



To: Master of Environmental Law and Policy (MELP) Class of 2021
Master of Energy Regulation and Law (MERL) Class of 2021
Master of Food and Agriculture Law and Policy (MFALP) Class of 2021

From: Anne Linehan, Associate Director, Environmental Law Center

Date: Summer 2020

Greetings from Vermont Law School. I am an academic planning advisor for students in our environmental degree programs. I have worked at VLS since 1997 and every year I enjoy welcoming a new group of master's students to VLS. This year will be different, with a virtual welcome, but I am still looking forward to it!

Orientation takes place online, August 17–20. It will be a busy week of sessions preparing you for legal studies and academic planning sessions to prepare you to register for classes for the fall and spring semesters. Classes begin on August 24.

Online registration for fall and spring classes opens on Thursday, August 20, at 7:00 am. You will be registering for both semesters but will have the opportunity to add and drop courses during the first two weeks of each semester. You will also have the opportunity to revise your spring course schedule in a special add/drop period in October. You will register for summer courses next spring.

It is a good idea to spend some time before Orientation thinking about what courses you want to take and how you plan to fulfill all of the degree requirements. To help you plan, I have enclosed the fall and spring class schedules and planning guidelines for your degree.

Please feel free to email me with any questions at alinehan@vermontlaw.edu. I look forward to meeting you (virtually) soon!



2020 ORIENTATION AT-A-GLANCE SCHEDULE

Draft Schedule – 7-13-20

Master of Environmental Law and Policy (MELP), Master of Energy Regulation and Law (MERL),
Master of Food and Agriculture Law and Policy (MFALP)

MONDAY, AUGUST 17

8:00-9:15 AM	Check In and Welcome Ceremony
9:15-9:45 AM	Break
9:45-10:45 AM	MELP, MERL, and MFALP Introductions
10:45-11:15 AM	Break
11:15-12:15 PM	Master's Degree Requirements (<i>concurrent sessions for MELPs, MERLs, and MFALPs</i>)
12:15-12:45 PM	Break
12:45-1:45 PM	Strategic Academic and Career Planning: One Size Does Not Fit All
2:00-5:00 PM	Individual Academic Planning Appointments (<i>sign up on Google Doc</i>)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

8:45-9:45 AM	How to Prepare for Class
9:45-10:15 AM	Break
10:15-11:15 AM	What You Don't Know <u>Can</u> Hurt You: Academic Regulations & Plagiarism
11:15-11:45 AM	Break
11:45-12:45 PM	Environmental Legal Research Skills
12:45-1:30 PM	Break
1:30-2:30 PM	Intro to Legal Studies 1
2:30-2:45 PM	Break
2:45-3:45 PM	Wellness Resources

2:30-5:00 PM **Individual Academic Planning Appointments**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

8:30-9:30 AM **Governor's Address**

9:30-10:30 AM **Road to Professionalism**

10:30-10:45 AM **Break**

10:45-11:45 AM **Reading and Briefing a Case**

11:45-12:15 PM **Break**

12:15-1:15 PM **Intro to Legal Studies 2**

1:15-1:45 PM **Break**

1:45-2:45 PM **Diversity, Intersectionality, Intercultural Session**

3:00-5:00 PM **Individual Academic Planning Appointments**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

7:00 AM **ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS**

9:00-10:00 AM **Overview of Environmental Law**

10:00-10:30 AM **Break**

10:30-11:30 AM **Technology Services and CampusWeb *(how to register for classes)***

11:30-12:00 PM **Break**

12:00-1:00 PM **Library Resources and Services *(TWEN and Lexis passwords)***

1:00-1:30 PM **Break**

1:30-2:30 PM **Financial Aid**

2:30-5:00 PM **Individual Academic Planning Appointments**

RESOURCES

Technology Services
Health Insurance
Financial Aid Office
Business Office

helpdesk@vermontlaw.edu
eparker@vermontlaw.edu or 802-831-1233
finaid@vermontlaw.edu
sperkins@vermontlaw.edu

Fall 2020 Masters/LLM Schedule Grid - **DRAFT 7-16-20 - SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Time	Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
8:30 - 9:45	Water Res		Climate Change		Water Res		Climate Change			
9:55 - 11:10	Energy Law				Energy Law		Adv Env Research			
11:20 - 12:35	C-A-L		Env Law		C-A-L		Env Law			
12:45 - 2:00	Land Use Reg	Ocean & Coastal Law			Land Use Reg	Ocean & Coastal Law			LLM Seminar	
2:10 - 3:25	Leg Reg Survey	Air Pollution	Intro Ag Food	Alt Dispute Resolution	Leg Reg Survey	Air Pollution	Intro Ag Food			
3:35 - 4:50/5:15	Climate & Taxes		Resilience & Sustainability		New Frontiers	Resilience & Sustainability	Intl Climate Chg	Legal & Policy Writing wknd intensive dates TBD	Ag Env Law Sat/Sun dates TBD	
5:25 - 8:00									Negotiation dates TBD	

Days and times TBD: Clincs (Env Advocacy, Env Justice, Energy, Food/Ag), Climate Justice Practicum

Fall Term 1 online: Admin Law, Intro Ag Food, Science Env Law, Climate Chg Mitigation, Env Econ, Energy Law, Alt Fuels
 Fall Term 2 online: Env Disp Res, Env Law, C-A-L, Energy Reg, Nat Res, Water Res, Extinction, Fed Reg of Food Ag, Oil & Gas

Spring 2021 Masters/LLM Schedule Grid - DRAFT 7-16-20 - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Time	Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
8:30 - 9:45									Utah Field Study dates TBD	
9:55 - 11:10	Env Econ & Markets	Water Quality	Natural Resources		Env Econ & Markets	Water Quality	Natural Resources		Land Transactions	
11:20 - 12:35	Admin Law		Oil & Gas	Native Americans	Admin Law		Oil & Gas	Native Americans		
12:45 - 2:00	Energy Reg	Env Law			Energy Reg	Env Law				
2:10 - 3:25	Food Reg & Policy	Animals & the Law	C-A-L		Food Reg & Policy	Animals & the Law	C-A-L			
3:35 - 4:50/5:15	Intl Env Law				Intl Env Law				Negotiation A&B wknd dates TBD	Mediation Advocacy wknd dates TBD

Days and times TBD: Clinics (Env Advocacy, Env Justice, Energy, Food/Ag), Comparative Env Law Research

Spring Term 1 online: Native Ams, Admin Law, Science Env Law, C-A-L, Clim Chg, Energy Law, Alt Fuels, Global Food Security

Spring Term 2 online: Env Disp Res, Env Law, Energy Reg, Nat Resources, Climate Adaptation, Oil & Gas



Experiential Opportunities

Vermont Law School offers a number of opportunities to supplement classroom learning with real-world, hands-on experience. Our experiential offerings focus on energy, food and agriculture, environmental justice, and climate change. Each program has space for incoming students; **you must apply by August 7, 2020**, and in some cases, have an interview, before being selected for one of these limited enrollment opportunities.

Interviews will be set up for qualified students

during Orientation week (August 17-21). Research Assistants may be compensated through the Federal work-study program, receive academic credit, or just gain great experience.

Institute for Energy and the Environment/Energy Clinic

The IEE researches timely topics on renewable energy policy, the smart electric grid, and clean transportation policy. The Energy Clinic works on legal and business models to advance community solar in Vermont and neighboring states. Recently, the IEE, in collaboration with the Center for Agriculture and Food Systems, launched a Farm and Energy Initiative to promote energy self-reliance, solar siting on agricultural land while protecting soil resources, future feasibility of biofuels and the use of biodigestors to manage the reuse of organic waste and generate local energy.

Student Research Assistants and clinicians develop practical skills in energy law and policy and have opportunities to coauthor articles in energy policy journals. For more about the IEE's current projects, visit www.vermontlaw.edu/energy. To apply to the IEE research team or clinic, please send a resume and letter of interest to Molly Smith at msmith@vermontlaw.edu.

Center for Agriculture and Food Systems/Food and Agriculture Clinic

CAFS is a center for research and advocacy. CAFS Research Assistants work on scholarly and applied research addressing food systems challenges related to the environment, public health, the economy, food security, and animal welfare. The Food and Agriculture Clinic partners with local, regional, national, and international organizations to research, develop, and disseminate legal resources for food system stakeholders, including farmers and food enterprises, farmworkers, administrators, legislators, and advocates. Through a range of projects, student clinicians explore substantive law and policy issues in the field of food and agriculture, while applying and refining their legal research and writing skills and developing communication, project management, and leadership skills. For more about current CAFS projects, visit: www.vermontlaw.edu/cafs. To apply for the Food and Agriculture Clinic or to be a Research Assistant, please provide a resume and cover letter to Claire Child at cchild@vermontlaw.edu.

Environmental Justice Clinic

Learning opportunities at the Environmental Justice clinic include administrative and other forms of advocacy on behalf of legally underserved communities that are overburdened by toxic

sources. This includes a wide range of activities such as brief writing and participation in negotiations; skill building in the areas of client relations, case development, issue identification, fact development, legal research, and legal writing; and litigation to compel disclosure of information and to compel timely action. Please submit your current resume and a statement describing your interest in the practicum to Christine Saul at csaul@vermontlaw.edu.

Environmental Advocacy Clinic

The EAC is an in-house clinic that operates as a public interest law office. Students work under the supervision of clinic faculty on real-world cases for classroom credit. Clinical experience helps students become skilled professionals who can develop arguments and claims from the ground up, explore strategies and options, and communicate effectively with clients, courts, agency officials, scientific experts, and opposing parties. Student clinicians work directly with leading conservation organizations and local community groups to promote access to justice on important environmental issues. Learn more about the EAC at its [website](#). Please submit your current resume and a statement describing your interest in the clinic to Christine Saul at csaul@vermontlaw.edu. Applicants should have exceptional English speaking and writing skills.

Climate Justice Practicum

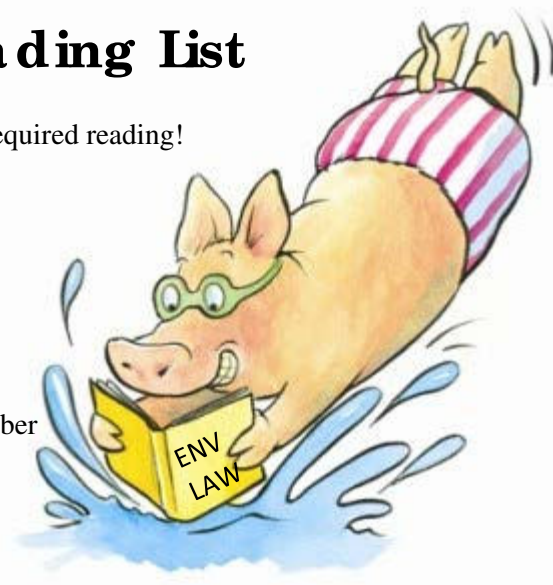
The Climate Justice Practicum is an innovative collaboration between Vermont Law School and the Yale School of Public Health. In the course, interdisciplinary student teams carry out applied projects that address issues of climate justice. Each team works with a partner organization – a state agency, community organization, or other non-governmental organization. The course involves a weekly seminar as well as fieldwork that affords the opportunity to have a real world impact on pressing issues. Projects focus on the ways in which industry efforts to expand the use of biogas reinforces industrial models of agriculture, analysis of transportation justice issues in rural areas, and work on how to integrate questions of equity into state climate action plans. Please submit your current resume and a statement describing your interest in the practicum to Christine Saul at csaul@vermontlaw.edu.

Environmental Summer Reading List

These suggestions are for your enjoyment only. They are NOT required reading!

Recommendations from past students:

Mastering Statutory Interpretation by Linda D. Jellum
Mastering Administrative Law by William R. Andersen
An Introduction to the Legal System of the United States
by E. Allan Farnsworth
Introduction to Law and the Legal System by Frank August Schuber
Whose Monet?: An Introduction to the American Legal System
by John Humbach



Recommendations from the environmental faculty:

The Classics

Arctic Dreams by Barry Lopez
Desert Solitaire by Edward Abbey
The End of Nature by Bill McKibben
The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck
Nature, an essay by Ralph Waldo Emerson
A Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold
Silent Spring by Rachel Carson
The Snail Darter and the Dam by Zyg Plater
Walden by Henry David Thoreau
The Wilderness World of John Muir, edited by Edwin Way Teale

Climate Change

The Cartoon Introduction to Climate Change by Yoram Bauman and Grady Klein
Falter by Bill McKibben
The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars by Michael Mann
Hot, Flat and Crowded by Tom Friedman
The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fifth Assessment Report Summary for Policy Makers
The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History by Elizabeth Kolbert

General Environmental

America the Possible by James Gustave Speth
American Gods by Neil Gaimen
Angle of Repose by Wallace Stegner
Basin and Range and *The Control of Nature* by John McPhee
The Big Burn by Timothy Egan
Cadillac Desert by Marc Reisner
Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists and the Ecology of New England, by William Cronon
A Civil Action by Jonathon Harr
Cradle to Cradle by William McDonough
Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain by Betty Edwards
Environmental Law Stories by Richard Lazarus and Oliver Houck
In the Courts of the Conqueror: The Ten Worst Indian Law Cases of All Time by Walter Echohawk
A Fierce Green Fire by Shabecoff

Half Earth by E. O. Wilson
Merchants of Doubt by Naomi Orestes
Motivation: Biological, Physiological and Environmental by Lambert Deckers
Natural Capitalism by Paul Hawken
Price, Principle and the Environment by Mark Sagoff
Reinventing Fire by Amory Lovins
The Ripple Effect by Alex Prud'Homme
The Rule of Five: Making Climate History at the Supreme Court by Richard J. Lazarus
Smaller Faster Lighter Denser Cheaper by Robert Bryce
Sustainability: A Philosophy of Adaptive Ecosystem Management by Bryan Norton
Wilding: Returning Nature to Our Farm by Isabella Tree

Energy

The Dirty Energy Dilemma: What's Blocking Clean Power in the US by Benjamin K. Sovacool
Energy Law in a Nutshell by Joseph Tomain and Richard Cudahy
Energy Policies of IEA Countries: The United States 2019 Review from The International Energy Agency
Smart Power: Climate Change, the Smart Grid, & the Future of Electric Utilities by Peter Fox Penner
The United States Electricity Industry Primer from the US Department of Energy

Food and Agriculture

Animal Factory by David Kirby
The Color of Food by Natasha Bowens
Farming While Black by Leah Penniman
Life on the Other Border: Farmworkers and Food Justice in Vermont by Teresa Mares
Outbreak: Foodborne Illness and the Struggle for Food Safety by Timothy Lytton
The Town That Food Saved by Ben Hewitt

Water

Unquenchable and Water Follies by Robert Glennon
Thirst by Alan Snitow, Deborah Kaufman, and Michael Fox
Living Downstream by Sandra Steingraber
The Living Great Lakes by Jerry Dennis
Riverkeepers by John Cronin and Robert Kennedy
Toms River by Dan Fagin

Favorite Podcast

Hothouse Earth from Vermont Law School

And for those truly lazy summer days, here are some movie suggestions:

Among Giants	The Milagro Beanfield War
Blue Gold	Mindwalk
Doomed: A Biological Cartoon	Our Planet (Netflix series)
Erin Brokovich	Silkwood
Food Inc.	Vanishing of the Bees
Last Call at the Oasis	

Master of Environmental Law and Policy (MELP) Program Planning Guidelines

Requirements of the MELP Degree

- A minimum of 30 credits, including all required courses
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.2 for successful completion of the degree
- Students have up to 5 years from the date of matriculation to complete the MELP

Required Courses

You may meet these requirements by taking the course, transferring in credits, or by waiver.

- REQ7186 Legislation & Regulation Survey (3 credits)
- ENV5122 Communications, Advocacy, and Leadership (3 credits)
- ENV5115 Environmental Law (3 credits)

Core Courses

You must take at least one course from **three of the following five** categories. See Academic Regulations for approved list of courses in each category.

- Natural Resources Law
- Environmental Science
- Environmental Economics
- Environmental Ethics
- Dispute Resolution

Electives

Choose any remaining courses from the approved list in the Academic Regulations.

Number of Credits

The minimum number of credits required to earn a master's or LLM degree is 30. Your tuition covers up to 36 credits; however, if you have reached 30 credits and satisfied all degree requirements at the end of any semester, the degree must be awarded.

Transfer Credits

You may transfer in up to 6 credits from another law school or accredited graduate program. The courses transferred must be substantive environmental courses. Courses completed more than 5 years prior to matriculation will not transfer. Grades for transfer credits must be "C" or better. The transferred grade is reflected on the VLS transcript but is not used in computing the GPA.

Independent Research Projects

Individual faculty members may be willing to work with you on an Independent Research Project (IRP). IRPs are limited to a total of 6 credits, on a grade basis. To register for an IRP, you must provide the Registrar's office with a completed IRP contract.

Externships

Externships are encouraged, but not required. You may arrange a master's or LLM externship on your own or select from the many postings at the VLS Career Services Office. Externships may

be a minimum of 4 credits and a maximum of 10 credits. You may pursue multiple externships as long as the total number of externship credits for all semesters does not exceed 10 credits. 45 hours of externship work equals one credit. An externship should be completed in one semester.

Before beginning an externship, you must submit a contract executed by you, your on-site mentor, and your faculty supervisor. Externships must be sponsored by a VLS faculty member. The Master's Externship Handbook and contract form are available at www.vermontlaw.edu/MastersExternships.

Academic Planning

During the registration process, work with your academic planning advisor to establish a tentative schedule of courses you plan to take for your degree, subject to later modifications. Consider what, if any, courses you want to transfer or waive. It is your responsibility to ensure fulfillment of all degree requirements. Check with the Registrar if you have questions regarding your degree status.

Tuition Billing

Master's and LLM students are billed on a per-credit basis. For further information, contact the Business Office at studentaccounts@vermontlaw.edu.

Summer Session

Summer Session registration begins in April. You may take a maximum of eleven credits. Anything beyond that requires a waiver from the ELC Director or Associate Director. You have until the start of the second meeting of the class to add or drop a course. If you miss the Add/Drop period and need to withdraw from a class, a tuition refund schedule is available from the Business Office.

Online Classes

All of the master's and LLM required courses, as well as many electives, are available as online, asynchronous classes. Online semesters are divided into two terms; each online class is seven weeks long and worth three credits. Online classes are available to residential students on a space-available basis. You submit a cross-registration form to register for an online class.

Updated 7/20