



To: Master of Climate and Environmental Policy Class of 2026  
Master of Energy Regulation and Law Class of 2026  
Master of Arts in Restorative Justice Class of 2026

From: Anne Linehan, Director of Graduate Programs

Greetings from Vermont Law and Graduate School. I am an academic advisor for students in our master's degree programs. I have worked here for over 27 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:

Monday, August 11–Wednesday, August 13: individual advising sessions (virtual)

**Thursday, August 14: registration for fall and spring classes opens at 9:00 am (online)**

Monday, August 18–Friday, August 22: Orientation (on campus)

Your academic advisor will contact you directly to schedule an individual advising session. 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 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; if you want to participate in a clinic, research team, or externship; and how you plan to fulfill your degree requirements. For MCEPs and MERLs, 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!



## 2025 ORIENTATION SCHEDULE

**Master of Climate and Environmental Policy (MCEP)**  
**Master of Energy Regulation and Law (MERL)**  
**Master of Arts in Restorative Justice (MARJ)**

### MONDAY, AUGUST 18

8:30-9:00 AM	Check-In   Chase Community Center
9:00-10:00 AM	Welcome Ceremony Breakfast & Oath Administration   Debevoise Back Lawn
10:00-10:30 AM	Campus Tour   Debevoise Back Lawn
10:30-11:00 AM	Meet & Greet   Library Quad
10:00-11:00 AM	(Optional) Photo IDs, IT Assistance, State and Local Resource Application Assistance   Chase Community Center
11:15-12:00 PM	Master's Introductions   Oakes 208
12:00-1:00 PM	Break
1:00-2:00 PM	Technology Services and CampusWeb   Microsoft Teams
2:15-3:15 PM	Financial Aid   Teams
3:30-4:30 PM	Mental Health, Safety, and Community   Teams

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 19

9:00-10:00 AM	Library Resources and Services   Cornell Library
10:15-11:15 AM	What's Law Got to Do with It? Basic Training for Policy Students 1   Oakes 208
10:15-11:15 AM	Introduction to Restorative Justice   Rogers House
11:30-12:30 PM	Important Policies & Academic Regulations   Oakes 012
12:30-2:00 PM	Lunch with Student Ambassadors   Debevoise Back Lawn
2:15-3:15 PM	Master's Career Planning   Oakes 208
4:00-5:00 PM	Plagiarism   Teams

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20

9:00-10:00 AM	U.S. Legal System   Oakes 007
10:15-11:15 AM	Diversity Session (breakout groups)   Chase Community Center
11:30-12:30 PM	What's Law Got to Do with It? Basic Training for Policy Students 2   Oakes 208
11:30-12:30 PM	Program Pathways   Rogers House
12:30 PM	Brown bag lunches available   Yates Common Room
1:00-4:00 PM	Master's Field Trip   Meet in the Oakes Hall Parking Lot

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

8:30-9:00 AM	Board buses for Montpelier   Oakes Hall Parking Lot
10:00-1:00 PM	Meet with State Officials   House Chambers
1:00-3:00 PM	Lunch on your own and explore downtown Montpelier
3:00-3:15 PM	Class Photo   Capitol Steps
3:15-3:30 PM	Board buses for South Royalton   Vermont State Capitol Parking Lot
5:00-7:00 PM	Welcome Picnic   Debevoise Back Lawn

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 22

8:00-10:30 AM	Hike to Kent's Ledge   Meet at Fitness Center
2:00-4:00 PM	Beach Day   Paine's Beach, South Royalton

## Fall 2025 MCEP/MERL/LLM Schedule Grid

Time	Monday		Tuesday	Wednesday		Thursday	Friday
8:30 - 9:45	Intro to Policy Research & Writing		Equity & Environmental Justice	Intro to Policy Research & Writing		Equity & Environmental Justice	Green Finance
9:55 - 11:10	Animal Law & Policy Practicum		Animals & Law	Animal Law & Policy Practicum		Animals & Law	
11:20 - 12:35	Energy Law & Policy	Intro to Food/Ag Law & Pol	Oil & Gas Development	Energy Law & Policy	Intro to Food/Ag Law & Pol	Oil & Gas Development	
12:45 - 2:00	Land Use Regulation	Intl Climate Chg Law		Land Use Regulation	Intl Climate Chg Law		LLM Seminar
2:10 - 3:25	Legislation/Regulation Survey		Natural Resources Law	Legislation/Regulation Survey		Natural Resources Law	
3:35 - 4:50/5:10	Climate Change: Power of Taxes		Quant Analysis	Clinics		Intl & Comparative Environmental Law	

### Fall 1 Online: 8/25/25 - 10/12/25

Science of Animal Law    Lobbying and Government Affairs  
 Climate Change & Law    Intro to Public Policy  
 Native Americans & Law    Legislation & Regulation Survey  
 Energy Law & Policy  
 Water Quality Law  
 Intro to Law & Policy of Food & Ag

### Fall 2 Online: 10/20/25 - 12/7/25

Wildlife Law & Policy    Environmental Law  
 Animal Protection Policy    Land Use Regulation  
 Fund of Climate Change    Natural Resources Law  
 Equity & Envl Justice    Law and Policy of Local Food  
 Energy Regulation    Federal Reg of Food and Ag  
 Sustainable Transportation    Research Methods and Design  
 Administrative Law

## Spring 2026 MCEP/MERL/MPP/LLM Schedule Grid

Time	Monday	Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday
8:30 - 9:45								
9:55 - 11:10	Energy Regulation	Water Quality		Energy Regulation		Water Quality		
11:20 - 12:35	Environmental Law			Environmental Law				
12:45 - 2:00	Administrative Law			Administrative Law				
2:10 - 3:25	Climate Change Law	Animal Protection Policy		Climate Change Law		Animal Protection Policy		
3:35 - 4:50/5:10	Environmental Economics	Urban Agriculture	Clinics	Env Economics	Clinics	Fund of Climate Change	Law of Animals in Ag (6:05)	

### Spring 1 Online: 1/12/26 - 3/1/26

Laws of Animal & Ag	LLM Seminar
Energy Regulation	Quantitative Analysis
Administrative Law	Policy Design
Natural Resources Law	Legislation & Regulation Survey
International Environmental Law	

### Spring 2 Online: 3/9/26 - 4/26/26

Env Dispute Resolution	Sustainable Energy Project Finance
International Animal Law	Land Use Regulation
Animal Ethics	Water Resources Law
Fund of Climate Change	Global Food Security & Social Justice
Environmental Economics	Systems of Advantage and Disadvantage

# **Master of Climate and Environmental Policy (MCEP)**

## **Planning Guidelines**

### **Requirements of the MCEP Degree**

- A minimum of 34 credits, including all required courses
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.3 for successful completion of the degree

### **Required Courses**

- REQ7186 Legislation & Regulation Survey (3 credits, waived for JD students)
- POL5510 Intro to Policy Research & Writing (3) (waived for JD students)
- CLM5200 Fundamentals of Climate Change (2)
- EJU5120 Equity and Environmental Justice (3)
- POL5520 Quantitative Analysis (2)
- ENG5220 Environmental Economics & Markets (3)
- POL5530 Policy Design (3)
- Capstone in Public Policy I (3) and II (3)

### **Capstone in Public Policy**

The Capstone offers students the choice of a research project, an externship with a partner organization, or engagement with one of VLGS's centers or clinics. MCEP students will choose a project or experience with an environmental focus. The Capstone is a two-semester, 6-credit sequence (two 3-credit courses, 14 weeks each). VLGS JD students and JD students from approved dual degree programs may complete a master's externship instead of the Capstone.

### **Electives**

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

### **Transfer Credits**

Master's-only students may transfer up to 6 approved, relevant credits from another law school or accredited graduate program. VLGS JD students and JD students from approved dual degree programs may transfer up to 12 approved, relevant JD credits. Courses completed more than 5 years prior to matriculation will not transfer. Grades for transfer credits must be "C" or better.

### **Academic Planning**

Before registration, work with your advisor to establish a course schedule, subject to later modifications. Consider what, if any, courses you want to transfer or waive.

### **Online Classes**

All master's 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.

Updated 7/25

# **Master of Energy Regulation and Law (MERL) Planning Guidelines**

## **Requirements of the MERL Degree**

- A minimum of 34 credits, including all required courses
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.3 for successful completion of the degree

## **Required Courses**

- ENG5226 Energy Law & Policy in a Carbon-Constrained World (3 credits)
- ENG5228 Energy Regulation, Markets & the Environment (3)
- ENG5220 Environmental Economics & Markets (3)
- REQ7186 Legislation & Regulation Survey (3)
- POL5520 Quantitative Analysis (2)

## **Energy Electives (minimum of 6 credits)**

There are energy elective courses offered during the academic year, in the Summer Session, and online. See Academic Regulations for an approved list.

## **Project/Writing Requirement**

You must complete at least one project or course from this list.

- CLI9427 Energy Clinic, or another environmental clinic (working on an energy topic)
- Independent Research Project
- MERL Externship
- Capstone in Public Policy I and II (on an energy topic)
- Institute for Energy and the Environment Research Team

## **Remaining Electives**

Other environmental and energy courses from the approved list in the Academic Regulations

## **Transfer Credits**

Master's-only students may transfer up to 6 approved, relevant credits from another law school or accredited graduate program. VLGS JD students and JD students from approved dual degree programs may transfer up to 12 approved, relevant JD credits. Courses completed more than 5 years prior to matriculation will not transfer. Grades for transfer credits must be "C" or better.

## **Academic Planning**

Before registration, work with your advisor to establish a course schedule, subject to later modifications. Consider what, if any, courses you want to transfer or waive.

## **Online Classes**

All master's 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.

Updated 7/25



# Master's and LLM Experiential Opportunities

Vermont Law and Graduate School's experiential offerings focus on energy, food and agriculture, environmental justice, climate change, and animal protection. LLM and MERL students may participate in these opportunities for elective credit or to meet project/writing requirements. MCEP students may pursue one of these options for their Capstone requirement, after completing Capstone Part I.

## **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 or Energy Clinic, both of which provide experiential learning opportunities focused on climate justice, renewable energy development, clean transportation, and electric grid decarbonization. Recent research associate projects have included assisting VLGS in replacing its EV chargers, working on geothermal utility business models in New York, comparing state natural gas line extension allowance policies, researching unfunded liabilities in the oil and gas sector, evaluating how to insert community benefit agreements into offshore wind projects, and studying renewable energy development policy across the Caribbean. The Energy Clinic offers opportunities for students to work directly with clients on energy policy and transactional energy development projects. Recent projects include assisting resident-owned communities in building solar arrays, development of local net zero affordable housing, developing a sustainability plan for a ski hill, assisting municipalities building geothermal energy networks. IEE students, 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 and faculty. To apply to the IEE research team or clinic, please send a resume and letter of interest to Will Fridlund at [wfridlund@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:wfridlund@vermontlaw.edu).

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

CAFS is a center for research and students can become involved in our work in a few different ways. Students that work with CAFS work alongside faculty, staff, and partners in food system organizations at the local, state, federal, and international levels and may have the opportunity to visit partner sites, coauthor reports, policy papers, and case studies, and present their work at and attend conferences. CAFS Research Assistants work on scholarly and applied research that spans the food system, including issues addressing food justice, workers' rights, urban agriculture, food access, social justice and equity, public health, access to land, support for local food, environmental protection, climate change, and sustainability. To apply for the Research Assistant program, please provide a resume and cover letter to Lindsey Cole at [llcole@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:llcole@vermontlaw.edu). The Food and Agriculture Clinic provides practical experience and professional development opportunities in one of the nation's only law and policy clinics focused solely on food and agriculture. Students in the clinic work on law and policy projects, typically in collaboration with CAFS attorneys and researchers, while learning more about policymaking, research, advocacy, and the laws and policies shaping our food system through the clinical seminar. The clinic is on pause for the Fall 2025 semester but will return in Spring 2026. To apply for the FAC, please contact Amanda Murphy at [amurphy@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:amurphy@vermontlaw.edu) to access the Common Application and watch for relevant deadlines to apply. The deadline to apply for the spring semester typically falls in October. If you have any questions about the FAC, please reach out to Lindsey Cole at [llcole@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:llcole@vermontlaw.edu). To learn more about CAFS projects, visit: [www.vermontlaw.edu/cafs](http://www.vermontlaw.edu/cafs).

## **Animal Law and Policy Institute/Animal Law and Policy Practicum (Fall 2025)/Farmed Animal Advocacy Clinic (Spring 2026)**

The Animal Law and Policy Institute trains future animal advocacy leaders while centering animals in the fight for environmental protection. 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. This fall, JD, master's, and LLM students may take the Animal Law and Policy Practicum. Students will work to develop and execute legal and policy strategies to further the interests of companion animals, wildlife, and animals used for food, entertainment, and experimentation. The course will focus on professionalism, research and drafting, and developing law and policy skills while working with experienced advocates on real-world matters. The Practicum is 3 credits, taught by Laura Ireland and Taylor Waters, and meets Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:55 AM-11:10 AM. For more information, please email Laura Ireland at [lireland@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:lireland@vermontlaw.edu) or Taylor Waters at [tpwaters@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:tpwaters@vermontlaw.edu). In the spring, students may take the Farmed Animal Advocacy Clinic (FAAC). The 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 help represent clients in litigation as well as legislative, policy, and regulatory matters aimed at improving the treatment and status of farmed animals. Please visit the [FAAC website](#) to read annual reports highlighting recent projects such as drafting legislation to slow slaughter line speeds, successfully suing the Federal Bureau of Investigation under the Freedom of Information Act, and filing Securities Exchange Commission complaints against JBS and Pilgrim's Pride. Students may take the FAAC for 4, 6, 9, or 12 credits. For more information or to apply, please email Taylor Waters at [tpwaters@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:tpwaters@vermontlaw.edu).

### **Environmental Justice Clinic**

Students in the EJC will have the opportunity to work in partnership with community organizations, tribal nations, coalitions, and other stakeholders to support multi-strategy campaigns that address environmental racism to advance community health and human rights. In support of the environmental justice movement, student clinicians will learn how to (1) develop and implement legal, administrative, and policy strategies to address the disproportionate impacts of environmental pollution and land dispossession on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and low-income communities (2) contribute to intersectional organizing to push for climate justice and a just transition, and (3) engage in research and advocacy to support new law and policy on environmental justice. Students will learn and apply the foundations of community lawyering, movement lawyering, and trauma-informed lawyering practices, with a special emphasis on principles of human rights. The EJC partners with communities across the country, including in Vermont, Alabama, Oklahoma, and Puerto Rico. The EJC is accepting applications for Fall 2025 and will consider applications for Spring 2026 as well. The Common Application process for spring clinics opens in October. For more information about the EJC, or to apply for the Fall 2025 term, please contact Prof. Todd Howland at [thowland@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:thowland@vermontlaw.edu).

### **Environmental Advocacy Clinic**

The Environmental Advocacy Clinic (EAC) is an in-house public interest environmental law firm. Its mission is to inspire the next generation of environmental attorneys with practical, real-world opportunities to learn the skills and strategies of environmental litigation and advocacy. In the EAC, students represent public-interest clients including leading national, regional, and local non-profit organizations under the supervision of experienced lawyers, working on cases involving important and challenging environmental and natural resources issues. The EAC's work is especially focused on litigation projects at the intersection of natural resource protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and environmental justice. Past clinic cases have sought to conserve natural resources and public lands, protect endangered species, reduce community exposure to toxic pollution, and promote climate resilience. The EAC is full for Fall 2025 but will accept applications for Spring 2026. The Common Application process for spring clinics opens in October. Applicants from the Graduate School should have exceptional English speaking and writing skills as well as professional experience in a legal setting. The EAC gives priority to JD students. For more information about the EAC, please contact Prof. Christophe Courchesne at [ccourchesne@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:ccourchesne@vermontlaw.edu).