

## Overview of MS Program

To earn an MS in Environmental Studies, students must complete 36 hours of coursework (see MS Coursework Requirements) and successfully defend an original master's thesis in front of a committee of three faculty members. In addition to the coursework requirements, there are three major milestones for fulfilling the ENV5 MS degree.

- 1. Guidance Committee Meeting** - During the first six weeks of a student's first semester, a guidance committee of at least three faculty members will examine a student's past academic and professional record and recommend a program of coursework for that student.
- 2. Thesis proposal meeting** – Students will assemble a thesis committee of three faculty members and propose an original research project that will form the basis of the student's thesis. The thesis proposal meeting is typically held at the end of the student's first academic year.
- 3. Thesis defense meeting** – The student will present the findings from their thesis project and respond to questions from the committee. The thesis defense meeting is typically held at the end of the student's fourth semester.