Education for a Free Society and an Engaged Livelihood

Graduates of the Institute for Social Ecology’s MA programs are leaders in today’s social movements, international development efforts, and educational institutions. Approximately half of social ecology MA graduates have gone on to work in education, including popular education and community organizing, in addition to more traditional pursuits. Others have chosen careers in agriculture and agricultural policy, alternative technology, international development, social and environmental advocacy, and other related fields. A concentration in social ecology offers a firm theoretical and practical grounding for a life-long pursuit of visionary social and political change.

Residency

All Master of Arts Program students are required to attend quarterly colloquia in Prescott, Arizona. The colloquia provide interactive peer learning and dialogue, as well as opportunities to present ideas. Working with peers and faculty, students receive both support and challenge. Throughout the semester, students work with graduate advisors to review progress, revise study plans, and evaluate accomplishments.

Master of Arts Program

At a Glance

Founded 1992
Program Graduate degree from a distance
Graduate Enrollment 332
Student-Faculty Ratio 1:1
Age Range 23-69
Students Receiving Financial Aid 55%

Tuition

Students in the ISE Program will pay MAP tuition and an additional $150 per semester to Prescott College.

Accreditation

Prescott College grants Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, and Ph.D. degrees and is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

Residents of all areas (except Tucson and Southern Arizona):
Prescott College Admissions Office
220 Grove Avenue
Prescott, Arizona 86301
(877) 350-2100 ext. 2112 — (928) 350-2112
admissions@prescott.edu

Residents of Tucson and Southern Arizona:
Tucson Center
2233 East Speedway Blvd.
Tucson, Arizona 85719
(520) 319-9868 — (888) 797-4680
tucsonadmissions@prescott.edu

www.prescott.edu
Areas of Study
As a broadly interdisciplinary field, social ecology offers a strong theoretical grounding that reinforces the Prescott MAP’s focus on the development of social and ecological literacies. A student’s first semester of guided independent study will typically include central works in the theory of social ecology, as well as initial explorations of the student’s self-chosen area of focus. Subsequent semesters will allow students to intensify their theoretical grounding and pursue advanced research and writing in their particular field, working toward the eventual completion of an MA thesis.

Possible areas of study include:
- Social theory
- Ecological and social activism
- Ecological land use and organic agriculture
- Environmental issues and politics
- Ecofeminism and other ecophilosophies
- Science and technology studies
- Globalization and global justice
- Community organizing and development
- Food systems and agricultural policy
- Ecological alternatives in education
- Environmental justice and community health
- Economic localization
- Media democracy

Within MAP
Students design individualized degree plans by weaving together three critical components.

Theory – Students become critically aware of established concepts, theoretical bases, and controversies.

Practicum – Students undertake supervised internships or active projects to reflect on the relationship between theory and practice.

Thesis – Students demonstrate a deep understanding of a self-selected topic, combining theory, practicum, analysis, and creativity to produce a relevant contribution to their field.

Practicum Experiences
Students spend one or more semesters engaged in an internship or work experience involving hands-on application of the ideals of social ecology. Along with participation in the Institute’s own activities, our students have undertaken projects with such organizations as:
- Direct Action Network, New York, NY
- Food Works, Montpelier, VT
- GreenTV, St. Joseph County, IN
- Loka Institute, Houston, TX
- New England Small Farms Institute, Belchertown, MA
- National Tropical Botanical Gardens, Hana, HI
- Northeast Organic Farming Association, Richmond, VT
- Prescott Creeks, Prescott, AZ
- Ocean Arks International, Burlington, VT
- Savory Center for Holistic Management, Albuquerque, NM

Sample Courses
From recent social ecology students’ study plans
- Fundamentals of Social Ecology
- Themes in Environmental Justice
- Ecological Design for Human Needs
- The Ecology of Genocide in Darfur, Sudan
- Social Movements: Theory and Practice
- Water Privatization and Poverty
- Natural Building Methods for Cold Climates
- Ecological Resistance Movements
- Studies of Internalized Hierarchy and Domination
- Bioregional Agriculture and Permaculture Design
- Ecological Impacts of War
- Feminist Science and Epistemology