



LEARNING PLAN: PUBLIC PRACTICE OPTION

Effective September 2007 (v.2007.9.25)

Before beginning the second semester, the student must work with his or her advisor (or with the Agroecology Program Chair) and Project Committee to design and sign an “individualized learning plan” that sets out a balanced plan of cross-training electives that fits the student’s needs and goals.

Before beginning the third semester, the student must work with his or her Project Committee to submit an abstract of the Public Practice Project. The Project Committee must be composed of the student’s faculty advisor and two other faculty members, at least one of whom must be from a discipline other than that of the advisor, and at least one of whom is also (in addition to the advisor) a member of the Agroecology Program Faculty

Submitted by: _____

Name _____ Date _____

Approved by Student Project Committee

Advisor Signature _____

Name _____ Department _____

Committee Member Signature _____

Name _____ Department _____

Committee Member Signature _____

Name _____ Department _____

1. Core Curriculum

Minimum Requirement: 10 credits

Course (Dept./No.)	Descriptive Title	Semester/Yr.	Credits
Agroecol 701	The Farm as a Socio-Environmental Endeavor	Fall	3
Agroecol 702	The Multifunctionality of Agriculture	Spring	3
Agroecol 720	Agroecology Field Study	Summer	1
Agroecol 710	Seminar in Agroecology*		1
Agroecol 710	Seminar in Agroecology*		1
Agroecol 710	Seminar in Agroecology*		1
Total credits			

*The Seminar in Agroecology is offered both fall and spring semester for 1 credit. Faculty organize the fall semester seminar around some important issue in Agroecology (e.g., eutrophication, the Farm Bill, biodiversity, land use policy, organic production). Spring seminar is organized by the students. Sessions may take a variety of forms, e.g. faculty and guest speakers, student presentations, and panel discussions. Students are encouraged to enroll every semester, but must take at least 3 credits total.

3. Project

The project will involve interacting with a stakeholder about a domestic or international agricultural land use question. **Work on the project will span the entire time that a student is enrolled in the program, with a total of 6 credits taken in at least two semesters** (e.g., 2 credits in one and 4 in the final semester). Ideally, the student might find summer employment with the stakeholder. Peer and faculty review will be made throughout the project development, provided by other Public Practice Option students and professors. Project papers will normally be of the length of a major graduate seminar paper—that is, a substantial piece of work but ordinarily significantly shorter than is typical of a thesis. The project paper must be approved by the student’s Project Committee, which is composed of the student’s faculty advisor and two other faculty members, at least one of whom must be from a discipline other than that of the advisor, and at least one of whom is also (in addition to the advisor) a member of the Agroecology Program Faculty. **The student must present the project in a public seminar.**

Group project papers are encouraged and may be substituted for the individual paper if the advisors of each of the participating students concur. The required scope of the group project and expected length of the group project paper will be determined by the group of advisors based on the topic and the number of students participating in the group project. Group projects must be approved by the advisors of all participating students; under exceptional circumstances, the group of advisors may approve the work of one or more students and decline to approve the work of other students in the group.

Please attach an abstract (250 words or less) of the intended public practice project.

Approved by Student Project Committee

Date _____

Project Advisor Signature _____

Name _____ Department _____

Committee Member Signature _____

Name _____ Department _____

Committee Member Signature _____

Name _____ Department _____

Requirement: 6 credits

Course (Dept./No.)	Descriptive Title	Semester/Yr.	Credits
Agroecol 990			
Agroecol 990			
			TOTAL

4. Learning Plan Summary

Coursework minimum requirements include 10 credits of the core curriculum, 18 credits of cross-training electives, and 6 credits for the project for a minimum total of 34 credits.

Total credits from Core Curriculum: _____

Total credits from Cross Training Electives _____

Total Project credits _____

TOTAL credits in Learning Plan _____