HUMAN DIMENSIONS OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Graduate Program Head: Alan Graefe
Program Code: HDNRE
Campus(es): University Park
Degrees Conferred: Dual-Title
The Graduate Faculty

Students electing the dual-title intercollege program in HDNRE through participating majors may earn a degree with the dual-title at both the Ph.D. and M.S./M.A. levels, i.e., Ph.D. in (graduate program name) and Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the Environment, or M.S./M.A. in (graduate program name) and Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the Environment.

The following graduate programs offer dual-title degrees in HDNRE:

- Anthropology
- Architecture
- Energy and Mineral Engineering
- Forest Resources
- Geography
- Landscape Architecture
- Recreation, Park and Tourism Management
- Rural Sociology

The HDNRE dual-title intercollege degree program is administered by the HDNRE Program Committee. The committee maintains program definition, identifies appropriate faculty and courses, and recommends policies and procedures for its operation. This dual-title intercollege degree program is offered through graduate major programs in four colleges: Agricultural Sciences, Earth and Mineral Sciences, Health and Human Development, and the Liberal Arts. HDNRE enables students to attain and be identified with the content, techniques, applications, methods, and policy implications of an interdisciplinary focus on Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the Environment, while maintaining a close association with areas of application.

Through participation in HDNRE, student’s programs of study will emphasize integrated, multidisciplinary approaches designed for improving their understanding about and management of natural resources. Areas of study will reflect the faculty adviser’s home department and disciplinary thrust.

Admission Requirements

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in GCAC-208 Dual-Title Graduate Degree Programs (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-200/gcac-208-dual-title-graduate-degree-programs/).

To pursue a dual-title intercollege degree under this program, the student must first apply and be admitted through one of the existing graduate programs that offers the dual-title degree in HDNRE:

- Anthropology
- Architecture
- Energy and Mineral Engineering
- Forest Resources
- Geography
- Landscape Architecture
- Recreation, Park and Tourism Management
- Rural Sociology

Once accepted into their home degree program, the student can apply to the Admissions Committee of Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the Environment. The Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the Environment admissions committee reviews applications and recommends students for admission to the dual-title degree program to The Graduate School. HDNRE admission requirements include:

1. a minimum baccalaureate Jr/Sr grade point average of 3.0 out of a 4.0 scale;
2. a statement of professional goals, natural resource management philosophy, and reasons for applying to the program; and
3. three letters of reference from individuals capable of evaluating the applicant’s potential for graduate work in interdisciplinary natural resource management.

Doctoral students must apply and be admitted to the HDNRE dual-title program prior to taking the qualifying examination.

Degree Requirements

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in GCAC-208 Dual-Title Graduate Degree Programs (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-200/gcac-208-dual-title-graduate-degree-programs/).

To qualify for the HDNRE dual-title intercollege degree, students must satisfy the requirements of the major degree program in which they are enrolled, including the communication/foreign language requirements, if any. In addition, they must satisfy the minimum requirements in the HDNRE dual-title intercollege program described here. Final course selection is determined by the student and her/his advisers and/or Ph.D. committee. All dual-title intercollege degree candidates must enroll in HDNRE 590 in each of their first two semesters.

Master’s Degrees

A student in the dual-title intercollege M.S./M.A. in HDNRE must complete 17 credits of HDNRE course work beyond the bachelor’s degree in addition to curricular requirements for the master’s degree in the student’s primary program.

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>HDNRE 590</td>
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<tr>
<td>HDNRE 574</td>
<td>Integrated Perspectives in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the Environment</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HDNRE 575</td>
<td>Ethical Issues in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the Environment</td>
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A candidate for the dual-title intercollege HDNRE Ph.D. must complete, in addition to curricular requirements for the doctoral degree in the student’s primary program, a minimum of 18 credits of HDNRE coursework.

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Total Credits 18

1 HDNRE 590 must be taken in each of the first two semesters of enrollment in the dual-title intercollege degree program, and once more prior to graduation.

In addition, 6 credits of Thesis Research (600 or 610 in the student’s home graduate degree program) are required if the candidate is writing a thesis. Particular courses may satisfy both the graduate major program requirements and those of the HDNRE dual-title intercollege program. All courses must be approved by the student’s M.S./M.A. advisers and/or committee.

The thesis supervisor and chair of the student’s committee shall be a member of the student’s major program, and a member of the dual-title program. All members of the committee must hold Graduate Faculty status or secure the same before serving on the committee.

The culminating experience (e.g., thesis or scholarly paper) must incorporate an HDNRE interest together with the primary field of study. All students are also required to successfully complete an oral defense of the M.S./M.A. thesis as part of the master’s requirements if required by the participating program.

### Doctoral Degrees

A candidate for the dual-title intercollege HDNRE Ph.D. must complete, in addition to curricular requirements for the doctoral degree in the student’s primary program, a minimum of 18 credits of HDNRE coursework.

### Required Courses

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There will be a single qualifying examination, containing elements of both the student’s graduate major program and HDNRE. Dual-title graduate degree students may require an additional semester to fulfill requirements for both areas of study and, therefore, the qualifying examination may be delayed one semester beyond the normal period allowable.

The qualifying examination committee and the Ph.D. committee must include at least one Graduate Faculty member from HDNRE. Faculty members who hold appointments in both programs’ Graduate Faculty may serve in a combined role. The HDNRE representative on the qualifying examination committee will participate in constructing and evaluating the qualifying examination, and the HDNRE representative on the Ph.D. committee will participate in constructing and evaluating the comprehensive examination. If the chair of the Ph.D. committee is not also a member of the Graduate Faculty in HDNRE, the member of the committee representing HDNRE must be appointed as co-chair.

All Ph.D. students will be required to complete, present, and defend a dissertation that incorporates a topic related to both their graduate major program and HDNRE. Candidates for the dual-title Ph.D. degree in HDNRE will be required to pass a final oral examination (the dissertation defense) covering their graduate major program field and HDNRE, with emphasis on the student’s area of specialization. To earn the Ph.D. degree, doctoral students must also write a dissertation that is accepted by the Ph.D. committee, the head of the graduate program, and the Graduate School.

### Student Aid

Graduate assistantships available to students in this program and other forms of student aid are described in the Tuition & Funding (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-funding/) section of The Graduate School’s website. Students on graduate assistantships must adhere to the course load limits (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gsad/gsad-900/gsad-901-graduate-assistants/) set by The Graduate School.

### Courses

Graduate courses carry numbers from 500 to 699 and 800 to 899. Advanced undergraduate courses numbered between 400 and 499 may be used to meet some graduate degree requirements when taken by graduate students. Courses below the 400 level may not. A graduate student may register for or audit these courses in order to make up deficiencies or to fill in gaps in previous education but not to meet requirements for an advanced degree.

Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the Environment (HDNRE)

[Course List](https://bulletins.psu.edu/university-course-descriptions/graduate/hdnre/)

### Contact

**Campus**

University Park

**Graduate Program Head**

Alan R Graefe

**Program Contact**

Alan R Graefe

801F Ford Building

University Park PA 16802

gyu@psu.edu

(814) 863-8986