

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

The Environmental Management is a promising interdisciplinary program focusing on economic, sociopolitical, and global environmental conditions. This program was formally accredited during its first six months of operation. It is well established and has a twelve year track record of ever increasing growth and expansion resulting in hundreds of graduates, many of which hold responsible positions in business and government, creating a substantial network of pro-Samford professionals. This program is highly respected and strongly connected to the Birmingham and regional business communities.

The program objective is to improve the scientific basis for decision making for a sustainable environment and secure future.

The continuing demand for this timely program is driven by the increased public awareness created by news media, Hollywood productions, political climates, business initiatives and the marketing of green technologies, such as hybrid autos, etc. Everything is becoming green. Some of the driving forces that continue push this field:

- Precarious state of global health
- Unstable economies
- Diminishing environmental resources
- International insecurity
- Increased vulnerability to natural disasters
- Demands for renewable energy sources
- Demands for livable and sustainable communities
- Unknown impact of climate change
- Demand for business people trained with ideals of environmental management and sustainability (see “Green MBA”, attachment 1) Demand for educators with environmental training. We are experiencing a shortage of qualified science teachers in K-12 grades. We hope to develop a dual degree with MSEM/Ed for those teachers who return to school to continue their education.
- Demand for environmental health professionals. This is an emerging hot career, according to a CDC representative, who spoke at a recent conference of U.S. Council of Environmental Deans and Directors, which focused on current and future needs in the environmental field. Based on this preceding recommendation, we should strongly consider incorporating environmental health into the undergraduate program, the Metro program and the MSEM graduate program.
- Increasing demand for environmentally trained attorneys. This situation represents a positive opportunity for Cumberland Law and Samford University, since only a few environmental law programs exist.
- We have been made aware of a need for environmentally trained clergy. We possibly could develop a dual program with Beeson Divinity School. There is nationwide movement by “The Regeneration Project” and “Inner Faith Power & Light” to incorporate environmental sustainability into faith, and train clergy to properly teach environmental stewardship of creation. <http://theregenerationproject.org>
- Focus on corporate environmental sustainability by Global Environmental Management Initiatives (GEMI), an organization of forty-two Fortune 500 Companies. Through our active participation in the U.S. Council of Environmental Deans and Directors (CEDD), we have gained national recognition for innovative coursework and used as an example

for other universities across the nation in the area of sustainability. It should be noted that the Directors of the MSEM program, including some corporate sustainers have been conducting meetings with the Samford School of Business regarding the use of the same GEMI tools into the business school.

These discussions also included formation of a joint MSEM/MBA program, which resulted in positive consideration by both groups.

Choices made by today's decision makers will not only determine the vitality of planet earth for our own sustainability, but for future generations.