



To: Master of Environmental Law and Policy (MELP) Class of 2023  
Master of Energy Regulation and Law (MERL) Class of 2023  
Master of Food and Agriculture Law and Policy (MFALP) Class of 2023

From: Anne Linehan, Interim Director, Graduate Academic Programs and Associate Director,  
Environmental Law Center

Date: Summer 2022

Greetings from Vermont Law and Graduate School. I am an academic planning advisor for students in our environmental degree programs. I have worked here for 25 years and every year I enjoy welcoming a new group of master's students.

Here are some important dates to keep in mind as the fall semester approaches:

Thursday, August 11: academic information sessions for master's students (virtual)

Monday, August 15–Wednesday, August 17: individual advising sessions (virtual)

**Thursday, August 18: registration for fall and spring classes opens (online)**

Monday, August 22–Thursday, August 25: Orientation (on campus)

You will be registering for both fall and spring 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; whether you want to participate in a clinic, research team, or externship; 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](mailto:alinehan@vermontlaw.edu). I look forward to meeting you soon!



**VERMONT**  
LAW & GRADUATE SCHOOL

**2022 ORIENTATION  
AT-A-GLANCE SCHEDULE**

*Draft Schedule – 6-21-22 – subject to change*

**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 22**

<b>7:30-8:30 AM</b>	<b>Check In and Photo IDs   Chase Community Center</b>
<b>8:30-9:30 AM</b>	<b>Welcome Ceremony and Oath Administration   Debevoise Back Lawn</b>
<b>9:30-10:30 AM</b>	<b>Meet &amp; Greet   Chase Community Center</b>
<b>10:45-11:30 AM</b>	<b>MELP, MERL, and MFALP Introductions   Oakes 208</b>
<b>11:30-12:15 PM</b>	<b>Strategic Academic and Career Planning: One Size Does Not Fit All   Oakes 208</b>
<b>12:15-1:15 PM</b>	<b>Lunch with Student Ambassadors   Debevoise Back Lawn</b>
<b>1:30-2:30 PM</b>	<b>Technology Service and CampusWeb   Oakes 007</b>
<b>2:45-3:45 PM</b>	<b>Road to Professionalism   Oakes 110</b>

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**TUESDAY, AUGUST 23**

<b>8:45-9:45 AM</b>	<b>Academic Regulations &amp; Plagiarism   Oakes 110</b>
<b>10:00-11:00 AM</b>	<b>U.S. Legal System   Oakes 007</b>
<b>11:15-12:30 PM</b>	<b>Sexual Misconduct Policies &amp; Resources and Title IX   Oakes 012</b>
<b>12:45-2:00 PM</b>	<b>Academic Success Panel &amp; Lunch   Debevoise Back Lawn</b>
<b>2:15-3:15 PM</b>	<b>Intro to Legal Studies   Oakes 208</b>
<b>3:30-4:30 PM</b>	<b>Wellness Resources   Chase Community Center</b>

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24

<b>8:30-9:00 AM</b>	<b>Board buses for Montpelier</b>   Oakes Hall Parking Lot
<b>10:00-1:00 PM</b>	<b>Meet with State Officials, including Gov. Phil Scott</b>   House Chambers
<b>1:00-2:30 PM</b>	<b>Lunch on your own and explore downtown Montpelier</b>
<b>2:30-2:45 PM</b>	<b>Class Photo</b>   Capitol Steps
<b>2:45-3:15 PM</b>	<b>Board buses for South Royalton</b>   Vermont State Capitol Parking Lot

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## THURSDAY, AUGUST 25

<b>8:30-9:30 AM</b>	<b>Financial Aid</b>   Oakes 208
<b>9:30-10:30 AM</b>	<b>Reading and Briefing a Case</b>   Oakes 007
<b>10:45-11:45 AM</b>	<b>Diversity Session</b>   Chase Community Center
<b>12:00 PM</b>	<b>Brown bag lunches available</b>   Yates Common Room
<b>12:15-1:15 PM</b>	<b>Environmental Legal Research Skills</b>   Oakes 208
<b>1:30-2:30 PM</b>	<b>Library Resources and Services</b> ( <i>TWEN and Lexis passwords</i> )   Cornell Library
<b>2:45-3:45 PM</b>	<b>Overview of Environmental Law</b>   Oakes 208
<b>4:00-7:00 PM</b>	<b>Welcome BBQ</b>   Debevoise Back Lawn

**Fall 2022 Masters/LLM Schedule Grid - DRAFT 6-22-22 - SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Time	Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
8:30 - 9:45	Animals & Law		Leg/Reg Survey		Animals & Law		Leg/Reg Survey	Adv Env Legal Research	Transnatl Env Practicum	Legal & Policy Writing
9:55 - 11:10	Intro to Ag & Food	C-A-L	Energy Law & Policy	Water Resources	Intro to Ag & Food	C-A-L	Energy Law & Policy	Water Resources		
11:20 - 12:35	Environmental Justice		Environmental Law		Environmental Justice		Environmental Law			
12:45 - 2:00	Land Use Reg				Land Use Reg				LLM Seminar	
2:10 - 3:25	Local Farm & Food	Oil & Gas	ADR		Local Farm & Food	Oil & Gas				
3:35 - 4:50/5:10	Climate & Taxes			Env Biz Trans	Clinics: Env Adv, EJ, Climate J, Food/Ag	Intl Climate Change	Green Finance	Negotiation Fri/Sat dates TBD		
			Energy, Animal Clinic							

Dates TBD: Cuba Trip

**Fall 1 Online**

8/29/22 - 10/16/22

Administrative Law

CAL

Climate Change & Law

Climate Change Mitigation

Energy Law & Policy

Env Economics

Env Restorative Justice

Intro to Ag & Food L&P

L&P of Local Food

Land Use Reg

Science for Env Law

Sust Energy Finance

Water Resources

**Fall 2 Online**

10/24/22 - 12/11/22

CAL

Climate, Extinction, Adapt

EDR

Energy Regulation

Environmental Law

Fed Reg of Food/Ag

Global Food Security

Intl Env L&P

Native Americans

Natural Resources

Oil & Gas

**Spring 2023 Masters/LLM Schedule Grid - DRAFT 6-22-22 - SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Time	Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday
8:30 - 9:45									
9:55 - 11:10	Env Econ	Natural Resources	Admin Law	Native Americans	Env Econ	Natural Resources	Admin Law	Native Americans	
11:20 - 12:35	C-A-L	Climate Change & Law	Food Regulation & Policy		C-A-L	Climate Change & Law	Food Regulation & Policy	Transnatl Env Prac	
	Animals in Ag				Animals in Ag				
12:45 - 2:00	Environmental Law				Environmental Law				Connected Justice Animal Sem wknd dates TBD
2:10 - 3:25	Energy Regulation		Intl & Comp Env Law		Energy Regulation		Intl & Comp Env Law		Mediation Fri/Sat dates TBD
3:35 - 4:50/5:10	IP & the Food System	Land Use & Racial Justice	Env Ethics	Clinics: Energy, Animal	Clinics: Env Adv, EJ, Climate J, Food/Ag	Env Health Law			Negotiation Fri/Sat dates TBD

Dates TBD: Utah Field Study

**Spring 1 Online**

1/16/23 - 3/5/23

CAL

Energy Efficiency Pol

Energy Law & Policy

Env Economics

Environmental Law

Intro to Ag & Food L&P

Land Use Reg

LLM Seminar

Science for Env Law

Water Resources

**Spring 2 Online**

3/13/23 - 4/30/23

EDR

Administrative Law

CAL

Climate Adapt Human Sys

Climate Change & Law

Climate Change Mitigation

Global Food Security

Intl Env L&P

L&P of Local Food

Native Americans

Natural Resources

Oil & Gas

Sustainable Transportation

Water Quality



## Experiential Opportunities

Vermont Law and Graduate School offers 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; **please apply by August 5, 2022**, for these limited enrollment opportunities. Interviews will be set up for qualified students during Orientation week (August 22-25). 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 offers opportunities for any master's or LLM student to apply for our research associate program, which provides experiential learning opportunities in support of the clean energy transition. Past student projects have worked on climate justice projects, renewable energy policy, the smart electric grid and energy cybersecurity, and clean transportation policy. The Energy Clinic works on legal and business models to advance community owned renewables in Vermont and neighboring states and in collaboration with the Center for Agriculture and Food Systems, launched a Farm and Energy Initiative to promote clean energy self-reliance in the agricultural sector, solar siting on agricultural land and other farm and energy issues. IEE student team members, in addition to structured research and experiential opportunities, have opportunities to coauthor articles and reports, gain access to conferences and workshops, collaborate with international scholars, and participate in IEE team and social events. For more about the IEE's current projects, visit [www.vermontlaw.edu/energy](http://www.vermontlaw.edu/energy). Feel welcome to schedule an informational call with the IEE Director or other faculty. To apply to the IEE research team or clinic, please send a resume and letter of interest to Molly Smith, IEE Program Coordinator, at [msmith@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:msmith@vermontlaw.edu). Application review will begin on August 15, 2022.

### **Center for Agriculture and Food Systems**

CAFS is a center for research and advocacy, and students can become involved in a few different ways. CAFS Research Assistants work on scholarly and applied research that spans the food system, including issues addressing animal welfare, workers' rights, food waste, social justice and equity, public health, access to land, support for local foods, environmental protection, climate change, and sustainability. For more about current CAFS projects, visit: [www.vermontlaw.edu/cafs](http://www.vermontlaw.edu/cafs). To apply for the Research Assistant program, please provide a resume and cover letter to Claire Child at [cchild@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:cchild@vermontlaw.edu).

### **Animal Law and Policy Institute/Farmed Animal Advocacy Clinic**

The Animal Law and Policy Institute trains future leaders in animal advocacy while centering animals in the fight for environmental protections. Engaging with policymakers, journalists, advocacy organizations, and communities, the Institute serves as a resource hub for animal law and policy issues. It also collaborates closely with other VLGS programs, encouraging the wider legal community to expand protections for animals. The Farmed Animal Advocacy Clinic (FAAC) empowers students to become effective advocates for animals while also developing skills that can be applied in a variety of arenas throughout their careers through hands-on experience with real-world matters. Students represent clients in litigation as well as legislative, policy, and regulatory matters aimed at improving the treatment and status of farmed animals. To apply for the FAAC, please provide a resume and cover letter to Molly Russell at [mrussell@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:mrussell@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 Joe Anderson at [janderson@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:janderson@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 Joe Anderson at [janderson@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:janderson@vermontlaw.edu). Applicants should have exceptional English speaking and writing skills. The EAC is open to JD and LLM students only.

### **Transnational Environmental Law Practicum**

The U.S.-Asia Partnerships for Environmental Law (PEL) works collaboratively with government institutions, non-government organizations, lawyers, judges, lawmakers and more to promote positive environmental governance throughout Asia. This practicum will combine substantive classroom instruction with project implementation, with students teaming up to work on an environmental-related legal or policy research project for a partner organization in China or a developing country in Asia. The projects will support PEL's partnering organizations' environmental advocacy and legal reform work on the ground; they will provide students with an opportunity to learn about specific environmental challenges and the gaps in the laws and policies in these countries and to apply theories and concepts learned in the classroom. Partner organizations include environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs), government agencies, prosecutors, and law scholars. Students can enroll for 4 credits on a Pass/Fail basis, and enrollment is capped at 12. Students interested in the Practicum for the fall should email Claire Andrews at [candrews@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:candrews@vermontlaw.edu) as soon as possible with a short statement of interest (no more than 1 page) and their resume. Decisions will be made on a rolling basis.

### **International Climate Change Law (ENV5218)**

International Climate Change Law is a 3-credit hybrid classroom/experiential course about the major climate change treaties – the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Kyoto Protocol, and Paris Agreement – via theory and first-hand observation. Students represent VLS as a non-governmental observer delegation at the annual Conference of Parties (COP) while also engaging in service learning by supporting negotiators and/or other participating parties. This fall semester course is organized around two components: a weekly class for the full semester and one week of onsite experiential learning at the COP. By doing applied learning in international climate change law, students develop an understanding of international environmental lawmaking informed by direct experience. Acceptance into the course does not guarantee attendance as a student delegate at the international climate negotiations, which is subject to the quota VLS will receive from the Secretariat along with any specific plans related to COVID. Students who are accepted to the course will receive information about logistics, including travel and expenses, directly from the instructor. To apply, please email Derek Walker at [dwalker@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:dwalker@vermontlaw.edu).

### **Global Sustainability Field Studies – Cuba**

For those interested in traveling to Cuba with us this fall during Thanksgiving week for our 1 credit Global Sustainability Field Studies Course to study energy and agricultural sustainability in Cuba, now is the time to apply. Please email Prof. Kevin Jones at [kbjones@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:kbjones@vermontlaw.edu) for more information on the course and how to apply.

# **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 2.3 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 (CAL) (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.

## **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 VLGS 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**

You may arrange a master’s or LLM externship on your own or select from the many postings at the VLGS Career Services Office. Externships may be a minimum of 4 credits and a max of 10 credits. You may pursue two 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 VLGS faculty member. The Master’s Externship Handbook and contract form are available at [www.vermontlaw.edu/MastersExternships](http://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](mailto:studentaccounts@vermontlaw.edu).

**Summer Session**

Summer Session registration begins in April. You can look at the previous year's summer calendar to get an idea of what classes will be offered residentially.

**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.

Updated 6/22