Program Highlights
The Energy and Sustainability (EAS) concentration focuses on finding ways to meet present needs for energy and material goods without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. A sustainability education lies at the intersection of environmental science, engineering, economics, business, public policy, social justice, and many other areas. Energy required to fuel all of these endeavors is a crucial component of sustainability. Environmental problems are defined in the real world and do not necessarily conform to traditional academic disciplines. As such, solutions require creative combinations of diverse interests and subjects. Effective training requires rigorous, problem-focused transdisciplinary action in a setting in which research is an essential element supporting instruction.

Why Mason
The proximity of George Mason to Washington, DC, gives the unique opportunity to partner with public and private businesses, governmental agencies, environmental and conservation groups and environmental-focused companies.

Career Paths
This concentration is designed for students interested in careers in energy and sustainability-related positions in the public, private, or non-profit sectors, including law, national and international policy, media, government, and business. Many mid-level energy and sustainability positions in the public and private sectors require multidisciplinary grounding in science, policy, and methods. Employment of environmental professionals is projected to grow 8% through 2030, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The sustainability field now represents around 4.5 million jobs, according to a report done by the Environmental Defense Fund.

Green Leaf Program
EAS is part of Mason’s “Green Leaf” program. The “Green Leaf” designation recognizes offerings that contribute significantly to students’ understanding and practice of sustainability.
Degree Requirements - 36 Total Credits

Required Courses - 11 Credits
MAIS 796 ProSeminar
MAIS 797 Interdisciplinary Studies Proposal
EVPP 533 Energy Policy
GGS 507 Geographic Approaches for Sustainable Development
PHYS 581 Topics in Renewable Energy or GEOL 521 Geology of Energy Resources

Energy, Sustainability or Environmental Policy - 6 Credits
Humanities or Social Science Approaches to Sustainability and Environmental Issues - 6 Credits
Planning, Modeling, or Management - 3-4 Credits
Natural Science - 3 Credits
Research Methods Course - 3 Credits
Capstone Project of Thesis - 1 or 4 Credits
Electives - 0-3 Credits

Faculty and Research
George Mason University puts research and scholarship into action to support a just, prosperous, and sustainable world. Mason aims to connect members of the Mason community, and collaborate with other communities, policy-makers, businesses, and organizations, so together we can more effectively address the world’s pressing sustainability and resilience challenges. Mason launched its Institute for a Sustainable Earth to lead this applied research, while our Patriot Green Fund and OSCAR provide grants to support students’ sustainability-related scholarship. Nearly 200 faculty members in 32 academic departments, and numerous students are involved in sustainability research and scholarship. GMU is a top-level research university. Our top-rated faculty prepare you to compete with the best in the world through experiential learning, research projects, and connections to internships.

Available Degree Paths
Computational Social Science - Energy and Sustainability
Individualized Studies - Religious Studies - Social Entrepreneurship
Social Justice and Human Rights - War and the Military in Society 
Women and Gender Studies

How to Apply
Along with the completed Application for Graduate Admission and application fee, applicants should submit:

• Official transcripts from previous institutions of higher education attended
• Goals statement
• Two letters of recommendation
• Resume
• Formal writing sample

See chss.gmu.edu/admissions for complete details on the application process.

An Accelerated Master’s pathway (BAM) is available to current undergraduates. For more information about this program, visit: chss.gmu.edu/accelerated-masters/about

Contact Information
Interdisciplinary Studies
George Mason University
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MAIS: A Master’s With A Mission
The Interdisciplinary Studies (MAIS) program in the College of Humanities & Social Sciences consists of multiple established degree paths that exist in partnership with academic units and faculty across the University. It offers a home for students with broad academic interests who seek a master’s degree that will help them to create a better world. While their degree paths may vary dramatically, our students share a desire to address critical problems facing the world today.