The Master of Science in Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy (MS–STEP) at the Humphrey School is one of the few programs in the nation that prepares individuals with backgrounds in natural sciences, physical sciences, or engineering to become leaders and innovators who integrate science with policy and action to solve grand challenges.

THE CHALLENGE
Meeting society’s grand challenges—infrastructure for future cities, climate change, sustainable energy transitions, governance of emerging and/or disruptive technologies, water and food security—requires innovative leadership and collaboration among academia, communities, government, businesses, and nonprofit organizations, anchored upon interdisciplinary and systems thinking rooted in real-world projects.

OUR MISSION
The Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy (STEP) area at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs focuses on public issues arising at the intersection of science, technology, environment, and society that shape economic development, environmental sustainability, and human health and well-being.

The mission of the STEP area is to integrate science with public policy, community action, and multi-sector governance to advance the common good in a complex and diverse world.

MAKE A CHANGE
The Humphrey School has given me many opportunities to explore interesting STEP issues and to challenge both myself and my assumptions about how we shape policy.

Angela Laird

DEGREE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
Harnesses engineering, physical, and natural science backgrounds to shape the policies and practices that serve the common good

Offers access to the many international, national, and Twin Cities leaders in industry, nonprofits, government, and community organizations that are shaping the world

Provides opportunities to work as a research assistant in hands-on sponsored research projects with local and global partners

SKILLS DEVELOPED
Interdisciplinary systems thinking
Science and technology domain expertise
Understanding of public policy and governance
Sustainability systems analysis
Public communication
Entrepreneurship and engaged leadership
Action-oriented public service
POSITIONS HELD BY MS–STEP GRADUATES
A science or engineering background coupled with a policy-focused graduate degree affords many career opportunities. MS–STEP graduates are employed in positions like:

- **GLOBAL TECHNICAL SERVICE ENGINEER**
  3M

- **SENIOR SCIENCE POLICY OFFICER**
  U.S. Department of State

- **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGER**
  U.S. Department of Energy

- **FISCAL AND POLICY ANALYST**
  State of California

- **WATER POLICY PLANNER**
  Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

- **PROGRAM AND POLICY MANAGER**
  Center for Energy and the Environment, Minneapolis

- **PROJECT LEADER**
  LK Domain Registry, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

- **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS LIAISON**
  U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- **CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS**
  Government of West Bengal

- **DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND EDUCATION**
  Solar Electric Power Association

CURRICULUM + OPPORTUNITIES
The MS–STEP program combines a rigorous curriculum with opportunities available in many departments, centers, and schools at the University of Minnesota. MS–STEP students can take advantage of advanced research conducted by Humphrey School faculty members, workshops and symposia, and coursework noted for its breadth and depth of focus.

Students also have access to the Center for Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy where scholarship, teaching, and public engagement come together in hands-on projects. These projects—conducted in partnership with communities, nonprofit and private-sector organizations, government entities, and international advisory bodies—maximize our impact on the real world.

RESEARCH FOCUS AREAS
- Energy and Climate Policy
- Sustainable Infrastructure and Cities
- Technology Innovation and Policy
- Urban Water and Food Systems
- Risk and Resilience

REQUIREMENTS
The MS–STEP program requires 36 semester credits, including approximately 21 required core credits. About half of your program credits are made up of electives that provide the knowledge, skills, and domain-specific expertise you need to advance your career goals.

REQUIRED COURSES
- Policy Analysis
- Politics of Public Affairs
- Economics for Policy Analysis and Planning
- Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy
- Environmental and Resource Economic Policy or Material Energy Flows for a Sustainable Society
- Survey of Current Issues in STEP
- Interdisciplinary Environmental Study or Science to Action
- Risk, Resilience, and Decision-Making
- Empirical Analysis
- Courses specific to focus area

PREREQUISITES
Applicants to the MS–STEP program should have completed a degree or taken advanced-level coursework in natural or physical sciences, engineering, or environmental studies prior to the date of their planned enrollment.

EARLY ADMISSION FOR UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA UNDERGRADUATES
For students currently pursuing their undergraduate degree in any STEM discipline, we offer a combined undergraduate/master’s degree program. The program can be completed in five years (BS & MS) by enabling matriculation into a graduate program during the senior year.

DUAL DEGREE: MS–STEP/JD
MS–STEP students can pursue a unique dual degree with the University of Minnesota Law School. Typically, a dual degree can be completed in less time than it would take to complete the two degrees independently.

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

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