Environmental Law and Policy LLM Degree Requirements 2026-27
STUDENT HANDBOOK

The following is a copy of the LLM ELP program requirements from the Stanford Law School Student Handbook.

Candidates for the LLM in Environmental Law and Policy (ELP) must successfully complete the following requirements:

- Introduction to American Law
- Professional Responsibility
- Environmental Law and Policy Colloquium I (fall)
- Environmental Law and Policy Colloquium II (spring) including the completion of the capstone research paper discussed below
- At least one environmental class outside of the law school to be approved by the ELP Teaching Fellow

In addition, LLM ELP students must successfully complete at least four of the following environmental law focal courses. In addition to these courses, policy practicums that address environmental issues and have been approved by the program can count toward this requirement.

Animals, Food, and the Environment: Crises, Cases, & Solutions (Winter Quarter 2027)
Clean Energy Finance (Daniel Weiss) (Spring Quarter 2027)
Contemporary Challenges in Climate Policy and Energy Regulation (Professor Sivas/Molly Melius) (Spring Quarter 2027)
Dealing with Disasters (Professor Rabin) (Winter Quarter 2027)
Energy Law (Michael Gergen) (Winter Quarter 2027)
Environmental Law and Policy (Professor Hayes) (Spring Quarter 2027)
International Environmental Law (Eeshan Chaturvedi) (Fall Quarter 2026)
Law and Governance in ESG Strategy (Ashley Walter) (Spring Quarter 2027)
Natural Resources Law and Policy (Professor Thompson) (Winter Quarter 2027)
Policy Drivers to Accelerate the Clean Energy Transition (Professor Hayes) (Fall Quarter 2026)
Water Law (not offered 2026-2027)

As the curriculum for 2026-2027 develops, other courses may be added to this list.
Additional courses both inside and outside the Law School are recommended for ELP LLM students, but do not count toward the required four focal classes. A list of these courses was provided to all ELP LLM students and is available from the Office of International Graduate Programs.

NOTE: Not all courses are offered each year. Course offerings vary year to year, and the ELP Teaching Fellow will prepare and distribute a list of all environmental law course offerings, specifically designating core courses, over the summer and before each quarter during the school year.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The LLM academic program in Environmental Law and Policy (ELP) includes the following components.

1. Introduction to American and Common Law

Stanford Law School offers international graduate students an intensive three-week Introduction to American Law course in early September, before regular classes begin. This three-credit course is required for LLM students. The purpose of this course is to: introduce internationally-trained graduate students to basic concepts of American law and provide an overview of U.S. legal processes and institutions; teach students how to read and analyze judicial opinions from U.S. courts; and prepare international students to participate in regular Stanford Law School courses. For additional information, see: https://law.stanford.edu/courses/introduction-to-american-law/

2. Professional Responsibility

Professional Responsibility is a course on professional ethics. Stanford Law School offers international graduate students this intensive three-credit course alongside the Introduction to American Law course. This class is a mandatory requirement to earn the ELP LLM degree and is required by certain states to sit for the Bar Exam. For additional information, see: https://law.stanford.edu/courses/professional-responsibility/

3. Environmental Law and Policy Colloquium (fall and spring quarters)

Students must successfully complete two quarters of the ELP Colloquium. The colloquium is specifically designed for the ELP LLM program. Each quarter of the colloquium counts for two credits. The autumn quarter of the colloquium will focus on major themes in environmental law. This quarter of the colloquium will include discussion led by the ELP Teaching Fellow.

In the fall quarter, students will also develop the idea and begin research for their capstone research paper, which is a central part of the ELP LLM program. In the capstone research paper, each student will research and write a 7,000-8,500-word research paper on solutions to an important environmental problem from the student's home region. In the spring quarter, each student will prepare and present their research paper.

Throughout the year, ELP LLM students will also have the opportunity to hear from and connect with speakers from governmental agencies, businesses, private firms, and non-profit organizations working on environmental issues. For additional information see https://law.stanford.edu/courses/environmental-law-and-policy-colloquium/

4. Environmental Law Courses

Each student must successfully complete four environmental law courses, as discussed above. An "environmental law course" is a course that **(1) is offered in the Law School** and **(2) focuses specifically and entirely on an environmental issue**.

Environmental policy practicums may count only for one of the four environmental law course requirements.

5. Environmental Course in Another Department

Students must successfully complete at least one other environmental-related course of at least three units outside the Law School (e.g., in the Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability, the Graduate School of Business, the School of Engineering, etc.). This requirement may be satisfied by completing one three (or more)-unit course or two two-unit courses. On a case-by-case basis, the ELP Teaching Fellow may approve a one-unit course combined with a two-unit course to satisfy the minimum requirement. The subject matter for courses that satisfy this requirement will be broadly defined to include any course related to an aspect of pollution control, energy development, natural resource management, environmental justice, and so on. Courses will be chosen in consultation with the ELP Teaching Fellow to ensure that they are appropriate for the student and meet this requirement. Students may apply up to nine credits of outside courses toward their LLM requirements (a maximum of seven if a student intends to take the New York Bar Exam). The ELP Teaching Fellow will provide a non-exclusive list of recommended courses, but courses can also be researched here: https://explorecourses.stanford.edu

6. Elective Courses

Students must successfully complete a minimum of 35 credit hours of coursework, including the requirements listed above, and must be in residence at Stanford during the full (nine-month) academic year.

To meet all these requirements, each LLM student will develop an individualized course of study to be reviewed by the Teaching Fellow and approved by the program director. Students must take into account the Bar requirements if they plan to take it.

SCHOOLS, DEPARTMENTS, CENTERS, PROGRAMS, INSTITUTES

For newcomers, and even veterans, the organization of Stanford University can be a confusing mix of schools, departments, centers, programs, and institutes. Those interested in environmental law and policy, which is by its very nature an interdisciplinary field, will find an abundance of people and institutions across campus that are relevant to their research and professional interests. It is easy to get overwhelmed at the number of opportunities to connect with people across campus. First, note that there is often too much going on, and there are too many people to connect with to do everything. You will need to make tradeoffs. Begin small by identifying and reaching out to key individuals or programs that you are most interested in. Second, stay informed about what is happening on campus. This is easier said than done. Each of the schools,

programs, etc. often maintains its own calendar for speaking, professional, and social events. Sometimes events overlap or are added or canceled at the last minute. Check the online calendars for the programs in which you are interested and put yourself on their e-mail lists if available. Third, if you need help, ask for it. Your Teaching Fellow is happy to help in any way she can and to connect you with the appropriate resources.

Stanford is arranged into seven schools https://www.stanford.edu/academics/schools/:

1. Doerr School of Sustainability
2. School of Law
3. Graduate School of Business
4. Graduate School of Education
5. School of Engineering
6. School of Humanities & Sciences
7. School of Medicine

Each school offers its own set of courses, houses its own faculty, and supports its own centers, programs, etc. There are faculty in each school whose research and teaching are relevant to environmental law and policy. Three law school faculty also have faculty positions in the Doerr School of Sustainability. Feel free to browse the schools' websites, which can be accessed through the link above.

The School of Law is home to its own Environmental and Natural Resources Law and Policy (ENRLP) Program: https://law.stanford.edu/environmental-and-natural-resources-law-policy-program-enrlp/. On the website, you can find information on courses, faculty, and research happening at the law school. There are also links to various student opportunities, including:

- Stanford Environmental Law Journal: http://journals.law.stanford.edu/stanford-environmental-law-journal-elj
- Environmental Law Society: https://law.stanford.edu/environmental-law-society-els/
- Stanford Energy Club: https://www.stanfordenergyclub.com/

Other units across campus of interest include the following. Note that this list is incomplete.

- Precourt Institute for Energy: https://energy.stanford.edu/
- Steyer-Taylor Center for Energy Policy and Finance: https://law.stanford.edu/steyer-taylor-center-for-energy-policy-and-finance/
- Institute for Economic Policy Research: https://siepr.stanford.edu
- Woods Institute for the Environment: https://woods.stanford.edu/
- Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies: http://fsi.stanford.edu/
- Program on Energy and Sustainable Development: http://pesd.fsi.stanford.edu/
- Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources: https://eiper.stanford.edu
- Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering: https://cee.stanford.edu/