

CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP

The Master of Conservation Leadership combines learning across a wide spectrum of conservation sciences with leadership studies to build capacity within the conservation sector to address complex challenges faced by conservation professionals and organizations. Graduates will be equipped to catalyze transformative change throughout the sector.

The objective of the Master of Conservation Leadership is to provide early to mid-career working professionals employed in conservation, resource management, and environment governance an opportunity to upgrade their knowledge base, enhance their research skills, and develop their leadership skills to address complex conservation issues at local, regional, and global scales.

The program is comprised of three residency components, online interactive learning modules, an Individualized Development Plan (IDP), and a final learning portfolio that addresses a contemporary need in the sector, preferably identified in collaboration with the student's employer and/or stakeholders. The program has been intentionally designed to be completed in 24 months of full-time study, leading to a Master of Conservation Leadership.

Administrative Staff

Chair

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Graduate Faculty

This list may include Regular Graduate Faculty, Associated Graduate Faculty and/or Graduate Faculty from other universities.

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BA Mount Allison, MA Western, PhD Simon Fraser - Associate Professor
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B.Sc., Hubei, M.Sc. Chinese Academy of Sciences, PhD Illinois - Professor
Graduate Faculty

MCL Program

Admission Requirements

Applicants to the Master of Conservation Leadership will have a minimum average of at least 77% (B+) in the last completed degree and at least three years working experience in the field of conservation post honours bachelor's degree. Preference will be given to applicants with some experience in leadership or management roles. Applicants must submit a statement of interest. A letter of recommendation from a current employer or a conservation professional emphasizing the applicant's leadership potential is also required. Students are admitted in the Summer. Alternate admission may be offered to applicants who do not meet the admission requirements but have completed more than 5 years of relevant work experience. The Program office should be consulted for further admission information and deadlines.

Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the Master of Conservation Leadership will be able to:

1. Employ both natural and social science perspectives to analyze regulatory and non-regulatory frameworks for conservation governance
2. Analyze and explain the significance of Canada's settler colonial context to conservation and understand the principles of Indigenous law, Indigenous knowledge systems, and Indigenous approaches to conservation in order to facilitate change in the sector
3. Develop and utilize best practices for operating within ethical space as a basis for conflict resolution, negotiation, relationship building and collaboration in conservation initiatives
4. Synthesize knowledge, skills, and actions by initiating and implementing a project of significance for a host organization
5. Effectively communicate conservation initiatives, issues, and strategies to a variety of stakeholders and rights holders through the use of audience-appropriate tools and formats
6. Synthesize, critique, and assess existing multi-disciplinary research on a conservation issue to inform evidence-based decision making
7. Utilize and reflect on theories of leadership to develop the skills necessary to become a change agent
8. Evaluate a range of current and innovative techniques and tools utilized in conservation governance
9. Explain the significance of the trajectory of conservation governance nationally and internationally, in order to situate specific conservation initiatives within the broader context

Program Requirements

The Master of Conservation Leadership is comprised of 4.0 credits organized into four units: Foundations, Leadership and Communication,

Innovation in Conservation, and Addressing a Conservation or Organizational Challenge. Each unit is comprised of a residency component and online modules, with the exception of Unit 4, which is dedicated to the final learning portfolio.

| Code | Title | Credits |
|--|--|---------|
| Year 1 | | |
| <i>Unit 1: Foundations</i> | | |
| Residency 1: Program Orientation, IT Orientation, Collaborative Learning, Ethical Space, Individual Development Plans | | |
| CONS*6000 | Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Governance Models | 0.50 |
| CONS*6100 | Conservation Past, Present and Possible | 0.50 |
| CONS*6010 | Conservation Biology for Professionals | 0.25 |
| Residency 2: Lectures and Assessment Activities, Leadership Self-Assessment; Discussions of Leadership in Conservation; Indigenous-led Conservation & Governance | | |
| <i>Unit 2: Leadership and Communication</i> | | |
| CONS*6000 | Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Governance Models | 0.50 |
| MGMT*6200 | Leadership Assessment and Development | 0.50 |
| CONS*6020 | Public Communication for Conservation | 0.25 |
| CONS*6050 | Partnerships for Conservation | 0.25 |
| Year 2 | | |
| <i>Unit 3: Innovation in Conservation</i> | | |
| Residency 3: Lectures, Workshops, Assessment Activities, Innovation in Conservation Field Trips | | |
| CONS*6030 | Conservation Tools and Technology | 0.25 |
| CONS*6040 | Conservation in Working and Private Landscapes | 0.50 |
| <i>Unit 4: Addressing a Conservation or Organization Challenge</i> | | |
| CONS*6300 | Final Learning Portfolio | 1.00 |

Courses

CONS*6000 Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Governance Models Summer and Fall Reg Required [0.50]

Through face-to-face land based learning and lectures from Indigenous knowledge holders and scholars, students are introduced to the different components of knowledge systems, investigate how western knowledge systems have engaged with Indigenous knowledge, and explore conservation models rooted in Indigenous knowledge and governance.

Offering(s): Offered through Distance Education format only.

Restriction(s): Restricted to Master of Conservation Leadership students.

Department(s): Department of Geography

Location(s): Guelph

CONS*6010 Conservation Biology for Professionals Fall Only [0.25]

This course provides an overview of conservation biology in the Anthropocene with an emphasis on peer-reviewed journals and data sets. Through increased comprehension of contemporary conservation challenges, students build leadership capacity for decision-making in the context of uncertainty and complexity.

Offering(s): Offered through Distance Education format only.

Restriction(s): Restricted to Master of Conservation Leadership students.

Department(s): Department of Geography

Location(s): Guelph

CONS*6020 Public Communication for Conservation Winter and Summer Reg Required [0.25]

This course builds leadership skills in public communications and engagement. Students will learn how to produce several communications products and gain practical experience in engaging conventional and social media.

Offering(s): Offered through Distance Education format only.

Restriction(s): Restricted to Master of Conservation Leadership students.

Department(s): Department of Geography

Location(s): Guelph

CONS*6030 Conservation Tools and Technology Summer Only [0.25]

This course provides a critical review of classic and emerging tools for conservation planning and governance, such as: GIS modelling for landscape assessment and planning; public participation GIS; integrated modelling; social science tools; cost effectiveness analysis; cost benefit analysis; drones; DNA barcoding; and non-intrusive monitoring.

Restriction(s): Restricted to Master of Conservation Leadership students.

Department(s): Department of Geography

Location(s): Guelph

CONS*6040 Conservation in Working and Private Landscapes Summer Only [0.50]

This course examines both regulatory and non-regulatory measures for advancing conservation outcomes in intensively impacted and managed landscapes including agricultural, forested, and urban areas.

Offering(s): Offered through Distance Education format only.

Restriction(s): Restricted to Master of Conservation Leadership students.

Department(s): Department of Geography

Location(s): Guelph

CONS*6050 Partnerships for Conservation Fall and Winter Reg Required [0.25]

This course builds leadership skills in the assessment, development, and maintenance of effective conservation partnerships that span Crown and Indigenous governments, the private sector, and civil society.

Offering(s): Offered through Distance Education format only.

Restriction(s): Restricted to Master of Conservation Leadership students.

Department(s): Department of Geography

Location(s): Guelph

CONS*6100 Conservation Past, Present and Possible Summer Only [0.50]

This course offers an overview of historical, contemporary, and emerging approaches to conservation governance and their consequences.

Focus is on the shifting roles of key actors including government, non-governmental organizations, industry, science/academia, and the public.

Offering(s): Offered through Distance Education format only.

Restriction(s): Restricted to Master of Conservation Leadership students.

Department(s): Department of Geography

Location(s): Guelph

CONS*6300 Final Learning Portfolio Fall and Winter Reg**Required [1.00]**

The Final Learning Portfolio (FLP) is the capstone experience where students plan, organize, and execute a project that demonstrates leadership and advances knowledge or practice to address a conservation or organizational challenge.

Restriction(s): Restricted to Master of Conservation Leadership student.

Department(s): Department of Geography

Location(s): Guelph

Required Management Course

| Code | Title | Credits |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| MGMT*6200 | Leadership Assessment and Development | 0.50 |