribution of credits). All non-research Program of Study (POS) coursework should be completed by the end of 5 <sup>th</sup> semester.
<b>TA support</b>	Maximum of 2 years funding. Dependent upon satisfactory progress.	Maximum of 3 years funding. Dependent upon satisfactory progress.
<b>Core Courses</b>	Graduate seminar (2 credits total)	
<b>Defense</b>	2 hour examination by Committee; minimum 20 minute presentation or seminar, may precede defense.	2 hour examination by Committee; 45-minute seminar required (may precede defense). Equivalent to a "Job Talk"
<b>Grad Seminar</b>	Two talks: one on proposal and one on results, talks should be $\geq 20$ minutes each	Two talks: one on proposal and one on results, talks should be $\geq 20$ minutes each

Note: Graduate Certificate in GIS and Remote Sensing (15 credits) is available for EVES students. GIS and remote sensing classes can be used to concurrently fulfill the course requirements for a certificate and the MS/PhD degree.