



**Duke University Professional Environmental Management Graduate Program
Master of Environmental Management (MEM), Master of Forestry (MF)
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

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A number of liberal arts colleges like F&M have a special partnership with Duke's Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences in which a student completes 3 years at the college, 2 years at Duke, and emerges with 2 degrees in just 5 years from excellent institutions: a B.A. from the college and a professional Master's from Duke. This “3/2 option” can be an ideal path for someone with a particular interest in applied environmental management careers. Note that a student may also apply to the Duke program for entrance after the senior year (“4/2 option”). The tradeoffs between these 3/2 and 4/2 paths are discussed below.

In addition to reviewing this document, students interested in the program should consult the Duke web site. The overall site for the Nicholas School is <https://nicholas.duke.edu/>, and the professional Master's programs are described at <https://nicholas.duke.edu/academics/masters-degrees>. The 3/2 program is specifically described at <https://nicholas.duke.edu/academics/masters-programs/cooperative-college-3-2>.

Environmental Graduate Programs at Duke: Duke is an outstanding university, and the Nicholas School is world famous for the quality of its programs and the success of its graduates. Their school of Forestry is one of the oldest and best in the country, and their Marine Lab is outstanding. You could hardly find a better place for professional training in numerous fields of basic and applied environmental disciplines. The professional Master's program is only one of many ways a person can complete a master's or doctoral degree in basic or applied environmental fields at Duke.

MEM and MF Professional Master's Degrees: The Duke Professional Master's program is 2-year, course-based, non-thesis *professional* degree program similar to law or business school in its applied focus. In fact, the degree will actually be an M.E.M. (Master's of Environmental Management) or M.F. (Master's of Forestry), depending on the path chosen. This is not the same as applying to graduate school in, say, the college of arts and sciences, where you might earn a broader, less applied M.S. (Master of Science) degree in a discipline like Zoology or Biochemistry.

MEM Specializations. As of Fall 2022, the MEM degree is now structured around *Environment* concentrations and *Management* concentrations. Students select one from each of the following groups of possibilities, to gain depth of knowledge in a topical area (*Environment*) and to build the skills (*Management*) to put this knowledge into practice:

Environment concentrations:

- Coastal and Marine Systems
- Ecotoxicology and Environmental Health
- Energy and Environment
- Terrestrial and Freshwater Environments

Management concentrations:

- Business and the Environment
- Environmental Analytics and Modeling
- Environmental Economics and Policy
- Community Engagement and Env. Justice

Certificate Programs. Students can also pursue certificates to gain additional expertise in: Geospatial Analysis, Climate Change Science and Applications, or Community-Based Environmental Management.

Concurrent Professional Degree Option. A student can also choose to pursue a concurrent (joint) degree in law, business, public policy, engineering, or education. This typically requires an extra year, for a total of three years at Duke. You would complete all the requirements for the MEM/MF degree and the concurrent degree at the same time. This could mean you would have the equivalent of three degrees in 6 years: a B.A. from F&M, an MEM or MF from Duke, and a third professional degree from Duke.

Program Costs, Financial Aid. An important feature of the MEM/MF program is its cost and the options for financial aid. Like law, business, and medical schools, the MEM/MF tracks are administered as professional degree programs. So students are typically expected to foot the bills (costs are available on their web site). Financial aid is available in some forms, but the amounts are relatively modest compared to undergraduate financial aid and even to the kinds of support graduate students in the non-professional science degree programs can secure. The Nicholas School administrators are aware of the costs, but they also know that they have been highly successful in placing their graduates in very good jobs, and that graduates can fairly quickly recover the financial investment they made in getting the MEM/MF degree. So they consider the price to be worth it. This would be particularly true if you go 3/2, since the resources a student would commit to the senior year at F&M would be diverted to the first year at Duke.

Admission Requirements. The pre-requisites for admission to the MEM/MF program are not extensive. The general requirements for all admitted students are: (1) some previous training in the natural sciences or social sciences related to their area of interest (track) in the MEM/MF program; (2) at least one semester of college calculus; and (3) a college statistics course. Some of the MEM/MF tracks have a modest number of additional pre-requisites (see this link for details: <https://nicholas.duke.edu/about/policies/statement-prerequisite-coursework>).

What to Major in at F&M. It is not necessary to major in environmental studies or environmental science to be competitive for admission to the Duke program. What is important is to (1) choose an F&M major that you are passionate about and which will prepare you in some depth for the MEM/MF track(s) you are most interested in, and (2) take some environmentally-related courses offered in Earth & Environment (e.g., ENE 117 Environment and Human Values; ENE 216 Environmental Policy) or other departments that will provide you with a broad, interdisciplinary perspective on environmental issues.

Tradeoffs, 4/2 vs. 3/2. Most students who are accepted into the Duke MEM/MF program every year already have 4-year degrees. The process for F&M students applying in the senior year under this “4/2 option” is no different than applying to other graduate schools, and thus no special application procedures must be followed here at F&M. Students from cooperating liberal arts colleges like F&M may apply to Duke after 3 years. A special set of procedures for this “3/2 option” involving the Registrar’s Office and the Cooperative Program Coordinator must be followed here (described in detail below). The 3/2 option essentially reduces the total amount of time required to complete the bachelor’s and master’s degrees from 6 years to 5 and will reduce total educational costs. Neither path (4/2 vs. 3/2) is inherently better than the other, but there are important differences to consider. A student who has finished 4 undergraduate years is, *on average*, more likely to be better prepared and more competitive for acceptance to the Duke MEM/MF program. The 4/2 option also provides more curricular flexibility at F&M. This could be especially helpful if you want to study abroad during your junior year and find it hard to complete all the course requirements for admission to the MEM/MF program by the end of your junior year. Or you may be interested in completing a minor or second major, and this may take more than three years. The senior year is also when many F&M students engage in Independent Studies, which usually play a critical role in the student’s professional maturation and exploration of intellectual interests, and will also influence the competitiveness of their application to Duke. Finally, many students who show an early interest in the 3/2 program eventually find it hard to “give up” their last year at college. The senior year is a special time for liberal arts students, and leaving early can feel a little empty, regardless of how exciting the transition to

Duke might be. So the 3/2 option is not for everyone. But this all depends on the personal and professional goals of the student.

Curricular Planning and the 3/2 Decision. You don't have to decide whether to apply to Duke until your junior year, so there is no pressure to commit to 3/2 or 4/2 in the first two years at F&M. That said, if you are potentially interested in 3/2, then you should definitely plan your first and second year curriculum in such a way as to be on track for the 3/2 program, including attention to what must be finished by the end of your junior year in order to be eligible (see requirements below). Planning well for the 3/2 option will not foreclose other post-F&M options should you decide to follow the 4/2 path or not apply to Duke at all.

3/2 Application Process and Awarded Degrees. Students who wish to do the 3/2 sequence must (1) apply to the Nicholas School of the Environment and (2) complete an application form available in the Registrar's Office that is signed by the Cooperative Program Coordinator and the student. Before leaving Franklin & Marshall College at the end of three years, the student must fulfill the following:

- a. All General Education requirements: Connections, Distribution (Natural Sciences requirements and one course each in Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Non-Western), Language Studies, Writing;
- b. Complete one semester of calculus, one appropriate statistics course, and training in the natural sciences or social sciences related to the student's area of interest in a Duke program track;
- c. Make normal progress toward a Franklin & Marshall major as verified by the major department chair to the Cooperative Program Coordinator;
- d. Pass all of the above courses with regular letter grades (not Pass/No Pass);
- e. Pass at least 24 course credits, with 16 being earned at Franklin & Marshall; and
- f. Maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.00.

If accepted by Duke, the student must:

- a. Apply for, and be granted, a one-year Leave of Absence through Student Academic Affairs to complete the Franklin & Marshall degree through the Franklin & Marshall / Duke Cooperation Program; and
- b. Complete an Application For Degree in the Registrar's Office, indicating the intention to complete graduation requirements one year hence.

Before the student can receive a Franklin & Marshall diploma at the end of four years (three years at Franklin & Marshall; one year at Duke), the Registrar's Office must receive official documentation from Duke University certifying that the student has satisfactorily completed a minimum of 32 credits (= 8 courses) in the MEM or MF program in one year of study. Upon confirmation, the student is awarded an F&M B.A. degree with a major in "Environmental Management". The corresponding degree(s) from Duke are awarded at the completion of the program there (MEM or MF), including any concurrent degrees.

Admission Competitiveness. Admission to Duke is not guaranteed because of our cooperative agreement with them. A student has to be performing very well academically at F&M and exhibit the personal qualities that a top-notch program like Duke would expect. But there is a reason Duke partners with good liberal arts colleges like F&M: they know that talented, focused liberal arts students are well prepared for the rigors of the professional degree program. The probability of being accepted will be affected not only by performance in courses, but also by evidence of independent intellectual activity and achievement, real-world experiences, strong reference letters by faculty who know the student well both inside and outside the classroom, and the degree to which the student can articulate how the MEM/MF program fits into her/his personal and professional goals.

For Further Information. Contact Dr. Elizabeth De Santo in the Department of Earth and Environment (717-358-4555; edesanto@fandm.edu; Hackman 121C) for information about the Duke program itself. Questions about eligibility and the application process for the 3/2 option can also be directed to Sarah Esh, Assistant Registrar (717-358-4168; sarah.esh@fandm.edu; Diagnothean 100).