The University of Idaho College of Law has made a substantial commitment to meet the needs of a new generation of graduates who understand not only the law, but the resources and the people who use them. With a strong faculty and the synergies made possible through the outstanding graduate programs within the University, students will enter a rich environment of learning to solve some of the difficult problems society faces at the intersections of law, science, and society.

Upon the successful completion of at least 15 credit hours of coursework, and a major writing project, graduates of the College of Law earn a designation on their diploma denoting an academic emphasis in Natural Resources and Environmental Law (NREL). Obtaining this emphasis is the equivalent to earning a certificate or concentration in NREL. This outstanding program was developed in response to the fact that the practice of law is becoming more specialized and complex, especially in the areas of natural resources and environmental law. The course of study is designed to give students broad expertise in these two areas of the law, but not at the expense of their broader legal education.

Opportunities and Interests

- Courses include offerings in environmental law, land use, urban planning, wildlife, public lands, water, international environmental law, Native American resources, administrative law, and law and science
- Students may apply to participate in summer externship programs in Boise, ID, with placements in state and federal agencies, and the State Office of the Attorney General
- Students may apply to participate in the Native American Law/NREL externship placement with legal counsel for Tribes located in the State of Idaho
- Participants may publish in the NREL Edition of the Idaho Law Review, a peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary journal, publishing on local, regional, national, and international issues

For more information on any of these programs please visit uidaho.edu/lawenvironmental
Concurrent Degree Options

In conjunction with the University of Idaho College of Graduate Studies, the College of Law has worked to create several concurrent degree programs that allow students to obtain both the Juris Doctor degree and a master’s degree from one of several schools. Students interested in pursuing a concurrent degree program are required to apply separately to the College of Law and to the specific program within the graduate school. Acceptance to both colleges does not have to occur simultaneously. Law students will typically apply to the concurrent program during their first year of law school.

**Environmental Science (J.D./M.S.)** – The program is designed to allow a student to obtain both a J.D. from the College of Law and an M.S. in Environmental Science in as few as eight semesters. The program offers students the opportunity to combine the study of scientific, social, philosophical, and legal aspects of environmental issues.

**Water Resources (J.D./M.S. or J.D./Ph.D.)** – This program draws on expertise from faculty members in seven colleges to integrate aspects of law, aquatics, biology, hydrology, engineering, political science, and social sciences. The program focuses on developing sophisticated strategies and solutions to the world’s critical water shortage.

**Applied Economics (Agricultural) (J.D./M.S.)** – Students learn to apply statistical and mathematical analysis to understand and provide recommendations on how to solve complex issues involving agriculture, communities, and natural resources. Program participants conduct applied research on a variety of projects to develop specialized skills in microeconomics for real-world use.

Law is becoming more specialized and complex, especially in the areas of natural resources and environmental law.