

## **MELP/MSNR Dual Degree with UVM Program Planning Guidelines**

These guidelines are for general planning purposes for students who matriculate in the MELP program after spring 2013. Please refer to the Academic Regulations for official regulations and policies.

### **REQUIRED AND CORE COURSES**

#### **Requirements of the MELP Degree**

- A minimum of 30 credits, including all required courses
- At least 21 credits must be taken as MELP credits (not transferred in)
- MELP/MSNR students are required to complete a minimum of 21 credits at UVM
- 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
- Students may start the MELP in the fall or summer semesters, but not in the spring

#### **Required Courses**

You must fulfill all of the following required courses. These requirements may be met by taking the course, transferring in credits, or by waiver.

- REQ7180 Public Law (3 credits)
- ENV5122 Communications, Advocacy, and Leadership (3 credits)
- ENV5115 Environmental Law (3 credits)

#### **Core Courses**

You must take at least three of the following five courses. No waivers or transfers are allowed.

- ENV5235 Natural Resources Law (3 credits)
- ENV5112 Science for Environmental Law (3 credits)
- ENV5220 Environmental Economics and Markets (3 credits)
- One environmental ethics course (see Academic Regulations for approved list)
- One dispute resolution course (see Academic Regulations for approved list)

#### **Electives**

Any remaining courses may be chosen from the approved list in the Academic Regulations.

### **CREDITS**

#### **Number of Credits**

The minimum number of credits required to earn the MELP 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.

#### **Transferring Credits from UVM**

You may transfer up to 9 credits from approved courses in the MSNR program at UVM. Transferred credits may be applied toward both the MELP and MSNR degrees. Transferred grades are reflected on the VLS transcript but are not used in computing the GPA.

## **INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS AND EXTERNSHIPS**

### **Independent Research Project (IRP)**

In addition to the listed courses and seminars, individual faculty members may be willing to work with a student in pursuit of independent research topics. MELP independent research is limited to a total of 6 credits, on a grade basis. To register for an Independent Research Project, you must provide the Registrar's office with a completed IRP contract.

### **MELP Externships**

Externships are an option to further develop your skills. They are not required. Students may arrange a MELP externship on their own or select from the many postings at the VLS Career Services Office. Externships may be local or worldwide. Externships may be designed for a minimum of 4 credits and a maximum of 10 credits. Students may pursue multiple externships as long as the total number of MELP 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 sponsor, and your faculty sponsor. MELP externships must be sponsored by a VLS faculty member. The MELP Externship Handbook and contract form are available at [www.vermontlaw.edu/MastersExternships](http://www.vermontlaw.edu/MastersExternships).

## **ACADEMIC PLANNING**

During the registration process (which takes place during MELP orientation), establish a tentative schedule of courses you plan to take for your MELP degree, subject to later modifications as your individual program planning requires. Consider which courses you plan to transfer from UVM.

It is your responsibility to ensure fulfillment of all degree requirements. Check with the Registrar if you have questions regarding your degree status. To assist you in confirming your degree status, the Registrar will notify you each semester of the MELP degree requirements you have not yet met.

## **REGISTRATION AND TUITION BILLING**

### **Withdrawing from a Course**

During the Add/Drop period in the fall and spring semesters, students may drop a course with no enrollment limit during the first ten days of the semester. Limited enrollment courses and seminars must be dropped during the first five days. Courses may not be added after the sixth class day without the written permission of the professor. After the Add/Drop period, you may withdraw from any course which is not required or does not have a limited enrollment. This withdrawal will be reflected on your transcript as "WD." You may not withdraw from a required course or limited enrollment course unless you obtain permission from the Committee on Standards. Contact [registrar@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:registrar@vermontlaw.edu) regarding petitioning the Committee on Standards.

### **Auditing**

Students may audit one course each semester at no charge. Any additional audits will be charged at the current audit rate. Contact [registrar@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:registrar@vermontlaw.edu) to determine if space is available in the

class you wish to audit. Students may not audit courses or seminars that have a wait list. If the Registrar determines that space is available, you will be given an Audit Form to obtain the professor's permission to audit. This form should be returned to the Registrar's Office once faculty approval has been obtained. Audited courses will appear on your transcript.

### **MELP Tuition**

You are billed per credit by VLS for the classes you take at VLS, and per credit by UVM for the classes you take at UVM. For further information about billing, contact the Business Office at [eparker@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:eparker@vermontlaw.edu).

### **SUMMER SESSION**

#### **Registering for Summer Session**

You have until May 1st to register. You may take a maximum of eleven credits. Anything beyond that requires a waiver from the ELC Director or Associate Director.

#### **Summer Add/Drop Period**

You have between the first and 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 published in the Summer Session catalog and is also available from the Business Office.

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