

CERTIFICATE IN SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTAL, ENERGY AND RESOURCES LAW

Learning Outcomes

The goal of the Sustainable Environmental, Energy and Resources Law (SEER) program is to enable graduates to skillfully participate as lawyers and citizens in enhancing the ecological, social, and economic sustainability of our society. The program seeks to provide the knowledge and skills necessary to practice environmental, energy and resources law at a sophisticated level.

Students receiving the SEER Certificate will:

- Have a conceptual understanding of the evolution of environmental/natural resources law and policy over time.
- Understand various conceptions of sustainability and how they are reflected into policy and enforceable law.
- Appreciate the role of sustainable development on a global level and be familiar with some comparative and international law with respect to environmental and natural resources issues.
- Understand the role of values and perspectives and the interaction of science, economics, and ethics in environmental/natural resources law and policy.
- Have contextual knowledge about government actors and other players as well as the dynamics of environmental/natural resources policy.
- Know the features of many American environmental/natural resources statutory schemes, including pollution control, energy, wildlife, public lands, water, and other major natural resources.
- Be familiar with constitutional and administrative law aspects of environmental and natural resources matters.
- Be aware of current, salient environmental and natural resources issues.
- Be able to research environmental and natural resources law.
- Be able to do sophisticated technical legal analysis, including statutory and regulatory interpretation, understanding the hierarchy of various layers of law, and choice of law in cooperative federalism schemes.
- Have the capacity to write motions, client memos, and policy briefs with respect to environmental and natural resources issues.
- Have the capacity to argue dispositive motions and advocate legal or policy positions in a variety of contexts.
- Have basic interviewing, counseling, and negotiating skills.
- Be able to do strategic legal thinking, problem-solving, and exercise good judgment in advising clients about possible courses of action.

Students will demonstrate their knowledge of the above through the completion of several required courses, each of which has more specific learning outcomes and assessment methods.

Adopted unanimously by the Willamette University College of Law faculty, March 20, 2017.