

2025 – 2026



Josef Korbel School
of International Studies
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

Master of Arts in Global Environmental Sustainability

A defining issue of the 21st century will be international challenges posed by a changing environment, population growth, and increased demands on our food, water, and energy resources. Given the complexity and magnitude of these challenges, we need innovative approaches to meeting needs while promoting just and equitable development and a sustainable path for future generations. The Korbel School is poised to assume a position of leadership in research, teaching, and outreach around issues related to our changing climate and global environment. The Global Environmental Sustainability (GES) MA will stimulate, facilitate, and coordinate these activities in a sustaining manner. Our location in the Front Range puts us at the center of practical discussions about water, agriculture, and energy (both conventional and renewable). Our strength comes in taking a human-focused approach to understanding the consequences of global change for human well-being.

Curriculum Overview:

Candidates must complete sixty (60) credit hours.

Degree Requirements:

1. Korbel Core (4 credits):

- INTS 4091 - Great Issues in International Relations
(offered each Fall quarter; to be taken as early in the program as possible)

2. Degree Core- three courses (12 credits):

- INTS 4397 –Environment and Economy
- INTS 4972 – Global Environmental Governance
- INTS 4701 – Sustainability of Socio-Ecological Systems

3. Skills Courses - (12 credits):

- INTS 4057 – Statistics
- A total of 8 more credits (in the form of 4-credit or 2-credit skills courses) of INTS or PPOL skills coursework drawn from the Korbel School Skills List. GES students must take degree-relevant options and should get pre-approval from their degree director for all courses. The skills list is updated annually and can be found on the Korbel Student Affairs Digication site. Students may also utilize graduate level skills courses in other DU departments/schools with pre-approval of their degree director.

4. Specialization Area Requirement: three courses (12 credits):

Specializations are sets of three courses full credit courses (12 credit hours) that a student takes within their degree that are centered on a common topic, region, or degree relevant methods and must be approved by the degree director. Korbel specializations are open specializations, which is to say that they are totally customizable and can be drawn from any and all eligible University of Denver graduate courses. The key is that they must be approved on submission for graduation by a student's degree director and students are encouraged to engage their degree director early in the process on what are approvable sets of courses. Specializations do not go on transcripts, so it is possible to organize courses into more than one set of three,

but for completion of degree requirement purposes, only one specialization is submitted as such on your program statement. Students who participate in a Korbel Certificate (such as Homeland Security or Corporate Social Responsibility) will put three of their certificate courses in their specialization and the other three in electives to fit the certificate within the 60 credit hours associated with their degree requirements. For more information on Specializations, see the Korbel Student Affairs Digication site.

5. Internship: Required (registered as INTS 4981, for 0 or 4 credits)

- Please see the [Student Affairs Digication site](#) for more details.

6. Thesis (4 or 8 credits) or Substantial Research Paper (4 credits): Optional

7. Supporting Courses:

Students will fill out their academic program as needed to reach the minimum requirement of **60 credits** with graduate level courses in fields and areas of study related broadly but directly to international studies (public policy) or research/policy areas and/or skills already established in their required coursework. These courses can be from Korbel (INTS or PPOL) and/or other relevant graduate departments/programs associated with the University of Denver or beyond. Courses from beyond Korbel should be pre-approved by the student's academic advisor. The total number of credits allowed for the degree beyond Korbel cannot be more than 12.

Degree Director:

Prof. Tamra Pearson d'Estrée

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<https://du.digication.com/korbelgradstudents/global-environmental-sustainability>