Master of Science in Environmental Education Degree (MSEE)

A total of 31-34 semester hours are required to include the following:

- Completion of 31-34 credit hours of course work
- A cumulative grade point average of 3.0
- A student’s final total of credit hours may vary based on thesis requirements and transfer credits. (A student may graduate with 31 credits only if the student is a North Carolina state certified environmental educator or if they can show proof of completion of the University of Wisconsin Fundamentals in Environmental Education course pending faculty approval).
- A grade of P on the thesis or capstone project completed during the last semester the student is enrolled in the program
  - If at any time a student receives a grade below a B-, the student must retake that course. All graduate-level courses must be passed with a minimum grade of B-.
- If at any time a student receives a grade below a B-, the student must meet with his/her program director and/or advisor.
- Completion of degree requirements within 3 years from the start of the program
- Payment of all tuition and fees

Approval of the faculty

Master of Science in Environmental Education (MSEE) Courses

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<td>Nonresident Thesis/Project (If needed)</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
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*EV 540 and EV 545 will be waived for students who have been certified in Environmental Education through the state of NC.
**Enrollment in EV 570 (Non-resident Thesis; $500 course fee) may be repeated until students complete the thesis/project.
NOTE: EV 581 Directed Study (1–6 credits) may be added to coursework at discretion of student and advisor.

Following the cohort schedule, students should complete their coursework in 1.5 years or 5 terms. Thesis/Project work must be completed within 3 years of the start of the program.
EV 500  FUNDAMENTALS IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION DESCRIPTION
This web-based course (Internet delivery) provides a foundational knowledge of environmental education and the skills to become an effective environmental educator. This course introduces the learner to theory and practice of EE. Through foundational readings, on-line discussion groups, and projects, students develop a better understanding of environmental education and the skills needed to develop and improve as an environmental educator. (Spring Semester: Year One; 3 credits)

EV 505  INTRODUCTION TO THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (MSEE)
Orients students to the nature of graduate study in environmental education at Montreat College. It focuses on cohort building, the educational outcomes of the MSEE, and the mission of the College. Students will also be introduced to related opportunities including N.C. certification in environmental education, off campus field courses, and elective options. After discussing the program philosophy, course sequence, program delivery model (online work and summer/weekend intensives), issues related to graduate study, and other opportunities, students will develop a comprehensive plan for completion of the MSEE that incorporates required courses, electives, and other opportunities. (Spring Semester: Year One; 1 credit)

EV 506  RESEARCH PRACTICUM
This practicum will concentrate on the literature review process, as preparation for EV 520 (Research Methods), as well the student’s final thesis or project. The class will meet during the summer intensive where key components of a well-written literature review will be defined. After the summer intensive, a student will work independently with a professor on preparing a literature review, so that the student is ready to think about research methods related to a specific question. (First Summer; 1 credit)

EV 510  INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
Emphasizes a wide array of instructional strategies and teaching methods that focus on an inductive approach to learning. Students will develop and practice strategies for making effective instructional decisions, assessing needs, selecting appropriate instructional objectives and evaluating student learning. A variety of specific methods and philosophies relative to environmental education for all ages will be introduced. Successful completion of this course will satisfy the teaching methods workshop requirement for the North Carolina environmental education certification. (Summer Intensive: Year One; 3 credits)

EV 515  EARTH SYSTEMS
This course reviews the structure and function of a variety of environmental systems operating in the atmosphere, hydrosphere, geosphere, cryosphere and biosphere. Physical, chemical, and biological processes will be considered with respect to local, regional, and global levels of scale. Course topics include energy flow, biogeochemical cycles, biomes and biogeographic regions, ecological and physical zonation, the ocean-atmosphere interface, and the notion of change in earth’s spheres and zones. (Summer intensive: Year One; 3 credits)

EV 516  SCIENCE SEMINAR
This course will add to students’ environmental content knowledge. Students will learn science content that is seasonally appropriate; topics will include such things as fall overturn in lakes, animal and plant adaptations to winter, and other seasonal changes. The goal is that students will be able to interpret the natural world through the seasons. Students will keep a nature journal throughout the time that the course is taught. (Fall Semester: Year One; 1 credit)

EV 520  RESEARCH METHODS
This course reviews qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches to research in environmental education. Topics include research design, methods for data collection and analysis, and strategies for completing the final document. Note: This course is not intended to be a statistics course. Those students interested in a quantitative research design for their thesis or final project should take a graduate level statistics course as an elective. (Fall Semester: Year One; 4 credits)

EV 525  DESIGNING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION EXPERIENCES
This course will address concepts using diverse settings for environmental education and how to develop curriculum that meets the needs of the student, agency, state and/or school. Students will design and participate in a variety of integrated environmental education learning experiences including expeditionary science, ecotourism, and field-based immersion experiences. (Fall Semester: Year One; 2 credits)

EV 530  ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY
This course investigates the major philosophical, ethical, and theological strands of thought that have influenced environmental thinking. The course will use the history of the environmental movement as a framework for understanding the development of environmental attitudes, perceptions, and behaviors. Students will develop and revise their own philosophy of environmental education through interaction with the readings and discussion. (Spring Semester: Year Two; 3 credits)

EV 535  ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS
Introduces communication theories as they intersect with environmental education and issues and uses critical methods to analyze these issues. The course will increase awareness of the strategies and arguments used by groups, institutions, the media, and key individuals in communicating environmental information and issues. It will also examine theories of communication in terms of public participation in environmental decision-making. Finally, the course will look at strategies that environmental interpreters have used in translating environmental information into communication formats that make it easier and more compelling for the public to understand the information. (Spring Semester: Year Two; 3 credits)
EV 540  SURVEY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION RESOURCES
Students will investigate instructional resources for K-12 environmental education and then evaluate and apply them to their practice. Course will include the resources needed to complete the workshop requirement for the NC certification in environmental education. A culminating project will link resources encountered to grade level taught and individual areas of interest. This course can be waived if the student can show evidence of a course similar to this taken prior to enrolling in the masters and/or if 7 national environmental education curriculum workshops have been completed during the last 5 years. Waived if student completed OE 220 at Montreat College. (Spring Semester: Year One; 2 credits)

EV 545  ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES INVESTIGATION AND ACTION
This course will provide knowledge, skills and opportunity to investigate and evaluate environmental issues. Students will take a leadership role in an environmental action project. Successful completion of this course will satisfy the action project requirement for the North Carolina environmental education certification. This course can be waived if the student has completed an action project for the NCEE certification program. Student should show proof of completion. (Summer Semester: Year Two; 1 credit)

EV 550  THESIS PROPOSAL OR PROJECT DESIGN
This course provides students with an opportunity to make an original contribution to the field of environmental education through a thesis or a chance for the student to develop an expert’s knowledge of a particular industry segment and to build a network of professional contacts within a specific sub-field through a project. Topics may be explored via two avenues: research thesis or project. Either of these forms is acceptable and will be comparable in the amount of work required. (Spring Semester: Year Two; 1 credit)

EV 555  ECOSYSTEMS
Students will have the opportunity to travel and visit field study sites and public education facilities in selected biomes and life zones. Ecosystem comparisons will be developed with attention given to flora and fauna. Special emphasis will be placed on environmental education programs that educate the public on biomes and life zones. Students will travel as a group for this two-week experience. (Summer Semester: Year Two; 3 credits)

EV 560  THESIS/PROJECT PREPARATION
Students will make satisfactory progress toward developing a proposal for the thesis/non-thesis project. The thesis/non-thesis project will be of substantial depth that explores a specific area of environmental education and integrates the MSEE curriculum. This course is subject to repeated registration. Students must receive a passing grade (P) before a student enrolls in EV 570. (Summer Semester: Year Two; 3 credits, P/F.)

EV 570  NONRESIDENT THESIS/PROJECT
This course is for non-resident graduate students who have completed all course requirements for the Masters of Science in Environmental Education, but have not completed the thesis/project. Pre-requisite: Satisfactory completion of EV 560. (0 credit, S/NS) Fee: $500

EV 581  DIRECTED STUDY (1-6)
Directed Study for graduate students enrolled in the Master of Science in Environmental Education. Students may choose to participate in a directed study of their own choice and direction of a faculty member. Credit varies from 1 – 3, although a student can repeat for up to six hours of credit. (Any semester; 1 – 6 credits)