

Professional Science Master's Degree

All six concentrations in the Environmental Studies Master's of Science (ESMS) program, and the Resource Management and Conservation program, have been approved for recognition as Professional Science Master's (PSM) by the Council of Graduate Schools. The Sustainable Development and Climate Change (SDCC) concentration in the ESMS program was approved for PSM recognition in 2010.

Antioch University New England's Department of Environmental Studies offers the only Professional Science Master's-recognized degrees in New Hampshire, three of only 277 PSM-recognized programs available in the U.S. The programs bear the official PSM logo, and are included on the Professional Science Master's website.

Two Program Options

Students in AUNE's Environmental Studies Master's of Science (ESMS) program, or the Resource Management and Conservation MS program, can choose to follow the Professional Science Master's (PSM) study track or the non-PSM study track. ESMS students who wish to graduate with the Professional Science Master's-recognized Master's degree must meet all requirements of their concentration in the ESMS program, including two 3-credit internships. Students on a PSM-recognized Master's track must also meet these additional requirements within their 42-credit degree program:

Eighteen (18) credits of science and math, made up of:

- Two required Core science courses (6 credits total): Earth Systems and Climate Change (ESC572) and Community Ecology of the New England Landscape (ESC550); and
- One of these two research skills courses (3 credits total): Principles of Sustainability (ESS578) or Biostatistics (ESS519) (or an equivalent research skills course); and
- Nine (9) additional credits of science and math, drawn from these Concentration and Methods courses with scientific content.

Students work closely with their academic advisers to develop a detailed program plan that best meets their academic and professional goals.

About the Professional Science Master's recognition

The Professional Science Master's is an innovative approach to graduate education that enables students to pursue advanced training in science or mathematics without a PhD, while also developing sought-after workplace skills often learned in an MBA program. Launched in 1997 with support of the Alfred B. Sloan Foundation, and designed in collaboration with industry, a Professional Science Master's can be completed in two years, and combines interdisciplinary academic study with research



projects and internships in businesses and the public sector. To date, graduates successfully work in industry, government and non-profit organizations.

Federal support for the Professional Science Master's has been growing over the past several years. The National Science Foundation (NSF) recently awarded \$15 million in grants to develop or expand PSMs, an initiative authorized by the America COMPETES Act and funded by the 2009 stimulus bill.

Read the [Chronicle of Higher Education commentary](#) in support of Professional Science Master's-recognized graduate degrees.