Resilient Leadership MA

The Resilient Leadership program at Naropa University prepares students to address ecological and social issues within community and organizational settings with insight, knowledge, and compassion. Students build an integrated understanding of systems, sustainability, and both social and environmental justice; develop deep relationships with self, community, and nature; and acquire applied leadership skills. Students concentrate in either Sustainable Systems or Climate Justice. The two-year, 39-credit residential program is composed of semester-long courses and one summer block where students get hands-on experience within the natural world and in community. In the final year, students apply their leadership skills to a substantial project in collaboration with a professional organization or complete a formal written thesis. Most classes are scheduled in the late afternoon and evening, and on occasional weekends, to accommodate working students.

Degree Requirements

Sustainable Systems (track one)

First year, fall
- ENV600 Inner Work (3)
- ENV701e Nonprofit Management and Social Entrepreneurship (3) - online
- ENV618 Groups as Living Systems (3)

SUBTOTAL 9

First year, spring
- ENV650 The Work That Reconnects (3)
- ENV710 Sustainability: Practice and Policy (3)
- ENV637 Ecological Justice: Patterns of Oppression and Healing (3)

SUBTOTAL 9

First year, summer block (end of May through end of June)
- ENV542 Permaculture (3)
- Elective (3)—either ENV557 Food Justice or ENV665 Wilderness Solo, or possible course in another graduate program

SUBTOTAL 6

Second year, fall
- ENV630 Transforming Systems (3)
- ENV725 Applied Leadership Skills (3)
- Elective (3)—either ENV625 Human Rights and Global Justice or ENV633 Environmental Policy and Trends, or possible course in another graduate program

SUBTOTAL 9

Second year, spring
- Elective (3)
- ENV785 Capstone (3)

Climate Justice (track two)

First year, fall
- ENV600 Inner Work (3)
- ENV633 Environmental Policy and Trends (3)
- ENV701E Nonprofit Management and Social Entrepreneurship (3)—online

SUBTOTAL 9

First year, spring
- ENV650 The Work That Reconnects (3)
- ENV710 Sustainability: Practice and Policy (3)
- ENV637 Ecological Justice: Patterns of Oppression and Healing (3)

SUBTOTAL 9

First year, summer block (end of May through end of June)
- ENV542 Permaculture (3)
- Elective (3)—either ENV557 Food Justice or ENV665 Wilderness Solo, or possible course in another graduate program

SUBTOTAL 6

Second year, fall
- ENV625 Human Rights and Global Justice (3)
- ENV725 Applied Leadership Skills (3)
- Elective (3)—either ENV630 Transforming Systems or possible course in another graduate program

SUBTOTAL 9

Second year, spring
- ENV875E Thesis (6)—online

SUBTOTAL 6

Total Credits: 39

Resilient Leadership Course Listings (ENV)

ENV542 Permaculture (3.0)
This course introduces a core set of principles that help us to design human living environments that are increasingly self-sufficient, while reducing our society’s reliance on industrial systems of production and distribution that are fundamentally damaging to the planet’s ecosystems. This design system, known as permaculture, covers basic agro-ecological design theory. We explore this in a hands-
on way while creating edible landscapes, diverse gardens, and compost systems, and growing food on campus. This course also includes field trips and demonstrations. Required for MA Resilient Leadership: Climate Justice track. Open to graduate students in other programs.

**ENV557**  
**Food Justice (3.0)**  
An introduction to the food justice movement, this course examines it from the local, national, and international levels. Topics include food policy, grassroots movements and action, food production and food access as they relate to the systems of privilege and oppression that shape them. Equally, this course explores the actions of various communities working toward empowerment and liberation. Students engage with relevant theory, hands-on service learning, site visits, as well as contact with professionals, activists, and impacted communities in the food justice movement. Open to graduate students in other programs.

**ENV600**  
**Inner Work (3.0)**  
This course introduces mindfulness training through sitting and walking meditation as a ground for developing wakefulness and trust in ourselves and the phenomenal world, as well as nature-based ecopsychological practices that explore the relationship between nature, psyche, and spirit. Emphasis is on bringing the non-duality of wilderness mind back home and applying it to our daily activities and relationships. Experiencing mind without analysis, reinforcement, or rejection clears the way to relate directly with others and develop skills for a new kind of leadership. The course includes an introductory two-day retreat. Required for MA Resilient Leadership students (both tracks).

**ENV618**  
**Groups as Living Systems (3.0)**  
This course introduces principles and applications of working with groups as living systems. The course utilizes emerging new insights in intercultural communication, neuroscience, group dynamics, and leadership to support the development of healthy, high functioning groups, while integrating the needs of the individual. Students learn by experientially and analytically engaging the three stages of group life and three stages of organizational development. Students develop a number of key applied tools for generating and maintaining creative and functional groups that are applicable in any organization or community setting. Required for MA Resilient Leadership: Sustainable Systems track. Open to graduate students in other programs with instructor permission.

**ENV625**  
**Human Rights and Global Justice (3.0)**  
This course explores topics relevant to the growing climate justice movement, such as the ecological, economic, and social effects of globalization; legal precedents surrounding global human and ecological rights; and activism and movement solidarity. Students will build skills with understanding global issues through current news, legislation, and movement building. The course has a high level of research, presentation, discussion, and dialog. Required for MA Resilient Leadership: Climate Justice track. Open to graduate students in other programs.

**ENV630**  
**Transforming Systems (3.0)**  
An immersion in general and living systems theory in the context of earth as a living system. Systems theory offers an effective paradigm for engaging in change processes at different scales in both biological and social domains. Particular attention is given to how systems of all scales—personal, societal and ecological—transform, leading to an exploration of environmental, social, and cultural change processes. Theory is anchored in lived experience through personal and group work, applied research, and problem-solving. Required for MA Resilient Leadership: Sustainable Systems track; Elective for MA Resilient Leadership: Climate Justice track.

**ENV633**  
**Environmental Policy and Trends (3.0)**  
This course examines environmental movements from local to global and the development of environmental thought that has supported them. Including political, economic, cultural, and scientific dimensions, the course focuses on four content areas: United States, global, climate, and environmental justice policies and history. Topics may also include emerging approaches to agricultural, conservation, social justice, and natural resource issues. Required for MA Resilient Leadership: Climate Justice track. Open to graduate students in other programs.

**ENV637**  
**Ecological Justice: Patterns of Oppression and Healing (3.0)**  
This course explores how the oppression of earth and the oppression of people have gone hand in hand. Drawing from the diverse fields of environmental justice, political ecology, ecofeminism, ecopsychology, and social justice, students will build skills to unravel the patterns of oppression, begin to hold multiple worldviews, and contemplate healing. The class will be highly interactive and requires a deep level of research, presentation, and discussion by all participants, as well as the willingness to work with difficult emotions. As a result of this course, students will have heightened capacities to bring these issues to their work and service to the world. Required for MA Resilient Leadership students (both tracks). Open to graduate students in other programs.

**ENV650**  
**The Work That Reconnects (3.0)**  
Inspired by Joanna Macy’s The Work That Reconnects, which draws from deep ecology, systems theory, and spiritual traditions, this course asks participants to engage the strong emotions resulting from the ecological crisis and work with transformative practices. Building on mindfulness training, the course introduces specific practices of loving-kindness, nonviolent communication, active listening, and group experiential engagement. Participants will work with the arc of The Work That Reconnects: opening to gratitude; owning our pain for the world; seeing with new eyes; and going forth. This course includes a nonresidential weekend intensive. This
Sustainability has emerged as a potentially unifying paradigm for work that simultaneously fosters human and planetary well-being. Students study the historical origins, theoretical frameworks, and tools associated with the three-legged view (economy, environment, society) of current sustainability policies and practices, and use case study methodologies to analyze and evaluate how sustainability policies and practices are being designed and implemented in a variety of organizations and communities. Students conduct an experiential exploration of the personal and spiritual dimensions of sustainability practice. Required for MA Resilient Leadership students (both tracks). Open to graduate students in other programs.

ENV665
Wilderness Solo (3.0)
This eight-day wilderness camping retreat, which includes a three-day solo, is designed to mark a transition in the student’s program through an integration of learning, connections to land and place, and through a solo experience. In context of solitude and deep connection with nature, the course seeks to integrate the first year of learning, assisting students in finding a path, clarifying responsibility in reciprocity with the earth, and illuminating the heart of service to the community. Community work and ritual surround and support this important solo experience. Course fee. Required for MA Resilient Leadership: Sustainable Systems track. Open to graduate students in other programs with instructor permission.

ENV690
Special Topics in Environmental Leadership (3.0)
The Special Topics course explores topics of general focus and relevance to the field of Environmental Leadership, geared toward the emerging skill needs for the students as well as the research interests of the faculty. Specific topics are announced the semester the course is offered.

ENV699
Independent Study: Environmental Studies (0.5-4.0)
This course offering is an opportunity for students to engage in in-depth, concentrated study with a particular faculty member for a semester. The design of study and course work are decided upon by the student and faculty member. Independent Studies will count for a standard 3 credits. If a variable credit (0.5 - 4 credits) Independent Study is desired, a student must receive additional approval. See the Independent Study Application for further details.

ENV701E
Nonprofit Management & Social Entrepreneurship (3.0)
This online course provides students with perspectives and practical tools for working in organizations, focusing on nonprofit management and social entrepreneurship. Topics covered include practical tools such as strategic planning, fundraising, and grantwriting, as well as the visioning and inspiration that underlie this work. Case studies, models, and applications to the MA applied leadership projects ground this class in real-world examples and experience. Required for MA Resilient Leadership students (both tracks). Open to graduate students in other programs.

ENV710
Sustainability: Practice and Policy (3.0)
Sustainability has emerged as a potentially unifying paradigm for work that simultaneously fosters human and planetary well-being. Students study the historical origins, theoretical frameworks, and tools associated with the three-legged view (economy, environment, society) of current sustainability policies and practices, and use case study methodologies to analyze and evaluate how sustainability policies and practices are being designed and implemented in a variety of organizations and communities. Students conduct an experiential exploration of the personal and spiritual dimensions of sustainability practice. Required for MA Resilient Leadership students (both tracks). Open to graduate students in other programs.

ENV725
Applied Leadership Skills (3.0)
As part of their demonstration of competence, Resilient Leadership students are required to take a leadership role in a substantial project that leads to increased sustainability in an organizational setting or to complete a formal written thesis. This course is designed to support students through this process. Students study and gain hands-on experience in essential, traditional leadership skills and start to apply these skills through developing a proposal for either an applied project or formal written thesis. Theory and practical applications of conflict resolution, mediation, and other selected skills are presented. Elements of project design and proposal writing are covered. Classes focus on coaching, feedback, analysis, and presentation of the applied leadership projects. In addition to the course faculty, students choose a faculty mentor to work with. Required for MA Resilient Leadership students (both tracks).

ENV758
Capstone (3.0)
In this capstone course, the student is expected to synthesize and integrate the conceptual and theoretical knowledge and understanding, as well as skills acquired in the curriculum through coursework, internships, leadership development, research, and other learning activities. The emphasis is on the student’s demonstrated development and competency of applied environmental leadership skills and written analytic material that can be utilized for individual student assessment and program assessment. Students are assessed on their professional report and formal presentation of their applied environmental leadership project during this semester. Prerequisite: completion of all other required courses in this major. Required for MA Resilient Leadership Sustainable Systems track. Course fee.

ENV875E
Thesis (6.0)
Building upon the thesis proposal written within the Applied Leadership Skills course, within this course the student writes a formal thesis paper focused on a relevant climate justice leadership topic. The thesis paper will be centered upon a unique thesis statement and will include an introduction, a relevant review of literature gained through the program, a leadership approach to the issue, and a final discussion and recommendation. The student will work with the course instructor as well as a faculty mentor and a student peer. Students are assessed on the thesis paper as well as a formal presentation to the community. Course fee (for spring intensive). Required for MA Resilient Leadership: Climate Justice track.