

Masters of Natural Resources - Accelerated Master's Program (AMP)

Frequently Asked Questions for Faculty Advisors

Q: What is the difference between the Masters of Natural Resources and the Accelerated Master's Program?

The Masters of Natural Resources (MNR) is an on-line 45-credit master's program that can be entered by applying directly or by first completing one of seven OSU graduate certificates.

The Accelerated Master's Program (AMP) is a pathway for Natural Resources B.S. students to prepare for the MNR program *before* finishing their undergraduate degree by getting a jump start on graduate level coursework. If accepted into the AMP, students can take up to 12 graduate level credits while completing their undergraduate degree. Those credits count toward both the B.S. and MNR degree.

Q: If I agree to advise a student in the AMP program, am I committing to advising them through their MNR program?

Yes. Agreeing to advise an AMP student is committing to seeing that student through the completion of the MNR degree. This includes advising them through their non-thesis MNR capstone project and paper, and their final defense. Because the MNR is an online program, students sometimes move at a slower pace than traditional on-campus students since they are typically employed full time as well. However, the time commitment during the completion of the student's undergraduate degree/AMP program is small.

Q: What kind of academic background do AMP students have?

Students must have at least a 3.25 GPA and have completed 105 credits before applying to the Accelerated Master's Program. They must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0, and all graduate level work must be 3.0 or better. Students will have completed biology, ecology, math, statistics and a variety of courses in conservation and management of resources such as forests, water, soil, and wildlife, as well as human dimensions and policy courses. Many students are already working in a natural resource related field while pursuing their degree. Students may be completing their B.S. through Ecampus or on the Corvallis or Cascades campus. You can find the coursework for the Natural Resources B.S. and the Masters of Natural Resources at the links below.

<https://catalog.oregonstate.edu/college-departments/forestry/forest-ecosystems-society/natural-resources-bs-hbs/>

<https://catalog.oregonstate.edu/college-departments/forestry/forest-ecosystems-society/natural-resources-mnr/>

Q: What are the usual expectations for MNR advisors for contact and advising their AMP students?

The majority of the advising for AMP students will be covered by the assigned undergraduate academic advisor and the AMP Program Director. The MNR Faculty Advisor role with the AMP student is:

- Write a letter of recommendation for the student's admission to the AMP program that confirms that

you will take accept this student as a graduate student in the master's program upon completion of their undergraduate degree.

- Sign the "Completion of Undergraduate degree" plan. This plan includes the graduate level classes that the AMP student will be taking while completing the undergraduate degree. The AMP students are required to take FES 585 and MNR 560 so only 6 additional graduate credits are allowed. We just want to make sure they are making the most of their opportunity to take graduate level courses and are well prepared to be successful when they transition to graduate student. The assigned undergraduate academic advisor approves the remaining undergraduate courses.

- The AMP students will take MNR 560 Developing the MNR Capstone Proposal at the very end of their undergraduate program. At this time the student will need mentoring on developing their capstone project proposal. This is the time period in which the student will be soon be transitioning to full time graduate studies and your full role as MNR faculty advisor will begin. The expectations for an MNR Faculty Advisor are outlined in the [MNR Graduate Advisor Handbook](#).

Q: Will I be advising online or in an office environment?

AMP/MNR students primarily use email and phone as contact methods, but the specifics are up to the advisor and student to set together.

Q: How will I be compensated for advising AMP/MNR students?

Upon completion of the MNR degree, the program will transfer \$2,000 of discretionary funds to an OSU SPA index to acknowledge the contributions of the MNR student's faculty advisor.

Q: What is the "degree completion plan " the student is asking me to sign?

The "degree completion plan" lists which classes the student will take towards both their undergraduate degree and their AMP graduate level classes each term until they graduate with their B.S in Natural Resources. It is used by their undergraduate academic advisors to ensure that they are on track with both their undergraduate and AMP requirements. It is different from the master's degree "Program of Study" form. The master's degree "Program of Study" form will be completed *after* the AMP student graduates from their undergraduate degree and is officially accepted into the MNR program. (That form will list all master's level coursework they will take to complete their MNR degree, including the graduate level courses they took as an AMP student.)

The AMP students are required to take FES 585 Consensus and Natural Resources and will also take MNR 560 Developing the MNR Capstone Proposal in place of NR 455 Natural Resources Decision making. They are allowed to choose 6 more credits of graduate level courses (a total of 12 graduate level credits).

Q: If I have any questions who can contact?

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