

## SERS Guided Pathway: Environmental & Resource Policy & Governance

This pathway through the SERS curriculum helps students who are interested in the socioeconomic focus in SERS – this is explicitly focused on the pillar in SERS that builds student education and career potential in environmental and resource policy and governance in the public, NGO, and private sector. It includes philosophical underpinnings, engagement with diverse communities (especially First Nations), and new forms of communication (in SERS, this is expressed via photography, video, writing, and the range of ‘new media’). This Pathway is all about how we make decisions that (one hopes) ensures a sustainable environment and resource use. It examines the social and economic drivers and provides avenues for action of all kinds (scholarly, administratively or as thoughtful activists).

Regardless of what you earn (a Diploma) or what you bundle (a Pathway), the key thing for you to do is to market yourself in a way that facilitates the life and career you desire. Your CV (or, more simply, resumé) and your social media presence (business cards, v-cards, LinkedIn, blog, website, vlog channel, Instagram, X (Twitter), Facebook and so on) should be designed to reflect who you are and what skills, education, and outlook you offer. These can be tweaked to suit different audiences and purposes and you can change your self-labels to meet the vernacular of different fields.

This Pathway is part of the SERS mission: SERS is a recognized leader in bringing together people who have the vision, commitment, skills and knowledge needed to protect, restore, reform and transform the social and ecological systems that we all depend on. Our faculty and students are united by a desire to work towards a sustainable future.

SERS is distinctive because of our commitment to transdisciplinary teaching, learning and research:

- We’re focused on ecologically and socially significant issues at scales ranging from the community to the globe.
- We work within, between and across disciplines and ways of knowing; the knowledge we draw on comes from many sources, perspectives, fields and disciplines rather than just one.
- We work closely with the people who are affected by the issues that concern us to make sure our work is relevant and effective.

### Key Faculty Members for Environmental & Resource Policy & Governance Pathway:

- Derek Armitage
- Jennifer Clapp
- Andrea Collins
- Rob de Loë
- Felicitas Egunyu
- Dustin Garrick
- Bob Gibson
- Leah Jones-Crank
- Brendon Larson
- Stephen Quilley
- Ian Rowlands
- Helena Shilomboleni

**Courses at the Core of Environmental & Resource Policy & Governance Guided Pathway  
(The companion fast track guide suggests the most obvious path)**

**A. Courses that are also required as core courses for the SERS degree:**

1. ERS 102 Sustainability and the Really Long View
2. ERS 201 Environmental Policy, Politics and Governance
3. ERS 215 Environmental and Sustainability Assessment I
4. ERS 301 Sustainability Thought, Practice and Prospects
5. ERS 403A/B Senior Honours Thesis (with one of the core Pathway faculty as a supervisor)

**B. Elective courses considered to be the foundational core to this Guided Pathway; it is recommended you take at least 7 of these courses**

1. ERS 225 Gendering Environmental Politics
2. ERS 253 Politics of Sustainable Communities
3. ERS 315 Environmental and Sustainability Assessment II
4. ERS 328 Environmental Politics and System Change
5. ERS 361 Food Systems and Sustainability
6. ERS 365 Water Governance
7. ERS 372 First Nations and the Environment
8. ERS 404 Global Environmental Governance
9. ERS 415 Environmental and Sustainability Assessment III
10. ERS 462 Global Food and Agricultural Politics
11. ENVS 201 Introduction to Canadian Environmental Law
12. ENVS 220 Ecological Economics

**C. Elective courses recommended for those wishing to specialize further via this Guided Pathway; these are narrower foci on specialized areas (e.g., communication, food systems, urban areas [Urban Studies Minor<sup>1</sup>], parks management [Parks Minor]<sup>2</sup>)**

1. ERS 222 War and the Environment
2. ERS 316 Urban Water Systems
3. ERS 317 Waste Management
4. ERS 318 Photography for Sustainability
5. ERS 320 Economics and Sustainability
6. ERS 321 Coastal Social-Ecological Systems
7. ERS 454 Parks and Protected Areas: Issues and Trends
8. ERS 460 Sustainable Food: A Regional Case Study
9. ENVS 401 Aboriginal Law and Natural Resource Development
10. INTEG 440 Computational Social Science
11. INTEG 441 Hard Decisions and Wicked Problems
12. PLAN 340 Canadian Environmental Policy and Politics

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<sup>1</sup> <https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-calendar/undergraduate-studies/catalog#/programs/SJfleAAjh>

<sup>2</sup> <https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-calendar/undergraduate-studies/catalog#/programs/B14Ay10Cs3>

### **E. Other UW Courses Relevant to this Pathway<sup>3</sup>:**

- ANTH 202 Social and Cultural Anthropology
- ANTH 204 Biological Anthropology
- ANTH 330 Environmental Anthropology
- GEOG 101 Human Geographies: People, Space and Change
- GEOG 202 Geography of the Global Economy
- GEOG 207 Climate Change Fundamentals
- GEOG 307 Societal Adaptation to Climate Change
- PSCI 226 Modern Political Thought
- PSCI 283 International Political Economy
- PSCI 300 Foundations of Political Economy
- PSCI 303 Environmental Policy and Politics
- SOC 202 Classical Sociological Theory
- SOC 205 Social Problems
- SOC 302 Contemporary Sociological Theory
- SOC 320 Social Problems in a Global Context
- SVENT 255P Social Entrepreneurship: Exploring Social Change
- SVENT 325P Social Entrepreneurship: Launching a Social Venture

### **Key Resources Related to the Pathway<sup>4</sup>:**

Resilience Alliance - <https://www.resalliance.org/>

WICI - <https://uwaterloo.ca/complexity-innovation/>

WISIR - <https://uwaterloo.ca/waterloo-institute-for-social-innovation-and-resilience/>

SiG Knowledge Hub - <http://sigknowledgehub.com/>

Big History - <https://school.bighistoryproject.com/bhplive>

Navigators of the Anthropocene - <http://navigatorsoftheanthropocene.com/>

Balsillie School of International Affairs - <https://www.balsillieschool.ca/>

Sustainable Governance Initiative (SGI) Network - <https://www.sgi-network.org/2019/>

Canadian Environmental Law Association - <https://cela.ca/>

@ECGGroup (Derek Armitage's twitter feed)

@A\_M\_Collins (Andrea Collins' twitter feed)

@rdeloeUW (Rob de Loë's twitter feed)

@leahjonescrank (Leah Jones-Crank's twitter feed)

@CanEnvLawAssn (CELA's twitter feed)

@ers\_uw (SERS' twitter feed)

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<sup>3</sup> Note that many have pre-requisites and many are not offered in each year.

<sup>4</sup> Several organizations have professional designations you can apply for; the companies listed are ones that were founded by or employ SERS students in great numbers or are ones that have had huge influence in SERS related areas. You can also find these and other environmental job clearinghouses on twitter or Facebook – a simple search will find a lot of relevant pages and accounts to follow.