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 seven faculty and the synergies made possible through the outstanding graduate programs in other university colleges, students will enter a rich environment for learning to solve some of the difficult problems society faces at the intersections of law, science, and society.
The **NATURAL RESOURCES and ENVIRONMENTAL LAW EMPHASIS**

The academic emphasis in Natural Resources and Environmental Law (NREL), allows students to earn a designation on their diploma upon completion of at least 15 hours of required coursework in the area and a major writing project. Obtaining the emphasis is the equivalent to earning a certificate or concentration elsewhere, and the Idaho program has some of the more rigorous requirements in this area. The program was developed in response to the general fact that the practice of law is becoming more specialized and, specifically, that the practice of natural resources and environmental law has become highly technical and complex. The course of study is designed to give students broad expertise in natural resources and environmental law and an understanding of how to develop in-depth expertise in a specific topic while not sacrificing their broader legal education. The six NREL faculty do research and teach courses in environmental law, land use, urban planning, wildlife, public lands, water, international environmental law, Native American resources, administrative law, and law and science.

Students in this emphasis or who are pursuing one of the concurrent degree programs have the opportunity to apply to participate in a summer externship program in Boise, Idaho, with placements in state and federal agencies, and the State Office of the Attorney General. In addition, students may apply to participate in the NAL/NREL externship with placements with legal counsel for Tribes located in Idaho.


**University of Idaho Natural Resources and Environmental Law Programs:**

**BRIDGING LAW, SCIENCE AND SOCIETY**

- Natural Resources and Environmental Law J.D. emphasis
- Concurrent Degree Options
  - Applied Economics (Agricultural) J.D./M.S.
  - Bioregional Planning J.D./M.S.
  - Environmental Science J.D./M.S.
  - Professional Science Masters J.D./P.S.M.
  - Water Resources J.D./M.S. or J.D./Ph.D.
- NAL/NREL externship with legal counsel placements for Tribes located in Idaho
- Environmental Law Society
- Agricultural Law Society
- NREL Boise Summer Externship and externship placements with regional Tribes

**NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAW COURSES**

- Administrative Law
- Agricultural and Food Law
- Environmental Law
- Environmental Policy
- Interdisciplinary Methods in Water Resources
- International Environmental and Water Law
- Introduction to Natural Resources Law
- Land Use Law and Planning
- Law, Science, and the Environment Seminar
- Lawyering Process
- Native American Law
- Native American Natural Resources Law
- Natural Resources and Environmental Law
- Summer Field Course
- Natural Resources Law Seminar
- Water and Energy Policy Seminar
- Water Law I
- Water Law II
- Water Law Practicum
CONCURRENT DEGREE OPTIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
Rising interest in the connection between sustainable economic development and environmental protection has increased the demand for professionals with both legal and technical training. To meet this demand, the University of Idaho College of Law and the University-wide program in Environmental Science offers a concurrent degree program. The concurrent program combines the study of scientific, social, philosophical and legal aspects of environmental issues. The program is designed to allow students to obtain both a J.D. from the College of Law as well as an M.S. in Environmental Science in as few as eight semesters. Additional information can be found at uidaho.edu/cnr/grad-programs/on-campus-degrees/environmental-science.

PROFESSIONAL SCIENCE MASTERS
To meet the needs of students planning to practice law but seeking greater knowledge of the role of science in its application to the practice of law, the College of Law has partnered with the University of Idaho’s interdisciplinary Professional Science Masters program.

Unlike other concurrent degree options, this program combines two professional degrees and does not require a thesis. The Professional Science Masters program goes beyond training in science to teach management, communication skills, and ethics.

Program website: https://www.uidaho.edu/cnr/grad-programs/on-campus-degrees/psm

WATER RESOURCES
Launched in 2006, the Water Resources Program draws on expertise from 56 faculty members in seven colleges to integrate aspects of law, aquatics, biology, hydrology, engineering, political science and social sciences. The unique program focuses on developing sophisticated strategies and solutions to the world’s critical water shortage. It offers a joint J.D./M.S. in Water Resources, which can be completed in as few as four years, and a joint J.D./Ph.D. in Water Resources which can be completed in as few as six years. The master’s and doctoral degrees in Water Resources are offered in three tracks, and a degree in any track can be pursued concurrent with the J.D.

Additional information is available at the Water Resources website: uidaho.edu/cals/water-resources.

BIOREGIONAL PLANNING
With rapid change facing cities and small towns throughout the country, we are in jeopardy of losing the unique sense of place that defines these cities and towns. At the same time, today’s planners are seeking an education that meets the changing needs of communities in an increasingly global world. The Bioregional Planning and Community Design (BIOP) program challenges the traditional planning education paradigm by leading with people and place-based community values—not statistics. Led by planning practitioners and a diverse faculty from eight academic units, the curriculum was designed, and is continuously evaluated, to be responsive to today’s planning needs.

Additional information is available at the Bioregional Planning Program website: uidaho.edu/caa/programs/biop.

APPLIED ECONOMICS
[Agricultural Economics]
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. Students conduct applied research on a variety of projects to develop specialized skills in microeconomics for real-world use.

Additional information is available at the Applied Economics webpage under the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology: uidaho.edu/cals/agricultural-economics-and-rural-sociology/ms-applied-economics

Application to Concurrent Degree Programs
Students are required to apply separately to the College of Law and the specific program in the College of Graduate Studies, and on acceptance to each college, must apply to the concurrent degree program. Acceptance to both colleges does not have to occur simultaneously, and students may apply after beginning their first year of law school. The GREs are not required in addition to the LSAT. Information on application to the College of Graduate Studies is available at uidaho.edu/admissions/graduate.
The College of Law faculty has adopted the following statement of learning outcomes.

By the start of their legal careers, all graduates of the University of Idaho College of Law will achieve the following learning outcomes:

- **Knowledge of Law and Legal Institutions**: Graduates will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of substantive and procedural law and legal institutions.

- **Legal Analysis and Reasoning**: Graduates will demonstrate the capacity to engage in sophisticated legal reasoning and analysis.

- **Oral and Written Communication Skills**: Graduates will be proficient at communicating complex legal arguments, reasoning, and analysis, both in writing and in oral communication.

- **Problem Solving**: Graduates will recognize that multiple different potential resolutions to a dispute exist, including avoiding disputes before they begin.

- **Professionalism, Ethics, and Values**: Graduates will understand their professional and ethical obligations to their clients, the courts and the bar, and the public.