VIRIDIS GRADUATE INSTITUTE

ECOPSYCHOLOGY AND

ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES

Catalog 2022

Viridis Graduate Institute

3345 South Rural Road

Tempe, AZ 85282

(011)805- 889-0169

www.viridis.edu

Viridis Graduate Institute is a Nonprofit Institute. Tax ID: 80-0713846.

Viridis Graduate Institute is a Distance Education Provider.

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This Catalog is online at
https://www.viridis.edu/VGI-Catalog

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STATEMENT OF NONDESCRIMINATION
VIRIDIS GRADUATE INSTITUTE DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, GENDER, RELIGION, AGE, MARITAL STATUS, NATIONAL OR ETHNIC ORIGIN, VETERAN STATUS, CONDITION OF DISABILITY, OR ANY OTHER BASIS PROHIBITED BY APPLICABLE FEDERAL, STATE OR LOCAL LAWS IN THE ADMISSION OF STUDENTS OR THE ADMINISTRATION OF ITS EDUCATIONAL POLICIES OR PROGRAMS.

ACCREDITATION

Viridis Graduate Institute is accredited by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC) www.deac.org.

Accreditation by DEAC is a reliable indicator of the value and quality of the distance education that an institution offers. In receiving this initial grant of accreditation, VGI has demonstrated its commitment to educational standards and ethical business practices that assure quality, accountability, and improvement in higher education.

The Distance Education Accrediting Commission is listed by the U.S. Department of Education as a recognized accrediting agency. The Distance Education Accrediting Commission is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA - http://chea.org). DEAC's scope of recognition by CHEA is the accreditation of higher learning institutions in the United States and international locations that offer programs of study that are delivered primarily by distance (51 percent or more) and award credentials at the associate, baccalaureate, master's, first professional, and professional doctoral degree level. DEAC contact: 1101 17th Street NW, Suite 808. Washington, D.C. 20036. Telephone: 202.234.5100. Website: https://www.deac.org

STATE AUTHORIZATION

The Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education (AZPPSE) granted Viridis Graduate Institute a Regular Accredited Degree License Number AVD 01705 on August 26, 2021. Inquiries concerning regulations or school compliance may be directed to:
Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education
1740 West Adams Street, Suite 3008. Phoenix, AZ 85007
www.azppse.gov
https://ppse.az.gov/complaint

The scope of VGI's DEAC accreditation and AZPPSE Licensing extend to the following degree programs:
- Master of Arts in Social Sciences with Emphasis in Ecological Psychology and Environmental Humanities
- Doctor of Arts in Ecological Psychology and Environmental Humanities

Professional Development Programs
Professional Development nondegree courses are outside the scope of accreditation granted by DEAC. Professional Development nondegree courses and are not and do not require licensing by the Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education.

AZ SARA – Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement
As a member of the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) the Council provides oversight and guidance to postsecondary institutions in the State of Arizona that elect to follow the national standards for interstate offering of postsecondary distance education courses and programs. The purpose of SARA is to make it easier for institutions in Arizona to provide online and distance education options in other states and to provide basic protections for the students engaged in those activities. SARA is overseen by a National

Council and administered by four higher education association regional compacts. The Arizona SARA Council is overseen by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). Website: https://azsara.arizona.edu/

NC-SARA - National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements
SARA is an agreement among member states, districts and territories that establishes comparable national standards for interstate offering of postsecondary distance education. Viridis Graduate Institute has been approved to participate in the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements. Website: https://nc-sara.org/

WELCOME TO VIRIDIS GRADUATE INSTITUTE

When students join the Viridis Graduate Institute education community, they are embarking on a journey of breadth and depth in a unique curriculum that brings together disciplines from ecology, ecological psychology (ecopsychology) environmental humanities, evolutionary developmental biology, anthropology, ecological and social justice, arts, and narrative. The journey is meant to be transformative—personally, academically, ecologically, and socially. VGI offers a distinctive program with its focus on Ecopsychology and Environmental Humanities.

The Catalog is designed to provide students and prospective students with the most up to date information on educational offerings at Viridis Graduate Institute. Our distance education programs offer timely and current curricula that allow students to tap into the pulse of the culture, developing adaptive, creative skills and psychological competencies that change the conversation.

Students at Viridis Graduate Institute discover a meaningful, valuable, and informative experience that helps them discover myriad ways of contributing toward a more conscious and flourishing world.

We are glad you are here.

Lori Pye, Ph.D., President

Viridis Graduate Institute Administrative Location:
3345 South Rural Road
Tempe, AZ 85282-5404
Hours: 9-5 pm MST
Student Inquiries: (011) 805-889-0169
viridis@viridis.edu

MISSION STATEMENT

Viridis Graduate Institute, a nonprofit distance-learning institution, offers a distinctive education in ecopsychology and environmental humanities designed to equip graduates with the professional and collaborative skills needed to respond creatively to the world's challenging problems.

HISTORY

Viridis Graduate Institute is a non-profit distance education institute with a focus in Ecopsychology and Environmental Humanities. Viridis was founded in 2011 by Dr. Lori Pye and a dedicated group of educators (the current Board of Trustees), who brought together the sciences and humanities in a creative, innovative, and timely curricula. Viridis educational programs, designed to offer an ecological and psychological education, focus on changing narratives underpinning destructive behavior and practices toward each other and the planet. Ecopsychology and environmental humanities tap into a scholarly and timely discipline that aligns the heuristic and analytical power of science with the reflective creativity of the humanities in such ways as to develop responsive 21st-century global citizens.

Our aim is for VGI graduates to lead different conversations and activities in the world that are respectful, detailed, ethical engagements for how things can be different. Viridis recognizes that the Sciences and Humanities have always been entangled; they have not developed separately from one another. Therefore, we take a transcontextual approach to an ecopsychological education, as the curriculum weaves the most current thinking, research, and diverse ideas from across disciplines.

Ours is an unfinished world, as William James often argued. As with the world, every nonhuman and human ecology is unfinished—we are all different processes in the process of becoming. The issues at stake are nothing less than livability on this planet. The Greek philosopher Heraclitus reminds us: "You could not discover the limits of the soul (*psyche*), even if you traveled every road to do so; such is the depth (*bathun*) of its meaning (*logos*)."

WHAT IS ECOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY?

We live with a pluralistic and responsive planet that acts upon us (all life forms) as much as we act upon the planet. Ecological psychology (ecopsychology) is an educative approach to understanding the human is an ecological lifeform. The same ecological processes that affect complex narratives and behaviors of Earth affect the complexity of narratives and behaviors of the ecological psyche.

Viridis Graduate Institute offers a unique science-humanities educational program that draws appropriately from ecology, narrative, ecological psychology, evolutionary developmental ecology, anthropology, native science, cultural mythology, literature and the arts. VGI degree programs emphasize narrative transformation

required for behavioral change necessary for a more just, aesthetic, and democratic society. By changing the narrative, one changes the behavior and therefore the practice, creating fresh new ideas and understanding in a deeply systemic way, the multiple interactions between our physical world and our psychological life.

An ecopsychological education is the most powerful tool we have available for making the necessary changes at the community, organizational, institutional, and global levels. The emphasis on narrative change and reconfiguring behavior and practices, in combination with a supportive distance learning program, encourages personal and social development, helps to foster ecological knowledge, psychological capacities, intellectual vitality, confidence, independent thinking, contextual leadership, and flexibility.

The study of ecopsychology offers an extensive knowledge base that examines ecological and psychological processes:

- energy exchange,
- diversity/multiplicity,
- Intra-actions and waste,
- change,
- relationality, and
- decay and renewal (ecological and psychological composting) that underpin all ecologies including the human psyche.

Human narratives have an efficacy of their own: to poison or to activate, to close down or to open up possibilities. The narratives we fabricate the world with matter; the ideas we think other ideas with … matter for all communities.

INSTITUTIONAL VISION

Viridis Graduate Institute's vision is to be an exemplary distance education provider that inspires curiosity and capabilities evolving conscious change in the world.

Core Values

- The recognition that integrity, education, health, environment, and quality of life are endogenous to a flourishing ecology and psychology.
- A conscious understanding that ecological, social, and economic systems and their problems are interdependent. Ecopsychological approaches and processes can lead to relational solutions.
- Excellence in teaching and learning.
- Inquiry-based learning, curiosity, involvement, and relationships are the backbone to Viridis Graduate Institute and our graduates' work in the world.

Institutional Learning Outcomes and Core Competencies

Graduates of Viridis Graduate Institute demonstrate the following Institutional Learning Outcomes:

1. **Adaptive Leadership Capacity** – An enhanced ability to recognize the opportunities necessary to respond responsively, develop resilience, and advance ecopsychological processes in a community, organization, and society.

2. **Aesthetic Sensibility** - An advanced sensitivity to unseen behaviors and relationships in both ecology and psychology; a developed worldview imbued with ethics, justice, beauty, and generosity (aesthetics).

3. **Ecological Literacy** – The understanding of interrelationships among ecology-psychology-society-economics as interdependent ecosystems; being an active participant with a responsive and finite planet that requires our attention, responsibility, and care.

4. **Communication Competence** – The ability to employ appropriate communication tools and resources, including listening and observing, to effectively convey ecopsychological processes necessary for the transformation of narratives and their detrimental practices.

5. **Creative and Critical Assessment** – The facility to qualitatively and quantitatively evaluate issues from a variety of distinct processes that include creativity, imagination, novelty, rationality, logic, and coherence.

6. **Psychological Capabilities** - The capacity to identify, analyze, and elucidate images, metaphors, and narratives by utilizing ecopsychological processes. A developed capacity for engagement in intra-actions and collaborative relationships.

7. **Ecopsychological Ethics** – Embodiment of an ecological ethics that continually questions and examines how one lives and acts in relationship to self, others, and the ecological world with an attuned understanding of interdependence.

8. **Motivation for Lifelong Learning –** An established commitment to explore, question, and deepen one's understanding of the world; and persist in educating one's self across contexts throughout a lifetime.

9. **Personal Identity** – An acquired sense of personal worth, integrity, and self-confidence that arise from the experiences of studying ecological psychology as a philosophy for life in a responsive world.

10. **Professional Identity** – Advanced ecological knowledge and psychological capabilities that can be utilized in diverse professions; a developed professional identity that complements one's values.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Dr. Lori Pye, President of Viridis Graduate Institute is a member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Commission on Education and Communication.

Viridis Graduate Institute is an Organization in Special Consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (United Nations) since 2015.

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations System established by the UN Charter in 1945. It is responsible for the following:
- Promoting higher standards of living, full employment, and economic and social progress;
- Identifying solutions to international economic, social and health problems;
- Facilitating international cultural and educational cooperation; and
- Encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Functional commissions of ECOSOC, which Viridis students may participate in: Commission for Social Development, Commission on the Status of Women, Commission on Population and Development, Commission on Sustainable Development, UN Forum on Forests, and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Viridis Graduate Institute is a member of the United Nations global initiative: Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

ACADEMIC GOVERNANCE

Viridis Graduate Institute is a nonprofit school and as such is governed by a Board of Trustees. VGI also has an Advisory Board, Academic Curriculum Committee, Executive Committee (Ethics & Policy), Grievance Committee, and Doctoral Capstone Project Committee.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees has fiduciary responsibility for the governance of Viridis Graduate Institute, serving to oversee and shape its policies. The President is the chief executive officer of Viridis Graduate Institute and is a trustee. The President and her senior staff are responsible for the implementation of Institutional policy, procedure, administration, and academic programs.

The Board meets three times a year. The trustees are a highly accomplished, dedicated, and lively group of people who share an uncommon loyalty for, and commitment to, Viridis Graduate Institute and its commitment to becoming one of the best educational institutions of its kind in the country. For these reasons, Viridis Graduate Institute has high expectations for the effectiveness of its Board and for the contribution of its individual members. The Statement of Trustee Roles and Responsibilities are intended to familiarize trustees with the expectations for service on the Board.

General Governance Responsibilities

The primary responsibility of the Board of Trustees is to provide policy oversight that will enable Viridis Graduate Institute to become a leading institution for ecopsychology and environmental humanities in the world.

In that capacity, trustees must serve as fiduciaries to protect the financial, physical and other assets of the Institute, balancing the needs of current and future generations of VGI constituents. Trustees have a responsibility to ensure that long-range planning is integrated into the Board and Committee processes.

To perpetuate strong leadership of Viridis Graduate Institute, trustees are responsible for selecting the President of the Institute; for providing advice on issues, operations, and staffing as required by the President; and for providing support for the President's efforts to lead the Institute and implement policies adopted by the Board. Trustees also provide a constructive critique of the President on an ongoing basis and determine appropriate compensation for the President.

Trustees represent Viridis Graduate Institute to its multiple constituencies so that non-trustees may better understand the role and responsibilities of the Board and the process and substance of Board policies and decisions. However, trustees should defer to the President or the Board chair as official public spokespersons of Viridis Graduate Institute. Trustees should maintain an appropriate degree of confidentiality concerning Board and committee processes.

Executive Staff

Lori Pye, Ph.D., President/Chief Academic Officer

The President of Viridis Graduate Institute shall be the chief executive officer of the Institute. The President shall, as educational and administrative head of the Institute, exercise general supervision over all the affairs of the Institute, including its financial affairs and policy and program proposals, and shall bring such matters to the attention of the Trustees as appropriate in order to keep the Trustees fully informed so that they can meet their policy-making responsibilities. As the chief executive officer, the President shall be empowered, on behalf of the Trustees, to appoint such officers and personnel and to perform all acts and execute all documents to make effective the actions of the Trustees or their Executive Committee. Except as otherwise provided by Viridis Graduate Institute By-Laws, the President shall be an ex officio member of all Standing Committees. All officers of administration and members of the teaching faculty shall be responsible to the President of Viridis Graduate Institute, or to such officer or officers as the President may designate, for the satisfactory performance of their respective duties as set forth by the President, or by such officer or officers as the President may designate.

Ann Vermeer, D.A., Vice President

The Vice President of Viridis Graduate Institute supports the President and Board of Trustees in promoting the institute's mission, educational programs, institutional effectiveness, teaching, managing alumni relations and programs, expanding visibility and reputation of the institute through partnerships and collaborations both nationally and internationally. The Vice President provides vision and leadership for the diverse and innovative community of education professionals and students. The Vice President supports the President and Academic Dean in state approval compliance with the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE), and the

Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC). The Vice President assists with budgeting and financial operations, fundraising, developing student support services, implementing ReWilding experiences, and as part of executive management, has oversight to general tasks of the school's business and organizational requirements.

Leslie Stoupas, Ph.D., Academic Dean
The Academic Dean has the responsibility to develop, administer, and promote excellence in academic programs and academic support functions of Viridis Graduate Institute in coordination with the President and Vice-President. In addition, the Academic Dean oversees the MA and DA Capstone Project courses and process, development of educational materials, and management of the Institute's online learning platform. The Academic Dean supports the President in state approval compliance with the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE), and the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC). In addition, the Academic Dean supports administrative issues, student support services, approving faculty and staff hires, school policies, marketing strategies and student recruitment, and as part of executive management, has oversight to general tasks of the school's business and organizational requirements.

Registrar
The Office of the Registrar provides leadership for planning, organizing and managing all of the activities related to records and registration, including serving as the official authorized keeper of VGI's student records. The Registrar oversees registration and graduation functions, including transcript evaluations, and is responsible for collecting, recording, maintaining and reporting of student records within FERPA guidelines.

IT Administration
VGI's technology administration is managed by our LMS system - Populi. Populi technical administration in coordination with VGI executive staff are responsible for the overall execution of Populi functions, including backup and security. The executive staff ensure Populi operations meet the Institute's requirements as well as the support development of new solutions that better serve Viridis Graduate Institute and its students.

Advisory Council

The Advisory Council provides engaged support for Viridis Graduate Institute. Tasks the Advisory board may oversee include, but are not limited to:
- Ambassadors for VGI's mission and programs
- Advising on curriculum development
- Strategic Planning advise and contributions
- Providing pro bono work to assist with other staff-driven needs
- Seeking opportunities for exposure of VGI around the world

Institutional Committees

Executive Committee—Ethics and Policy
The Executive Committee meets as needed to review and update institutional and student policies and to review any ethics or policy violations. The Executive Committee is empowered to consider all matters of policy with respect to any activities of Viridis Graduate Institute and shall consult with and advise the President of the Institute with respect to any matter of policy. It is responsible for reporting to the President regarding changes to policies or recommendations for action in the case of ethical or policy violations. The Executive Committee oversees the Grievance Committee. The Executive Committee is comprised of Chair of the Board of Trustees, the President of Viridis Graduate Institute, Vice President, the Academic Dean, and one Faculty member.

Curriculum Committee
Viridis Graduate Institute is committed to transforming lives through learning. The curriculum is central to this vision and is organized to facilitate student learning. The curriculum, as a whole, reflects a commitment to excellent education and is essential to the achievement of high standards in the academic program. The Curriculum Committee is chartered with supporting, and revising when appropriate, the academic curriculum. The committee will initiate specific strategies to promote academic breadth, depth, and integrity, and to facilitate innovation in Viridis educational offerings. The Curriculum Committee is comprised of the President, Vice President, Academic Dean, VGI faculty, and qualified external individuals with a proven academic history and scholarship. To fulfill its purpose, the Curriculum Committee will:
- Review and evaluate proposals to initiate or change courses and programs;
- Assure that a curriculum is well developed, clear and complete and that its supporting documents adequately supplement the proposal;
- Make recommendations to assist individuals to strengthen their course or program proposals;
- Provide guidelines and criteria for the development of new courses and programs;
- Review and revise procedures associated with curriculum development;
- Encourage and facilitate innovation in the curriculum;
- Assure that assessment is built into the curriculum proposal; and
- Assure that the curriculum offered is complementary and integrated.

Grievance Committee
The Grievance Committee helps to maintain the quality and reputation of Viridis Graduate Institute by following a grievance process that requires the Committee to review and appropriately act on student complaints. The Committee is comprised of the President, Vice-President, Academic Dean, and a VGI faculty member. It provides a hearing for the individual bringing the complaint, makes recommendations to remediate the complaint, and, if the individual still is not satisfied, the Committee will submit the grievance and recommendations to the Board of Trustees Executive Committee.

Academic Committees

Capstone Project committees have an historic and established place in the academic world. Faculty for project courses and final capstone projects are responsible for ensuring that the student complies with all of the policies and regulations of Viridis Graduate Institute.

Master's Capstone Project Committee Responsibilities

The MA Capstone Committee consists of faculty for the MA capstone course (EEHUM 806) and one additional faculty member. Faculty for EEHUM 806 oversees all aspects of a student's project, ensures that the student complies with all of the policies and regulations in the *Capstone Project Handbook*, and completes their capstone project in a timely manner.

Doctoral Capstone Project Committee Responsibilities

The Doctoral Capstone Committee consists of the Faculty Advisor, one faculty, and VGI President. Members of the Doctoral Capstone Project Committee oversee all aspects of a student's Doctoral Capstone Project, playing an important role guiding graduate student research. The Committee is responsible for ensuring that the student complies with all of the policies and regulations, has an excellent project, and completes their Doctoral Project in a timely manner. As part of its review of the student's capstone project, the committee will consider the adequacy and scope of the project and the methodology utilized by the student. The committee will review and provide feedback and suggestions to the student in a timely manner per the *Capstone Project Handbook.* VGI reserves the right to modify the members of the Committee at their discretion. All Committee members have a terminal degree and are qualified in the subject area of the Doctoral Capstone Project.

Faculty Policies

Viridis Graduate Institute faculty must possess an academic degree relevant to what they are teaching and at least one level above the level at which they teach. In terminal degree programs, faculty members possess the same level of degree. At Viridis, all faculty possess doctorate level degrees (Ph.D., D.A., M.D., J.D., Ed.D.) from a university or institution accredited by an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Secretary of Education or an institutional agency recognized by the Council of Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) or its successors. Instructors teaching at the doctoral level have a record of recognized scholarship, creative endeavor, or achievement in practice commensurate with doctoral expectations. The President, the Vice-President, and the Academic Dean shall be ex-officio members of the faculty whether or not they are actively engaged in teaching.

Viridis Graduate Institute shall maintain records documenting that each faculty member is duly qualified to perform the duties to which the faculty member is assigned, including providing instruction, evaluating learning outcomes, evaluating graduate Capstone Projects (see Faculty Handbook), and performing student assessments. When contracting for educational services, VGI shall maintain control of, and responsibility for, all academic matters, and shall ensure that the instruction and faculty satisfy the standards established by the Educational Code.

Viridis Graduate Institute shall employ instructors who possess the academic, experiential and professional qualifications to teach, including a minimum of three years of experience, education, or training in current practices of the subject area they are teaching.

Viridis Graduate Institute shall not employ or continue to employ any faculty or instructor who was adjudicated in a judicial or administrative proceeding as having violated any provision of the Education Act or Arizona Education Regulations, or as having committed any act that would constitute grounds for dismissal.

Viridis Graduate Institute administration shall document the institution's periodic review of faculty evaluations to assure that the faculty written evaluations and awards of credit to comply with this section and the institution's policies are consistent.

In determining the number of faculty sufficient to fulfill the institute educational program requirements, Viridis Graduate Institute shall base its faculty requirements on all of the following factors:
- The educational level and number of students;
- The number of hours needed for direct interaction between students and faculty per course, quarter, semester, or other term;
- The number of hours needed to be spent on evaluating written materials prepared by students, such as distance education, papers, and examinations, per course, quarter, semester, or other term;
- The number of group meetings per course, quarter, semester, or other term;
- The faculty duties established by the institution; and
- The number of hours per week or units per term.

Faculty Conflict of Interest

Viridis Graduate Institute is an institution of public trust; faculty must respect that status and conduct their affairs in ways that will not compromise the integrity of the Institute or that trust.

A conflict of interest occurs when there is a divergence between an individual's private interests and their professional obligations to the Institute such that an independent observer might reasonably question whether the individual's professional actions or decisions are determined by considerations of personal financial gain. A conflict of interest depends on the situation, and not on the character or actions of the individual.

At Viridis, conflicts of interest can arise out of the fact that a mission of the Institute is to equip graduates with the professional and collaborative skills needed to respond creatively to the world's challenging problems. Important means of accomplishing this mission include faculty consulting, outside speaking engagements, publications, and the commercialization of technologies derived from faculty research. It is appropriate that faculty be rewarded for their participation in these activities through consulting fees, honoraria and sharing in royalties resulting from the commercialization of their work that utilizes ecological psychology ideas and

principles. It is wrong, however, for an individual's actions or decisions made in the course of their Viridis Graduate Institute activities to be determined by considerations of personal financial gain; faculty should be sensitive even to the appearance of that possibility. Such behavior calls into question the professional objectivity and ethics of the individual, and it also reflects negatively on the Institute.

Faculty members should conduct their affairs so as to avoid conflicts of interest and must respond appropriately when conflicts of interest arise. To that end, the purposes of this policy are to educate faculty about situations that generate conflicts of interest, to provide means for faculty and the Institute to manage conflicts of interest, to promote the best interests of students and others whose work depends on faculty direction, and to describe situations that are prohibited. Every Viridis faculty member has an obligation to become familiar with, and abide by, the provisions of this policy. Conflicts of interest must be disclosed to Viridis when personal financial relationships or activities with outside entities occur that would reasonably appear to be related to a faculty member's institutional responsibilities for research/scholarship, education/teaching, and administration. All such financial activities and relationships must be disclosed annually and at the time of a specific transaction. Disclosure and Institute review also allow faculty to comply with federal agency regulations for the State of Arizona and the Distance Education Accrediting Commission.

Faculty Professional Development

Viridis Graduate Institute recognizes the need for creating conditions for learning that our faculty and staff would find relevant or useful in their quest for continual education and professional development, and to nurture the spirit of collegiality. The Institute's strategy to create a culture of sharing and learning includes:

Annual Faculty Orientation (August): Faculty are engaged in continuous training on newest techniques or technology used at VGI for distance education; research methodologies; faculty each share the course they are teaching and what is unique; new texts or readings of interest; student questions and concerns; and course ideas for the program.

Quarterly Faculty Meetings (Fall, Winter, Spring)
The president and academic dean will begin the new practice by sharing information from a recent event or learning experience. Faculty will rotate to share current information from a workshop, conference, event or experience from other institutions, new distance learning/teaching techniques, new technology demonstration, new research for our field, or learning experience that they think will enhance our culture of learning and be of interest to their peers. **Faculty Meeting Minutes** will be kept and shared.

Faculty ReWilding Participation (Fall and Spring).

Faculty Training in Ecological Psychology
Faculty may listen at their convenience to the five recorded ecopsychology introductory lectures that may enhance their understanding of VGI's program and approach. These are posted in OCEANS_Ecopsychology Intensive for training and professional development.

Faculty Chair and Reader Training
This training is conducted on an annual basis.

Viridis Faculty Chair IRB Training
Faculty that serves as a Chair on DA Capstone Project Committee must complete IRB training.

External Development and Learning
DEAC MaxKnowledge Training Center hosts many relevant courses for faculty and staff that provide additional professional development learning opportunities. Additional trainings support VGI's mission and processes as faculty bring new skills and ideas to the Institute from these learning engagements.

Conference, Workshops, and Events
Faculty and staff are encouraged to attend DEAC events, conferences, and workshops as participants and as presenters. Professional development for faculty and staff support VGI's mission and processes by infusing VGI with current cultural topics, new teaching and learning ideas, technology advancements, and sharing personal growth experiences.

Viridis Graduate Research eLibrary
Faculty have full access 24-hours to the graduate eLibrary. This is a very rich resource for research, teaching, and general interest with access to hundreds of international university shared sites, art, open journals, and articles. Access and use of the eLibrary support VGI's mission and processes by providing faculty entry to numerous research portals.

Academic Philosophy

Student Success
We have a clear obligation to provide the highest quality of education to all our students. This obligation is combined with the responsibility to provide an environment of curiosity and appropriate support that gives every individual their best chance of success.

Acquisition, Discovery, and Application of Knowledge
The organization promotes a life of learning for its faculty, administration, staff, and students by fostering and supporting inquiry, creativity, imagination, and environmental and social responsibility in ways consistent with VGI's mission, its purpose and its vision. Our Viridis communities are based on the expectation that their members uphold the shared goal of academic excellence through honesty, integrity, and pride in one's own academic efforts and respectful treatment of others.

Diversity & Multiplicity
Viridis Graduate Institute values the diversity of its students, faculty, staff, and the other people with whom it interacts. Our differences in ideas and approaches assure that VGI is a forum for the expression, consideration and evaluation of ideas.

Creativity and Initiative

Viridis Graduate Institute moves forward in its academic programs, student support services, and other operations by encouraging and rewarding creativity and initiative among faculty, staff, and students.

Excellence

Viridis Graduate Institute values the continuous flow of resources, ideas, and excellence in our people and in our programs.

Integrity and Professionalism

Integrity, ethics, and professional behavior by all individuals associated with VGI are essential in reducing waste in resources, and unnecessary psychological and emotional stress. This is required in order for students, faculty, staff, and the public to have trust in Viridis Graduate Institute.

ReWilding Acadia National Park, ME.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Academic Year

Viridis Graduate Institute's Academic Calendar is 30 weeks of instructional time, three 10-week terms (fall, winter, and spring), and a minimum of 24 credits per academic year.

Viridis Graduate Institute is closed on the following holidays and on Sundays. However, students may continue to communicate with VGI via email when the Institute is closed. General office hours are 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Pacific Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

2022-23 Academic Calendar

August 23, 2022	Student Orientation on Zoom
August 24, 2022	Faculty Orientation on Zoom
September 2-4, 2022	ReWilding Experience Fall (TBA)
September 5, 2022	Fall Quarter Classes begin
November 14, 2022	Winter Break
November 28, 2022	Thanksgiving Day - Closed
December 24-26, 2022	VGI Closed
Dec. 31 – Jan 1, 2023	VGI Closed
January 3, 2023	Winter Quarter Classes begin
March 16, 2023	Spring Break
March 17-19, 2023	ReWilding Experience Spring (TBD)
April 3, 2023	Spring Quarter Classes begin
June 12, 2023	Summer Break

GENERAL INFORMATION

Distance Education: An Online Learning Experience

Viridis Graduate Institute is a distance education provider, which does not require students to travel to a campus location, reducing their carbon footprint. Professors conduct each session via a live (**Synchronous**) ZOOM platform, where student cohorts are active participants in the learning exchange. Academic class sessions are regularly scheduled direct learning sessions for two (2) hours per week per class for ten (10) weeks. As part of the 30 hours of instruction (for a 3-credit course), students are required to complete an additional 10 hours of asynchronous activities via computer-assisted academic instruction of listening to faculty recorded lectures, and/or making a post on discussion board on the Populi course site, of not less than 10 hours per quarter. An additional 60 hours for outside preparation, study, and completion of assignments is required for a total of 90 hours.

Viridis Graduate Institute excels in distance education. Faculty meet with students each week in a live, interactive virtual classroom with high definition video and audio through each student and professor's computer. We believe this to be the most effective and productive distance education tool, as students are focused, they have meaningful interaction and feedback from the professor and classmates, and it builds community among the cohort.

Among the distinctive features of our learning environment are:

- A personalized education that integrates academic excellence, experiential learning, and a commitment to personal and cultural change.
- Individualized study and collaboration between students and faculty.
- An integration of theory and practice.
- VGI's faculty members are practitioners and professionals in their respective fields.
- An emphasis on encouraging students to recognize and integrate diversity in intercultural, intergroup, intergenerational, and interpersonal dynamics.
- Discussion and reflection are fully encouraged as ways to further learning.
- A supportive environment that encourages collaborative learning, social awareness, and activism, and that respects the multiple roles of adult students.
- The development of a curriculum designed to prepare students to find meaningful work, invent or develop new professional opportunities, and lead more flourishing lives.
- VGI cares that students are ready and capable of entering a chosen field with the capacity to evaluate core issues in an organization, institution, community, and society from multiple perspectives and make necessary changes for the flourishing of these systems.
- User-friendly online systems designed for all types of learners and learning styles that enhance personal and intellectual growth by enabling experiences not possible in a traditional academic setting.

General Requirements for Higher Education

Viridis Graduate Institute offers graduate degrees that meet the needs of working professionals wanting to pursue their educational goals. While some master and doctoral programs are tailored to career advancement, other programs enable individuals to pursue new career directions or advanced study in the humanities and liberal arts. Viridis Graduate Institute uniquely brings together the humanities, liberal arts and the sciences for a Competency degree plan. Each degree program accommodates academically qualified working adults who work or who choose to focus full-time on obtaining a graduate degree.

The Master of Arts Program conforms to the following: completion and passing of a Competency Exam and completion of a Master's Capstone Project.

The Doctor of Arts program conforms to the following: completion and passing of two Competency Exams, completion and successful oral defense of a Doctoral Capstone Project.

English Language Requirement

Course materials are supplied only in English. Students are expected to be proficient in the oral and written use of the English language. International students are subject to the same admission requirements, fees, and responsibilities as domestic students. International students are reminded that Viridis Graduate Institute provides course materials and instruction only in English. Oral and written proficiency of the English language is presumed. See TOEFL Requirements (below, under Admissions).

Tax Deductible Educational Expense

While a personal accountant or Certified Public Accountant can best advise students regarding tax deductions, it is important to remember that the United States Code of Federal Regulations, Title 26, Section 1.162-5, Expenses for Education, allows for personal income tax deduction for educational expenses including tuition, cost of travel, meals, and lodging, etc., so long as they: 1) Maintain or improve skills required by the individual in his employment or other trade or business, or 2) Meet the express requirements of the individual's employer, or the requirements of applicable law or regulations, imposed as a condition to the retention by the individual of an established employment relationship, status, or rate of compensation.

Alumni Community

Viridis Graduate Institute hosts quarterly Alumni Forum Gatherings on Zoom for alumni to present a short paper or ideas they are currently working on that continues to promote VGI's vision and mission. Students and alumni have access to the Viridis Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/ViridisGraduateInstitute.

Auditing Classes

No provisions are made for auditing classes.

ADMISSIONS

In recognition of the importance of ethical practices in the admissions process, Viridis Graduate Institute adheres to the Statement of Principles of Good Practice in College Admission and Recruitment, which has been approved by the American Council on Education (ACE), the American Association of College Registrars and Admissions Counselors (AACRAO), and by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) through the initiative to develop guidelines on Quality Provision in Cross-Border Higher Education. The Institute provides institutional transparency, secures privacy of our students, regularly submits our curriculum to a process of review by academic peers, and follows government regulations mandated for all educational organizations.

Statement of Good Practices in Admissions

Professionalism
Viridis' admission and enrollment management is professional only to the extent that we subscribe to and practice ethical behavior. We are responsible for the integrity of our communications and actions.

Collaboration
We understand the effectiveness of our admission and enrollment management is enhanced when we work together to promote and protect students and their best interests.

Trust
We understand admission and enrollment management are based on trust, mutual respect, and honesty with one another and with students.

Education
We are committed to educating students, their families, the public, fellow education professionals, and ourselves about the transition to and within postsecondary education.

Fairness and Equity
We have a responsibility to treat one another and students in a fundamentally fair and equitable manner.

Social Responsibility
We have a duty to serve students responsibly, by safeguarding their rights and their access to and within postsecondary education.

An applicant for the Master of Arts program must have a bachelor's degree and applicants for the Doctor of Arts must have a master's degree from an institution accredited by an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Secretary of Education or an institutional agency recognized by the Council of Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) or its successors. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and Miller Analogies Test (MAT) scores are not required for admission to the VGI degree programs.

Degree Program Admission Requirements

Viridis Graduate Institute is a distance learning community. Admissions criteria have been established to ensure that applicants possess the ability to be successful in a distance learning environment. It is highly recommended that you apply and submit all required application materials as early as possible. In most cases, the earlier we receive your complete application, the sooner you will receive an admission decision.

The following is required to be received by VGI to be considered for admission for either the Master's or Doctoral degree programs:

1. **Online Admission Application Form**. The applicant will be notified within 24-hours of receipt if eligible to proceed with admissions. Please select your program choice.

2. Please submit the Application Fee of $100 with the Online Application.

3. **Download Master of Arts Student Enrollment Agreement,**

   OR

   Download Doctor of Arts Student Enrollment Agreement

4. **Official Transcripts**— Official Transcripts from previously attended colleges and universities may be sent by the school to VGI's Office of the Registrar by electronic file.

5. **Scanned Color Copy of a Government Issued Identification** (e.g. driver's license or passport)

6. **One Letter of Academic Recommendation**—The letter of recommendation should be written by a person competent to judge the applicant's probable success in a doctoral program. This letter is generally written by one of the applicant's former professors who are able to give an in-depth evaluation of the applicant's strengths and weaknesses with respect to academic work. Additional recommendations may come from employers or supervisors who are familiar with the applicant's work experience. All letters of academic recommendation must be written in letter format and may be submitted to vgi.registrar@viridis.edu by the authors.

7. **Scheduled Interview** — On submission of the admission materials and Student Enrollment Agreement, the applicant will complete a Zoom interview with Viridis Graduate Institute.

   Please submit Enrollment Agreement, electronic Official Transcripts, and other required documents to: **vgi.registrar@viridis.edu**

Optional: Mail Official Transcripts to:

Viridis Graduate Institute

Attn: Registrar

3345 South Rural Road, Tempe, AZ 85282-5404

Applicant's required materials are reviewed. The applicant is notified if any required information is missing. The applicant will be contacted by email within three days of the interview at the email address on the application form with information about admission status.

International Students

Applicants with non-U.S. educational credentials are welcome at Viridis Graduate Institute. As a distance education provider, international students do not need to travel to the United States to attend our programs; therefore, we do not provide Visa Services.

English Language Requirement

Students are expected to be proficient in the oral and written use of the English language. International students are subject to the same admission requirements, fees, and responsibilities as domestic students. International students are reminded that Viridis Graduate Institute provides course materials and instruction only in English. Oral and written proficiency of the English language is presumed.

English Language Proficiency Assessment

Applicants whose native language is not English and who have not earned a degree from an appropriately accredited institution where English is the principal language of instruction must demonstrate college-level proficiency in English through one of the following:

- Master's Degree: A minimum score of 60 on the paper-delivered Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL PBT); 71 on the Internet Based Test (iBT); 6.5 on the International English Language Test (IELTS); 50 on the Pearson Test of English Academic Score Report; 100 on the Duolingo English Test; 55 on the 4-skill Michigan English Test (MET); 650/LP on the Michigan Examination for the Certificate of Competency in English (ECCE); or 650/LP on the Michigan Examination for the Certificate of Proficiency in English (ECPE);

- Doctoral Degree: A minimum score of 65 on the paper-delivered Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL PBT); 80 on the Internet Based Test (iBT); 6.5 on the International English Language Test (IELTS); 58 on the Pearson Test of English Academic Score Report; 105 on the Duolingo English Test; 55 on the 4-skill Michigan English Test (MET); 650/LP on the Michigan Examination for the Certificate of Competency in English (ECCE); or 650/LP on the Michigan Examination for the Certificate of Proficiency in English (ECPE);

- A minimum score on the College Board Accuplacer ESL Exam Series as follows:
  - ESP Language Use: Score of 85

o   ESL Listening: Score of 80
o   ESP Reading: Score of 85
o   ESL Sentence Meaning: Score of 90
o   ESP Writeplacer: Score of 4
o   Comprehensive Score for all exams of 350

•   A minimum grade of Pre-1 on the Eiken English Proficiency Exam;
•   A minimum B-2 English proficiency level identified within the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) standards and assessed through various ESOL examinations, including the University of Cambridge;

•   A transcript indicating completion of at least 30 semester credit hours with an average grade of "B" or higher at an institution accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Secretary of Education and/or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), or accepted foreign equivalent that is listed in the International Handbook of Universities where the language of instruction was English.

Foreign Credential Evaluation

Applicants with non-U.S. educational credentials must first obtain a foreign credentials evaluation from Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc. (ECE), or another independent evaluation service that is a member in good standing with the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) and is approved by the university. A "General with Grade Average" evaluation will be required to document a degree earned. A "Course-by-Course" evaluation will be required for international applicants seeking to transfer graduate credit. Request forms and cost information are available at the ECE website (www.ece.org).

NOTICE CONCERNING TRANSFERABILITY OF CREDITS AND CREDENTIALS EARNED AT VIRIDIS GRADUATE INSTITUTE

The transferability of credits you earn at Viridis Graduate Institute is at the complete discretion of an institution to which you may seek to transfer. Acceptance of the (degree or diploma) you earn at Viridis Graduate Institute is at the complete discretion of the institution to which you may seek to transfer. If the (credits, degree, diploma) that you earn at Viridis Graduate Institute are not accepted at the institution to which you seek to transfer, you may be required to repeat some or all of your coursework at that institution. For this reason, you should make certain that your attendance at Viridis Graduate Institute will meet your educational goals. This may include contacting an institution to which you may seek to transfer after attending Viridis Graduate Institute to determine if your (credits, degree, diploma) will transfer. Viridis Graduate Institute has not entered into an articulation or transfer agreement with any other college or university. Viridis Graduate Institute does not accept credit for prior experiential learning, including assessment, challenge examinations, and achievement tests due to the specialization of our programs. Viridis Graduate Institute does not accept credits from an outside accredited institution due to the subject matter studied at VGI.

ENROLLMENT

In order to enroll at Viridis Graduate Institute, an applicant must be accepted for admission and submit the enrollment agreement and enrollment fee. Applicants may accelerate the enrollment process by submitting the enrollment fee and the completed enrollment agreement with the application. However, this does not guarantee admission. Conditions for enrollment into the degree programs are met by completing the student enrollment process and submission of Official Transcripts for their master's degree, which demonstrates a specific skill level or knowledge base sufficient for the program. VGI has one enrollment period: Fall.

Viridis Graduate Institute does not require students to complete a prerequisite course(s) before entering the degree programs. A prerequisite is a condition of enrollment that students are required to meet to demonstrate readiness for enrollment in a course or program. The Master and Doctoral program design prescribe a specific sequence to maximize student achievement of course and program learning outcomes.

Verifying Enrollment

Verifying enrollment occurs after the student has submitted their signed Student Enrollment Agreement form and paid the enrollment fee.
The process includes verifying:
- Student email contact, address, cell/phone
- Student identity is verified through Zoom interview where the staff can verify their submitted government issued ID with the person they are interviewing.

Students are emailed a Student Welcome Packet containing:
1. VGI Gmail account and login information (VGI uses Google Gmail accounts for student privacy).
2. Student (personal) login information for Populi.
3. Tech Sheet – Zoom technical setup information and support videos.
4. Copy of Student Invoice for student's records and payment tracking assistance.
5. Student Handbook

Once students are considered enrolled for the term, they are responsible for remaining tuition charges.

Student Identification Process

Viridis Graduate Institute verifies that the student who registers for the Institute's distance education programs is the same student who participates in, completes coursework and examination, and receives the academic credit. Student identification (IDs) are kept in the Student Information System and will be verified by each instructor before the start of the first class in the first quarter and before each Competency Exam.

Institutional practice includes the following steps:
1. Viridis Admissions process requires the submission of a government issued ID (driver's license, or passport) that includes photo, name, and current address. IDs are uploaded to Populi SIS.
2. Student Interview – Viridis conducts Admission interviews on Zoom so that we match the government issued ID photo with the prospective student.

3. Viridis student IDs are issued through the SIS that contain the name and assigned ID number after enrollment completion.
4. Faculty access the Populi course roster to verify student IDs on first day of class in the first quarter.
5. The faculty hosting the Competency Exam will access the exam roster through the SIS to verify IDs of students taking the exam.
6. Students will upload all coursework and exams via Populi.
7. VGI students use an in-house secure email for all Institutional communication, thereby assisting in keeping confidentiality and verifying student identification.

Tuition Payments

Once students are accepted into the program and they begin the enrollment process, they are expected to make their tuition and fee payments according to the payment plan selected on the Student Enrollment Agreement. VGI does not accept post-dated checks and will not hold any check for deposit.

Denial of Admission

An applicant may be denied admission if Viridis Graduate Institute determines that it is unable to meet the educational needs and objectives of the applicant. If an applicant is denied admission, the application and enrollment fees will be refunded.

NONDEGREE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

INTRODUCTION TO ECOPSYCHOLOGY

Introduction to Ecopsychology is a 2-hour seminar that provides participants an opportunity for participants not seeking a degree to enhance their understanding of ecopsychology and its wide-ranging personal and professional applications.

ECOPSYCHOLOGY INTENSIVE

Ecopsychology Intensive is a 10-week course that provides participants an opportunity to examine and explore both personal and cultural narratives that underpin disparaging behaviors and attitudes. Understanding the ecology of human psychology offers critical insight into understanding the complexity of change and ways to transform unconscious narratives that underlie our actions, civic illiteracy, and the policies and decisions that affect our world in both creative and destructive ways.

Cancellation Policy

An applicant who provides written notice of cancellation within three (3) days (excluding Saturday, Sunday and federal and state holidays) of signing the enrollment agreement is entitled to a refund of all monies paid. No later than 30 days of receiving the notice of cancellation, the school shall provide the 100% refund.

Sample Refund Calculation - All refund examples below assume that the student has paid in full prior to beginning the nondegree course.

Length of Course10 weeks	Percentage of Tuition Returned to the Student Minus the Application Fee AFTER	
	1st week	80% of $1200 = $960
	2nd week	60% of $1200 = $720
	3rd week	40% of $1200 = $480
	4th week	20% of $1200 = $240
	5-10th week	0% No Refund.

The nondegree intensive courses are designed for working professionals: educators, coaches, therapists, clinicians, environmental first responders, environmental and conservation executive leadership, business professionals, educators, civic and governmental leaders, and anyone curious about Ecological Psychology and its diverse applications.

ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAMS

MASTER OF ARTS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES WITH EMPHASIS IN ECOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES PROGRAM

Program Overview

Viridis Graduate Institute Ecopsychology and Environmental Humanities programs offer a unique educational program that draws appropriately from biology, ecology, depth psychology, mythology, and the arts. Its emphasis on the many synergistic connections in our biological, ecological and psychological life serves to expand our critical understanding of being in an interdependent world. Ecopsychology teaches students to redefine interconnected problems, to reach creative solutions based on new understandings of complex situations, and to transform outmoded narratives that underpin many of our global challenges.

Environmental humanities provides avenues for reflection on what it means to be human in a world of interconnected landscapes, human, and animal presences. It promotes an ethical stance toward all of life; and examines new forms of environmental leadership that include social and environmental justice.

The Master of Arts in Social Sciences with an Emphasis in Ecopsychology and Environmental Humanities is one of the most useful graduate level degrees.

All programs begin with an online **Student Orientation**.

Master of Arts Program of Study

Graduate Quarter Credits: 54
Years: 2
Quarter System – 10 weeks
    [1 Credit = 1 Credit Hour (Carnegie Criteria)]
    1 Quarter Credit Hour = 30 hours

A Master of Arts signifies that the recipient has passed an integrated course of study.

Degree Awarded: Master of Arts in Social Sciences with Emphasis in Ecological Psychology and Environmental Humanities

Degree Program Objectives

Upon successful completion of the Master of Arts program, students will have met the following objectives

- The student will apply ecological knowledge and psychological capabilities in resolving complex and contested issues,

- The student will apply ecological and psychological knowledge in transforming destructive narratives and practices into relational and cooperative solutions.
- The student will apply ecological knowledge and psychological capabilities in their personal and professional lives.

Degree Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the Master of Arts program, students will have met the following program learning outcomes (PLOs):

1. **Critical Thinking**

   Apply multiple ecological knowledge and psychology capability in evaluation and change of disparaging narratives underpinning a variety of ecological, economic, and social issues.

2. **Creativity**

   Apply reflection, creative thought, and assessment skills in evaluating and transforming   narratives and imagery into new psychological meaning that advances and sustains ethical, responsible, and collaborative relationships.

3. **Communication**

   Analyze, synthesize, and articulate complex information from a variety of ecological and psychological sources and perspectives and be able to communicate findings across sophisticated platforms.

4. **Ecological & Civic Literacy**

   Develop original approaches and applications that advance capabilities of justice, aesthetics, generosity, and inclusivity within interdependent ecological, social, and economic systems.

5. **Ecopsychological Sensibility**

   Respond aesthetically and with a behaved intelligence to interconnected ecological and sociological problems, advance ecopsychological approaches and practices toward change in narrative, behavior, and practices underpinning these issues.

Master of Arts Program Curriculum

YEAR 1

ReWilding Experience (optional)

Fall Quarter
EEHUM 700 Ecopsychology I   3 Credits
EEHUM 701 Narrative Foundations of Ecopsychology   3 Credits
EEHUM 702 Body Ecologies   3 Credits

Winter Quarter

EEHUM 703 Ecopsychology II	3 Credits
EEHUM 704 Biogeography: Humans and Landscapes	3 Credits
EEHUM 705 Contemporary Cultural Narratives	3 Credits

ReWilding Experience

Spring Quarter

EEHUM 706 Ecopsychology III	3 Credits
EEHUM 707 Ecotoxicology	3 Credits
EEHUM 708 Business Ecologies	3 Credits
EEHUM 709 Omnibus I	4 Credits

YEAR 2

ReWilding Experience (optional)

Fall Quarter

EEHUM 800 Ecopsychology IV	3 Credits
EEHUM 801 Climate Crisis & Ecopsychological Applications	3 Credits
EEHUM 802 Image, Perception, & Narrative Change	3 Credits

Competency Examination 1   1 Credit

Winter Quarter

EEHUM 803 Ecopsychological Ethics	3 Credits
EEHUM 804 Ecopsychological Assessment	3 Credits
EEHUM 806 Research & Methodologies	5 Credits

EEHUM 810 Master's Capstone Project   2 Credits

Competency Examination

The Master of Arts Competency Exam is delivered in November of Year 2. The exam evaluates students' achievement of Program Learning Outcomes, understanding of theoretical perspectives, development of psychological capacities, and practical application pertaining to ecopsychology and environmental humanities, as well as their ability to apply what they have learned to a profession of their choice. The exam also assesses students' ability to reflect on ecopsychology in relation to current ecological, economic, and socio-cultural issues.

Time Commitment for Degree

Master of Arts students must complete coursework in no less than eighteen (18) months (6 quarters) from the date of enrollment. The maximum time to complete the program is 2 years (24 months).

Timeframe for MA Capstone Project Completion

Students begin the Capstone Project in EEHUM 806. Students have six (6) months from the end of winter quarter of Year 2 to complete the Master's Capstone Project, with completion of the project by August 15th of Year 2.

For every three months that the student goes beyond the MA Capstone Project deadline and does not submit a completed Project and final, edited Project Report, a five-hundred-dollar fee will be assessed (see **General Services Fees**).

Requirements for Graduation

1. Students must complete 54 quarter credits to fulfill the unit requirement for graduation.

2. Maintain a GPA of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale for graduate work completed at Viridis Graduate Institute.

3. Students must attend at least eight of the ten weeks of courses per quarter. Please See Attendance Policy.

4. Students must successfully pass one written **Competency Examination** at the end of fall quarter in Year 2. Students must receive at least 80 points for the exam. If 79 points or below, the student must retake the exam within 7 days.

5. Students must submit a completed **MA Capstone Project** to be accepted by the Faculty Advisor and the Institution.

The M.A. degree is awarded when the student has: completed 51 quarter credits of coursework, successfully passed one Competency Exam (1 credit), and successfully completed a Capstone Project (2 credits) for a total of 54 quarter credits.

DOCTOR OF ARTS IN ECOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES PROGRAM

Program Overview

The Doctor of Arts program offers a unique educational program that draws appropriately from sciences, environmental humanities, and the arts. The doctoral program emphasizes narrative transformation required for behavioral change necessary for a more just, aesthetic, and shared world.

Through the exploration of ecological psychology, students at Viridis Graduate Institute develop and hone their capacities to analyze, interpret and criticize complex ecological and psychological systems that influence all other systems on the planet. The emphasis on ecopsychology and environmental humanities, in combination with a supportive distance learning program that encourages personal and social development, helps to foster ecological knowledge, psychological capacities, intellectual vitality, confidence, independent thinking, contextual leadership, and flexibility.

Ecopsychology teaches students to redefine interconnected problems in order to reach creative solutions based on a deeper understanding of transcontextuality. Ecopsychology is a deconstruction of outmoded ideas and thinking that perpetuate destructive practices toward each other and our shared planet.

By changing the narrative, one changes the behavior and therefore the practice, creating fresh new ideas and understanding in a deeply systemic way, the multiple interactions between our physical world and our psychological life. An ecopsychological education is the most powerful tool we have available for making the necessary changes at the community, organizational, institutional, and global levels.

All programs begin with the fall Student Orientation (August).

Doctor of Arts Program of Study

Graduate Quarter Credits 90
Years 3
Quarter System - 10 weeks
     [1 Credit = 1 Credit Hour (Carnegie Criteria)]
     1 Quarter Credit Hour = 30 hours

A Doctor of Arts signifies that the recipient has passed an integrated course of study.

Degree Awarded: Doctor of Arts in Ecological Psychology and Environmental Humanities

All doctoral students may earn a Master of Arts in passing from Viridis Graduate Institute after successfully completing 51 graduate credits including passing a Competency Examination (1 credit).

Degree Program Objectives

Upon successful completion of the Doctor of Arts program, students will have met the following objectives:
- The student will apply ecological knowledge and psychological capabilities in resolving complex and contested issues,
- The student will apply ecological and psychological knowledge in transforming destructive narratives and practices into relational and cooperative solutions.
- The student will apply ecological knowledge and psychological capabilities in their personal and professional lives.

Degree Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the Doctor of Arts program, students will have met the following program learning outcomes (PLOs):

1. **Critical Thinking**

   Apply multiple ecological knowledge and psychology capability in evaluation and change of disparaging narratives underpinning a variety of ecological, economic, and social issues.

2. **Creativity**

   Apply reflection, creative thought, and assessment skills in evaluating and transforming   narratives and imagery into new psychological meaning that advances and sustains ethical, responsible, and collaborative relationships.

3. **Communication**

   Analyze, synthesize, and articulate complex information from a variety of ecological and psychological sources and perspectives and be able to communicate findings across sophisticated platforms (written, oral, digital, artistic).

4. **Ecological & Civic Literacy**

   Develop original approaches and applications that advance capabilities of justice, aesthetics, generosity, and inclusivity within interdependent ecological, social, and economic systems.

5. **Ecopsychological Sensibility**

   Respond aesthetically and with a behaved intelligence to interconnected ecological and sociological problems, advance ecopsychological approaches and practices toward change in narrative, behavior, and practices underpinning these issues.

6. **Transdisciplinary Synthesis**

   Demonstrate an advanced competency to employ principles and ideas from an ecological psychology across personal and professional contexts.

Doctor of Arts Program Curriculum

YEAR 1

ReWilding Experience (optional)

Fall Quarter

EEHUM 700 Ecopsychology I	3 Credits
EEHUM 701 Narrative Foundations of Ecopsychology	3 Credits
EEHUM 702 Body Ecologies	3 Credits

Winter Quarter

EEHUM 703 Ecopsychology II	3 Credits
EEHUM 704 Biogeography: Humans and Landscapes	3 Credits
EEHUM 705 Contemporary Cultural Narratives	3 Credits

ReWilding Experience

Spring Quarter

EEHUM 706 Ecopsychology III	3 Credits
EEHUM 707 Ecotoxicology	3 Credits
EEHUM 708 Business Ecologies	3 Credits
EEHUM 709 Omnibus I	4 Credits

YEAR 2

ReWilding Experience (optional)

Fall Quarter

EEHUM 800 Ecopsychology IV	3 Credits
EEHUM 801 Climate Crisis & Ecopsychological Applications	3 Credits
EEHUM 802 Image, Perception, & Narrative Change	3 Credits

Competency Examination 1 — 1 Credit

Winter Quarter

EEHUM 803 Ecopsychological Ethics	3 Credits
EEHUM 804 Ecopsychological Assessment	3 Credits
EEHUM 806 Research & Methodologies	5 Credits

Spring Quarter

EEHUM 807 Doctoral Project Formulation	5 Credits
EEHUM 808 Omnibus	5 Credits
EEHUM 809 Native Science	3 Credits

Competency Examination 2 — 1 Credit

YEAR 3

Fall Quarter
EEHUM 900 Ecopsychological Applications for Professional Life   4 Credits

EEHUM 901 Doctoral Capstone Project   20 Credits

Detailed information and timetables can be found in the *Capstone Project Handbook* on Populi / Capstone Project Resources and Support.

Time Commitment for Degree

Doctor of Arts students must complete three (3) quarters of coursework in no less than nine (9) months (Year 1); three (3) quarters of coursework in no less than nine (9) months (Year 2); one (1) quarter of coursework in Year 3 and the Doctoral Capstone Project. The maximum time to complete the program is 3 years (36 months).

Timeframe for DA Capstone Project Completion

Students will have twelve (12) months from the end of spring quarter of Year 2 to complete the Doctoral Capstone Project**.** In Year 3, students will enroll in EEHUM 901 Doctoral Capstone Project on June 15, with completion of the project by June 15 of Year 3.

For every three months that the student goes beyond the DA Capstone Project deadline and does not submit a completed Project and final, edited Project Report, a two-thousand-dollar fee will be assessed. After the second late project fee assessment, the doctoral committee will be dissolved and the student will be required to restart their clock, form a new committee, and pay the additional Doctoral Project Fee of $3500.   (see **General Services Fees**)**.** Detailed information and timetables can be found in the Capstone Project Handbook on Populi in Capstone Project Resources and Support.

Requirements for Graduation

1. Students must complete 90 quarter credits to fulfill the unit requirement for graduation.

2. Maintain a GPA of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale for graduate work completed at Viridis Graduate Institute.

3. Students must attend at least eight of the ten weeks of courses per quarter. See Attendance Policy, p. 58.

4. Students must successfully pass two written Competency Examinations at the end of the final quarter for Year 1 (November) and Year 2 (April).

5. Students must submit a successfully completed Doctoral Capstone Project to be approved by the Committee.

6. Oral Defense – students must successfully defend their Doctoral Project to their committee and Institution. Final approval and acceptance of the Doctoral Capstone Project by the Academic Dean and the President (on behalf of Viridis Graduate Institute and the Board of Trustees) represent the final steps in the completion of all requirements by the candidate for a Doctor of Arts degree (see **Capstone Project Handbook** for details)

The D.A. degree is awarded when the student has completed 68-quarter credits of coursework, successfully passed two Competency Exams (2 credits), and successfully completed and defended a Doctoral Project (20 credits) for a total of 90 quarter credits.

Doctoral Candidacy Policy

Doctoral candidates at VGI complete a Doctoral Capstone Project. In year 2, all doctoral students will take EEHUM 806 Research & Methodologies in the winter quarter and EEHUM 807 Doctoral Project Formulation in the spring quarter of Year 2. In Year 3, students will enroll in EEHUM 901 Doctoral Capstone Project.

If the student does not complete EEHUM 807 in the allotted course time, the Capstone Project clock remains active and the following applies:

1. Student will receive an "D" No PASS on their transcript for EEHUM 807.
2. Student is required to retake the course when next offered or as an Independent Study.
3. Student is required to pay the course tuition when retaking the course.
4. If student takes an Independent Study to complete the course, they must pay the course tuition plus the Independent Study Fee.
5. Extending the doctoral project beyond the third year will activate the Doctoral Capstone Project Extension fee. See General Services Fees.

Proctored Competency Examinations

The Proctored Competency Exams are posted to Populi at the end of the fall quarter for Year 2 (November) and spring quarter for Year 2 (April). The exams evaluate students' achievement of Program Learning Outcomes, understanding of theoretical perspectives, development of psychological capacities, and practical application pertaining to ecopsychology and environmental humanities, as well as their ability to apply what they have learned to a vocation of their choice. The exam also assesses students' ability to reflect on ecopsychology in relation to current ecological, economic, and socio-cultural issues. Proctoring is conducted by Viridis Graduate Institute and follows the same student verification process for both the masters and doctoral programs.

Study Guide for Distance Education and Graduate Studies

Students can access the general Study Guide for Distance Education and Graduate Studies in the Student Resources in Populi. Some courses require a specific study guide that may include terminology, guiding questions,

or thematic notes.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Populi (VGI Online Course Management System)

All course listings, educational material, readings, and weekly assignments are on Populi, a web-based platform. Once enrolled, students are emailed their **VIRIDIS WELCOME PACKET** that includes a Tech Sheet that provides all technology requirements, guidance, and personal login information for Populi access 24 hours/7 days a week.

ZOOM CLASSROOM

Primary Instruction Method: All online classes are in **synchronous real time** through Zoom technology. Zoom is easily and quickly uploaded by the student on their personal computer, mobile device or tablet. Zoom course links are posted on each course for quick reference.

In order to fulfill the requirements of Viridis Graduate Institute course curriculum, all students are expected to have, or have access to:
1. A personal computer (any device you will use for class) that is kept updated and has reasonable virus protection programs
2. VGI Gmail student email account
3. An appropriately working web camera for class meetings
4. Headset with microphone for online classes – **mandatory requirement
5. Reliable Internet connection for online classes (Ethernet connections for online class meetings)—**mandatory requirement

Once enrolled, students are emailed a **VIRIDIS WELCOME PACKET** that includes the **Technology Guide,** with instructions for how to upload Zoom on a personal computer or device.

Students and faculty are trained on using Zoom technology, navigating the Populi learning platform, and setting up their VGI Gmail account. To accomplish this, two separate orientations are delivered: **Student Orientation** and **Faculty Orientation**. These are held online via Zoom before the program start date. During orientations, both students and faculty are able to familiarize themselves with Zoom under staff guidance. This allows the opportunity to check for any technology issues before the program start date to ensure a smooth opening to the program.

STUDENT SERVICES
- Student Orientations
- Student IDs
- Step-by-Step Tech Guides for Zoom and Populi
- Secure Viridis Email account

- Graduate Research eLibrary access 24x7 days a week
- Student Gmail Accounts

Student Email Account

In order to help protect student privacy, all enrolled students receive a **Viridis email** account to be used for all email correspondence with Viridis Graduate Institute while enrolled.

Technology Training is provided at the **Fall Student Orientation** that takes place ONLINE via Zoom before the fall quarter begins. Students who may require additional assistance in Technology Training may schedule an appointment by calling 805-889-0169.

Viridis Graduate Institute Research eLibrary

The Graduate Research eLibrary can be accessed through Populi 24-hours a day with student Populi Login. The eLibrary provides access to thousands of diverse resources for students that are commensurate with graduate level research. As a member of several United Nation initiatives (IUCN, Economic and Social Council, ESD), and the American Library Association (ALA) Viridis Graduate Institute has access to databases, research articles, open access journals, and articles important for both the sciences and humanities. We continue to include open resources appropriate for higher education research and learning. The eLibrary includes categories that are cross-referenced for students to explore and expand their research possibilities and skills.

PROGRAM FINANCIAL INFORMATION

MASTER OF ARTS PROGRAM TUITION

Tuition 2022

Tuition and Fee rates are set annually and based on scheduled start date and continuous enrollment. Program tuition and fee rates will remain the same for the duration of the program with continuous enrollment. A separation in enrollment may result in a change in tuition and fee rates. Tuition covers access to all elements required in an educational offering.

Online Application fee $100 (Nonrefundable) – the student must submit the application fee when submitting the online Application form for their chosen program.

MA TUITION & FEES SUMMARY
54 Quarter Credits
Total Tuition: $12,420
Technology Fee: $500.00 ($250 per year) (Nonrefundable after 72 hours from program start date)
Masters Capstone Project Fee: $1500 (Nonrefundable after 72 hours from program start date)
TOTAL PROGRAM TUITION & FEES: $14,420

Students make convenient, manageable $0 interest payments that allow them to graduate with a degree and without debt.

MA TUITION & FEES PAYMENT SCHEDULE

TUITION & FEES		Cost per credit	Tuition	Fees	Tuition & Fees
Year 1 Credit Hours	32 credits	$ 230.00	$ 7,360.00		$ 7,360.00
Year 2 Credit Hours	22 credits	$ 230.00	$ 5,060.00		$ 5,060.00
Tech Fees year 1, 2				$ 500.00	$ 500.00
Masters Capstone Project Fee				$ 1,500.00	$ 1,500.00
TOTALS			$ 12,420.00	$ 2,000.00	$ 14,420.00
PAYMENT SCHEDULE					
Tuition		Due first of the month	20 Payments of $621.00		
Fees					
Tech Fee Year 1		Due 9/1 Year 1		$ 250.00	
Tech Fee Year 2		Due 9/1 Year 2		$ 250.00	
Masters Capstone Project Fee		Due 1/1 Year 2		$ 750.00	
		Due 4/1 Year 2		$ 750.00	
TOTAL TUITION & FEES			$ 12,420.00	$ 2,000.00	$ 14,420.00

TUITION PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The student agrees to make twenty (20) monthly payments of $621.00 dollars on the 1st of each month. Payments begin September 1.

FEE PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Technology Fee: Year 1 - The student agrees to make one payment of $250 due September 1.
Technology Fee: Year 2 - The student agrees to make one payment of $250 due September 1.
Masters Capstone Fee: Year 2 - The student agrees to make two (2) payments of $750.00 due January 1 and April 1 of Year 2.

Estimated Textbook Costs

The cost of textbooks is not included in the quoted tuition. You may purchase them from a vendor of your choice. Used and eBooks are acceptable. Textbooks costs are based on new book prices. Estimated books: $600.00 (based on new texts, used and electronic sources are acceptable).

Program Fees

MA Capstone Project fee covers faculty and administrative costs for support and time working with students throughout the process of their internship and thesis. An additional Thesis Extension Fee will be assessed for those who require additional time to complete the final thesis project.

Technology Fee: The technology fee covers technical staff and online technology required for a distance learning institute.

No Interest Fee $0: Viridis Graduate Institute does not charge interest on the balance owed on student payment plans.

DOCTOR OF ARTS PROGRAM TUITION

Tuition 2022

Tuition and Fee rates are set annually and based on scheduled start date and continuous enrollment. Program tuition and fee rates will remain the same for the duration of the program with continuous enrollment. A separation in enrollment may result in a change in tuition and fee rates. Tuition covers access to all elements required in an educational offering.

Online Application fee $100 (Nonrefundable) – the student must submit the application fee when submitting the online application form for their chosen program.

DA TUITION & FEES SUMMARY
90 Quarter Credits
Total Tuition: $20,700
Technology Fee: $750 ($250 per year) (Nonrefundable after 72 hours from program start date)
Doctoral Capstone Project Fee: $3,500 (Nonrefundable after 72 hours from program start date)
TOTAL TUITION & FEES: $24,950

Students make convenient and manageable $0 interest payments that allow them to graduate with a degree and without debt.

DA TUITION & FEES PAYMENT SCHEDULE

TUITION & FEES		Cost per credit	Tuition	Fees	Tuition & Fees
Year 1 Credit Hours	32 credits	$ 230.00	$ 7,360.00		$ 7,360.00
Year 2 Credit Hours	34 credits	$ 230.00	$ 7,820.00		$ 7,820.00
Year 3 Credit Hours	24 credits	$ 230.00	$ 5,520.00		$ 5,520.00
Tech Fees Year 1, 2, 3				$ 750.00	$ 750.00
Doctoral Capstone Project Fee Year 3				$ 3,500.00	$ 3,500.00
TOTALS			$ 20,700.00	$ 4,250.00	$ 24,950.00
PAYMENT SCHEDULE					
TUITION FEE			27 Payments of $740.00		
			1 Final Payment $720.00		
Fees					
Tech Fee Year 1		Due 9/1 Year 1		$ 250.00	
Tech Fee Year 2		Due 9/1 Year 2		$ 250.00	
Tech Fee Year 3		Due 9/1 Year 3		$ 250.00	
Doctoral Capstone Project Fee				$ 875.00	
Made in 4 payments				$ 875.00	
				$ 875.00	
				$ 875.00	
TOTAL TUITION & FEES			$ 20,700.00	$ 4,250.00	$ 24,950.00

TUITION PAYMENT SCHEDULE
The student agrees to make twenty-seven (27) monthly payments of $740.00 dollars and one (1) final payment of $720.00. Payments begin September 1.

FEE PAYMENT SCHEDULE
Technology Fee: Year 1 - The student agrees to make one payment of $250 due September 1.
Technology Fee: Year 2 - The student agrees to make one payment of $250 due September 1.
Technology Fee: Year 3 - The student agrees to make one payment of $250 due September 1.
Doctoral Capstone Project Fee: $3,500 Year 3 - The student agrees to make (4) four payments of $875 due July 1, August 1, September 1, and November 1.

Estimated Textbook Costs
The cost of textbooks is not included in the quoted tuition. You may purchase them from a vendor of your choice. Used and eBooks are acceptable. Textbooks costs are based on new book prices. Estimated books: $600.00 (based on new texts, used and electronic sources are acceptable).

Program Fees
DA Capstone Project fee covers faculty and administrative costs for support and time working with students throughout the process of their Doctoral Project. An additional Doctoral Project Extension Fee will be assessed for those who require additional time to complete the final doctoral project.

Technology Fee: The technology fee covers technical staff and online technology required for a distance learning institute.

No Interest Fee $0: Viridis Graduate Institute does not charge interest on the balance owed on student payment plans.

REWILDING EXPERIENCE - Optional

ReWilding Experiences are offered twice each year (Fall and Spring). A student may participate in any ReWilding offered. (F*ees are paid separately and are not calculated in tuition and fees).*

ReWilding Fee: determined by location

ReWildings take place in some of the most beautiful and endangered places in America—our National Parks. The trips are a highly recommended aspect of the degree programs. ReWildings encourage a continued education of the natural world and they are a lot of fun for students to get to know each other.

Lodging is included in the ReWilding fee and is based upon shared occupancy (two double beds per room / two students per room). If a student requires a private room, they must make their own room reservation and pay any extra room charge. The ReWilding fee still applies.

**Airfare and Meals are not included in the ReWilding fee. Students make their own convenient flight and transportation arrangements for each ReWilding. Meals are student's responsibility. ReWildings take place in National Parks where food is easily available.

Cancellation Policy: determined by location

ReWilding Zion National Park 2017

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

Satisfaction Policy

Satisfaction Policy: If for any reason you choose to discontinue your studies, Viridis Graduate Institute has established this cancellation and refund policy for your protection. Viridis Graduate Institute's refund and cancellation policies conform to the requirements of the Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education (R4-39-404), with the institution's accrediting body, the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC).

Federal Trade Commission Cancellation Notice

Cancellation Policy

Five-Day Cancellation: An applicant who provides written notice of cancellation within five (5) days (excluding Saturday, Sunday and federal and state holidays) of signing this enrollment agreement is entitled to a refund of all monies paid. No later than 30 days of receiving the notice of cancellation, the school shall provide the 100% refund.

Other Cancellations: An applicant requesting cancellation more than five (5) days after signing an enrollment agreement and making an initial payment, but prior to entering the school, is entitled to a refund of all monies paid, minus the online Application Fee of $100.00.

Time Based Refund Policy
Refund after the commencement of classes:

Procedure for withdrawal/withdrawal date:
- A student choosing to withdraw from the school after the commencement of classes is to provide written notice to the Office of the Registrar (vgi.registrar@viridis.edu). The notice is to indicate the expected last date of attendance and is to be signed and dated by the student.
- For a student who is on authorized Leave of Absence, the withdraw date is the date the student was scheduled to return from the Leave and failed to do so.
- A student will be determined to be withdrawn from the institution if the student has not attended any class for three (3) weeks out of the ten (10) week program.

All applicable refunds will be issued within 30 days of the determination of the withdrawal date.

Tuition charges/refunds:
Before the beginning of classes, the student is entitled to a refund of 100% of the tuition, minus the online Application Fee of $100.00.

After the commencement of classes, the tuition refund, minus the online Application Fee of $100.00 will be determined as follows:

Sample Refund Calculation

In the first quarter, each course is 3 credits at $230 per credit = $690 per course. All refund examples below assume that the student has paid in full prior to beginning the quarter.

Length of Quarter Term 10 weeks	Percentage of Tuition Returned to the Student Minus the Application Fee AFTER	
	1st week	80% of $690 = $552
	2nd week	60% of $690 = $414
	3rd week	40% of $690 = $276
	4th week	20% of $690 = $138
	5-10th week	0% No Refund.

A student may submit notice of cancellation or withdrawal in writing or by email. Enrollment cancellation may be conveyed to the Institute by email or post mail.

Email: vgi.registrar@viridis.edu
Mail: Viridis Graduate Institute, 3345 South Rural Rd., Tempe, AZ 85282

Holder in Due Course Statement:
Any holder of this consumer credit contract is subject to all claims and defenses which the debtor could assert against the seller of goods or services obtained pursuant hereto or with the proceeds, hereof Recovery hereunder by the debtor shall not exceed amounts paid by the debtor (FTC Rule effective 5-14-76).

Viridis Graduate Institute Right to Cancel
Prior to the Scheduled Start Date, Viridis Graduate Institute may terminate this agreement if the student has failed to meet application and admissions requirements, including, but not limited to, paying required online application fee, submission of all previous college transcripts, proof of completion of relevant degrees, or making arrangements for tuition payment, and any specific pre-enrollment requirements that apply to the above program. Failure to complete the above will constitute grounds for an automatic termination of this agreement if not corrected within 30 days of the Scheduled Start Date. After the Scheduled Start Date, the Institute may terminate this agreement if the student fails to meet Satisfactory Academic Progress, if the student violates VGI's policies for academic authenticity or its code of conduct for student behavior, a lack of academic activity, failure to establish academic verification at the beginning of a new term, or failure to pay tuition.

Tuition Refund Appeal

In the case of exceptional circumstances, students may make a tuition refund appeal by submitting a written explanation of the circumstances that warrants an exception to the published refund policy. Exceptional circumstances might include incapacitating illness or injury or unanticipated military service. Supporting documentation to verify the circumstance is required. All appeals should be sent to the Office of the Registrar at vgi.registrar@viridis.edu

Financial Aid

Viridis Graduate Institute does not participate in state or federal financial aid funded programs. Though the primary responsibility for education financing rests with the student, we encourage applicants to explore the following avenues of financial assistance

- **Viridis Graduate Institute's Interest-Free Tuition Payment Plan**
  - Annual Percentage Rate: 0%   (The cost of credit as a yearly rate)
  - Finance Charge: $0   (The dollar amount the credit will cost)

- **Employer Tuition Reimbursement Programs**

Form 1098-T

Viridis Graduate Institute does not participate in the Department of Education's Federal Student Aid programs, and does not file Form 1098-T, Tuition Statement.

Financial Probation and Suspension

It is Viridis Graduate Institute's policy that students' financial accounts must be current. If difficulties arise, appropriate arrangements must be made with the Registrar. Students who fail to complete satisfactory arrangements or who default on their financial arrangement are subject to financial suspension until the account is current. No transcripts or other documents, including course access or grade reports will be issued to students on financial suspension.

General Service Fees Not Included in Degree Program Tuition

Independent Study Course Fee	$350.00
Graduation Fee (due 60 days before graduation)	$50.00
Late Fee (on monthly payments)	$5.00
Official Transcript Fee	$10.00
Reactivation Fee	$50.00
Returned Check Fee	$30.00
Diploma Replacement	$75.00
Stripe Credit Card Convenience Fee	2.9%
Stripe ACH Fee	$5.00
Master Capstone Time Limit Fee	$500

For every three months that the student goes beyond the MA Capstone Project deadline and does not submit a completed Project and final, edited Project Report, a five-hundred-dollar fee will be assessed.

Doctoral Project Time Limit Fee $2,000

For every three months that the student goes beyond the DA Capstone Project deadline and does not submit a completed Project and final, edited Project Report, a two-thousand-dollar fee will be assessed. After the second late project fee assessment, the doctoral committee will be dissolved and the student will be required to restart their clock, form a new committee, and pay the additional Doctoral Project Fee of $3500.

ACADEMIC REGULATIONS & POLICIES

Academic Year

Quarter System - The Academic Calendar is 30 weeks of instructional time, three 10-week terms (fall, winter, and spring), and a minimum of 24 quarter credits per academic year.

The degree programs include thirty (30) weeks of instruction per quarter and thirty (30) contact hours of instruction/academic engagement/class time, plus a reasonable period of time outside class instruction for each of the 3-quarter unit courses.

Direct Faculty Contact

Students participate in **Synchronous Academic Class Sessions** on Zoom that are regularly scheduled direct learning sessions for two (2) hours per week for ten (10) weeks. As part of the 30 hours of instruction (for a 3-credit course), students are required to complete an additional 10 hours of asynchronous discussion group activities via computer-assisted academic instruction of listening to faculty recorded lectures, and/or making a post on the discussion board on the Populi course site, of not less than 10 hours per week.

Student discussion and discussion board posts responses demonstrate the movement toward attaining Student Learning Outcomes, Program Learning Outcomes, and the exchange of views, which enhance the learning process and as a proof of academic engagement.

In addition, students engage in 60 hours of planned outside academic study and research preparation in order to fulfill the required hours for a 3-credit course, for a total of 90 contact hours of total study. These requirements are clearly identified and explained on each course syllabus.

A duly qualified instructor, who is responsible for conducting all classes and the learning components in the course and program, leads each learning session. In the Master's program, all instructors are doctoral level faculty.

Quarter Credit Hour Defined
Viridis Graduate Institute quarter hours shall be equivalent to the commonly accepted and traditionally defined units of academic measurement in accredited institutions. Academic degree or academic credit-bearing distance learning courses are measured by the learning outcomes normally achieved through 45 hours of student work for one semester credit[1] or 30 hours of student work for one quarter credit[2].

This formula is typically referred to as a Carnegie unit and is used by the American Council on Education in its Credit Recommendation Evaluative Criteria.

[1]*One credit/semester hour is 15 hours of academic engagement and 30 hours of preparation.*
[2]*One quarter hour credit is 10 hours of academic engagement and 20 hours of preparation.*

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Viridis Graduate Institute encourages persistent efforts on the part of all students. The Institute expects each student to take full responsibility for their academic work and academic progress. A student's academic standing is expressed in terms of a grade point average (GPA), which is computed by dividing the total number of grade points by the total number of credit hours attempted. To progress satisfactorily and maintain an active standing, students must:

- Maintain a GPA of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale for graduate work completed at Viridis Graduate Institute
- Complete and pass a minimum of one course within a ten (10) week period or be enrolled in the MA or DA project sequence.
- Meet all of the requirements for each course for which enrolled. Students are expected to submit coursework and final assignments and to pursue their individual studies with diligence.

Students who are requesting re-entry into the Institute will return to the SAP status calculated at the time of withdrawal if they enroll within 1 year. Students who fail to maintain SAP are placed on Academic Probation and may be terminated from the program.

Assessment—Grading System

Students' final grades are assessed on the following:

VGI's Grading System

A	Outstanding	90-100 points	4.00
B	Commendable	80-89 points	3.00
C	Average	70-79 points	2.00
D	Deficient/No Pass	60-69 points	1.00
P	Pass		----
XF	Failure due to Academic Dishonesty		

Pass (P): Students can earn credit hours for a Pass, but the grade is not computed in a student's GPA.

Students must accumulate 70 points (C grade) or above to pass a course. Students with a "D" grade or 69 points and below will receive a "D" grade and No Pass mark and must retake the course in the quarter offered.

Class participation is evidenced qualitatively by student participation in Zoom classroom sessions, making discussion board postings, and delivering a final paper or presentation to the class. Any assignment that does not sufficiently meet the Student Learning Outcomes will be returned to the student with appropriate comments for revision. The student will have an opportunity to resubmit the revised assignment to the faculty.

Assessment Rubrics

All courses have associated Rubrics for grade assessment:
- Written Papers
- Presentations
- Online Discussion Board Posting

Attendance

Students are required to attend on Zoom a minimum of eight full meetings of any course that meets for ten weeks. Failure to attend at least eight class sessions will automatically result in a "D" NO PASS grade for that course. The student will receive a "D" NO PASS on the transcript until the course is retaken in the quarter offered.

In the case of a missed class, Viridis understands that emergencies can happen. The student should do their best to contact the instructor, Academic Dean, or President prior to the class. Listening and responding to class recordings may be used in an emergency situation to count as attendance.

Extensions

Viridis Graduate Institute recognizes there may be circumstances and events beyond a student's control that interrupt or impede measured progress toward course completion. In such cases, students may request an extension, as long as they have made satisfactory academic progress (SAP) and are current with their financial obligations. The following extensions are offered:

- **Incomplete**
  If a student cannot meet the requirement deadlines for a class due to an unforeseen circumstance, they can submit an Incomplete Request form by email to the instructor by the last class meeting (week 10). The instructor will verify with the student their request and assignment due date. The student will have an additional **ten (10) days** to finalize all course requirements and have the grade posted. A student may request a maximum of three (3) incompletes per academic year in which the student is enrolled (only one Incomplete per course).

- **Course Extension**
  If a student cannot complete all requirements for a course within the designated time frame due to an unforeseen circumstance, they may submit a Course Extension Request form by the last week of the quarter. The instructor will verify with the student their request and assignment due date. Students will have **thirty days (30) days** to complete course extensions. A maximum of three (3) course extensions may be requested per academic year (only one Course Extension per course).

If a student has exhausted all possible extensions (Incomplete, Course Extension), and has not completed the course, the following applies:

- Student will receive an "D" NO PASS on their transcript.
- Student is required to retake the course when next offered, or as an Independent Study.
- Student is required to pay the course tuition for any class that must be retaken.
- If student takes an Independent Study to complete the course, they must pay the course tuition plus the Independent Study Fee.

Leave of Absence Policy and Procedure

Continuous registration is required to remain an active student. A student who finds it necessary to interrupt studies at VGI may submit a **Request for Leave of Absence form** to the Registrar's Office at least 30 days in advance of the anticipated leave. **The request must state the reason and the expected date of return.**

A. A Leave of Absence must be approved by the Academic Dean. Reasons for requiring a leave often include bereavement, illness, caregiving, maternity, paternity, and call to active military duty. Additional documentation may be requested. Once the request has been approved by the Academic Dean, the Registrar will email the approved Leave of Absence form to the student.
B. Tuition and fees must be concurrent with earned credits at the time student requests the Leave of Absence.
C. The date the Registrar's Office receives the Leave of Absence Form constitutes the effective date of the leave.
D. A leave can be requested for no more than one school calendar year.
E. Upon return to the program, courses not completed in the sequenced curricula must be taken in the next quarter offered.
F. Tuition schedules may be affected.

While on a Leave of Absence, the following factors may apply:

- The sequential nature of the curriculum will be disrupted which may cause challenges in the re-entry phase, including the possibility of not being able to re-join the same cohort.
- Students may engage in an Independent Study with an instructor of which fees apply. An Independent Study must be approved by the faculty member.

Students are encouraged to discuss their plans with the Academic Dean or President before taking a Leave of Absence. In all other instances, students who know they will not meet the attendance requirements for the course will need to submit an Extension Form or Leave of Absence Form to the Registrar's Office who will notify the instructor and the Academic Dean. The Academic Dean will follow up with the student's request. Any course from which the student has not completed or withdrawn will have to be retaken in the next quarter that it is offered.

Withdraw from Academic Studies Policy

Students who have been withdrawn must apply for readmission through the Registrar's Office in order to reenter their program, and they will be subject to the degree requirements and handbook policies, including current tuition and fees, in effect at the time of their readmission.

A. A student choosing to withdraw from the school after the commencement of classes is to provide written notice to the Office of the Registrar (vgi.registrar@viridis.edu). The notice is to indicate the expected last date of attendance and be signed and dated by the student. This date will be used to calculate any refund of tuition based upon VGI's Refund Tuition Policy.
B. For a student who is on authorized Leave of Absence, the Withdraw date is the date the student was scheduled to return from the Leave and failed to do so.
C. A student will be determined to be withdrawn from the institution if the student has not attended any class for three (3) weeks out of the ten (10) week program.
D. All applicable refunds will be issued within 30 days of the determination of the withdrawal date.

Readmission

To resume academic studies at VGI, a student who has withdrawn from the program for more than one year must submit their online application to the Registrar's Office and sign a current Enrollment Agreement. The student will be subject to the current degree requirements and handbook policies, including tuition and fees, in effect at the time of their readmission. The Registrar will inform a student of their status and eligibility for re-enrollment.

Academic Probation and Suspension

When a student's cumulative grade point average falls below 3.00 or the student has failed to make satisfactory progress within ten (10) weeks in a course, probation occurs. A student on academic probation has a maximum of an additional sixteen (16) weeks to raise the cumulative average above the minimum standard, either by completing additional courses or repeating courses bearing inadequate grades or completing the required coursework within the sixteen (16) week time frame. When a course is repeated, the original grade is replaced by the subsequent course grade. The cost for repeating a course is determined by the tuition schedule outlined in the Financial Information section of the current university catalog. Academic suspension will follow only if a student is unable to return to satisfactory progress within sixteen (16) weeks. Suspended students may apply for readmission to the Institute after a period of one year. Receiving an academic probation or suspension in no way suspends any financial obligations students may have to Viridis Graduate Institute.

Dismissal of Delinquent Students

VGI reserves the right to request at any time the withdrawal of a student who cannot or does not maintain the

required standard of scholarship, or whose continuance would be detrimental to their health, or the health of others, or whose conduct is not satisfactory to the authorities of the Institute.

Academic Integrity Statement

VGI expects all students to complete assignments in accordance with the Academic Integrity Policy published in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the representation of someone else's writing, graphics, research, or ideas as one's own. Paraphrasing an author's ideas or quoting even limited portions of the work of others without proper citation are considered plagiarism. Plagiarism is a violation of the principle of intellectual integrity and inquiry and, as such, is taken seriously when it occurs. If there is any question about the nature of plagiarism, students are encouraged to meet with their course instructors for clarification.

Self-disclosure—Confidentiality Statement

VGI classes are interactive, drawing on the rich experiences of faculty and student alike. Often in the course of these discussions, information of a personal nature is shared. It is the expectation of VGI that such information will remain confidential, allowing all to share freely without fear of disclosure outside the classroom. Breaches of confidentiality damage the building of community and trust. There is no requirement that you disclose your personal history, and your grade will not be affected by your decisions not to disclose. It is, however, important to note that these disclosures may offer opportunities to expand how you understand human behavior and that anxiety is often a prerequisite for personal transformation.

Research
VGI is dedicated to research, evaluation, and education initiatives that advance VGI core values:
- The recognition that integrity, education, health, environment and quality of life are endogenous (proper) to a sustainable model of culture.
- A conscious understanding of the interconnection between environmental and human despoliation, which leads to poverty, social, economic and cultural degradation, injustice, and loss of habitat and species on the planet, and which can also lead to a more relational solution to these problems.
- Excellence in teaching and learning. VGI offers quality academic programs relevant to the needs of today's learners and embraces experiential learning by bridging academic outcomes with the real-world experience of all members of its learning community.
- Inquiry-based learning, participatory and active research, observation, reflection, and community building as essential tools for engaging the environmental, social, political, economic, and cultural challenges of our global communities.
- A commitment to mirroring in our Institution the core teaching principles of ecopsychology.

Our public service endeavors position us at the forefront of ecopsychology and sustainability policy formulation. Our distinctive approach informs all our work, including:
- Cultivating data for both the humanities and science;

- Researching and creating policy on ecological and social health services;
- Working with and for government health care agencies; and
- With the financial support of business and committed individuals, VGI aims to produce high-quality, insightful research that can help shape public and environmental policy.

Time Limitation

Though students determine their lesson completion goals and set their own study schedules, Viridis Graduate Institute expects students to actively pursue their studies and regularly submit coursework. Once enrolled for a program and courses begin, students follow the syllabus guidelines for when assignments are due. This is typically ten (10) weeks to finish course requirements, or twelve (12) days after the completion of the course.

Graduation

All degrees are conferred when the degree program is satisfactorily completed (See Graduation Requirements under Degree Programs). Sixty (60) days prior to the student's planned graduation date, the candidate must:
- Pay the $50 Graduation Fee.
- Satisfy any and all outstanding financial obligations to Viridis Graduate Institute.

Student Records and Transcripts

Each student's record will be made available, upon written request by the student, to employers and other duly authorized persons. Only official written transcripts bearing the school seal will be issued. A $10.00 transcript fee must accompany each request. A separate fee is required for each transcript recipient. Viridis Graduate Institute will not honor transcript requests of any student having a past-due financial obligation to the Institute. Transcripts from other institutions found in admission files cannot be reproduced for student use. These transcripts must be obtained directly from the other institutions.

Intellectual Property

Viridis Graduate Institute owns all proprietary rights, including patent, copyright, trade secret, and trademark rights to all Viridis Graduate Institute materials provided in conjunction with enrollment. No portion of the materials may be copied or otherwise duplicated, nor may the materials be distributed or transferred to any other person or entity. The materials are for the use of the individual student in Viridis Graduate Institute degree or nondegree programs. Any other use of the materials violates the enrollment agreement and the intellectual property policy.

Intellectual property rights are held by the faculty member unless the intellectual property was created by Viridis Graduate Institute or there is a separate individual agreement that a faculty member has made with the Institute. Students engaging in MA and DA Capstone Project research at Viridis Graduate Institute own the copyright to their finished work. Students are expected to include correct and appropriate citations of VGI educational materials.

Respectful Learning

Viridis Graduate Institute is committed to ensuring a safe, respectful, and supportive online environment for the learning process. This involves creating a learning space in which participants—both instructors and students—can explore and express ideas and points of view as part of the process of engaged learning.

Fundamental to this learning process is a respect for diversity. Because every person brings very particular histories, experiences, and ways of knowing to the class, each student can benefit from an authentic interaction with another. Discussion and debate depend on an appropriate degree of respect for all persons involved and for the distinct experiences that they bring. In order to achieve this sort of learning environment, students must recognize their responsibility for the success of the learning experience of the class as a whole.

Student Privacy Rights (FERPA)

Viridis Graduate Institute is committed to ensuring student privacy. We require our employees to keep students' personal information confidential. We authorize access to personal information to employees and faculty only after a student has enrolled in VGI, and only when that information is needed for employees and faculty to perform their duties (further explained below). We safeguard personal information through electronic, procedural, and physical means.

Viridis Graduate Institute honors the privacy of our students. In accordance with federal and state law, VGI protects the confidentiality of education records and the rights of students to inspect and review these records. Specific student transcript information is not available for general statistical purposes. Information that VGI collects may be released only upon written request by the student. Viridis Graduate Institute does not sell or rent any personal data to any third parties. Federal law allows students to access their educational records and limits the ability of others to access those records. The law is called the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, or FERPA. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. Official transcripts carry the seal of Viridis Graduate Institute and the signature of its Registrar. In Accordance with the Family Education Rights Privacy Act of 1974, the Institute does not grant any other party access to this information without the written consent of the student/graduate.

Student Grievance

Viridis Graduate Institute strives to provide more than instruction or student services; we hope to also provide a sense of community, open communication and support for each student. Should an issue be brought to our attention, Viridis Graduate Institute will take appropriate action to seek resolution. VGI policy requires that the student first make every effort to discuss and resolve the issue in question with the other party involved. If necessary, Viridis will facilitate a conversation between student and other party to resolve the issue. If a student feels that they have been treated unfairly or unjustly by staff or faculty with regard to an academic process such as grading, testing, or assignments, the student must submit a written statement of the grievance to Dr. Lori Pye, President of Viridis Graduate Institute at viridis@viridis.edu. The President will meet with the Grievance Committee and the student to find a satisfactory resolution to the issue. This Committee provides a hearing for the individual bringing the complaint, makes recommendations to remediate the complaint, and, if the

individual still is not satisfied, the Committee will submit the grievance and recommendations to the Board of Trustees Executive Committee. The student's grievance will be assessed within 30 days.

Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education Grievance Procedure
If a complaint cannot be resolved after exhausting Viridis Graduate Institute's grievance procedure, the student may file a complaint with the Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education (pursuant to Arizona Administrative Code Rule R4-39-403). The student must contact the State Board for further details: Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education:
1740 West Adams, Third Floor, Phoenix, AZ 85007
Telephone: 602.542.5709. Website: https://ppse.az.gov/complaint

Distance Education Accrediting Commission Complaint Resolution Process
Viridis Graduate Institute is accredited by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC). Students may also file a grievance or complaint with the Distance Education Accrediting Commission through their Online Complaint System, which enables individuals to file a complaint directly from the DEAC website. The complaint form may be found at https://www.deac.org/Student-Center/Complaint-Process.aspx. All complaints should be submitted using this form.
DEAC: 1101 17th Street, N.W., Suite 808, Washington, D.C. 20036, Phone: 202.234.5100.
Website: www.deac.org

SARA Complaint Resolution Process
The Arizona SARA Council has jurisdiction over Arizona SARA-approved institutions including Viridis Graduate Institute in relation to non-instructional complaints. Instructional complaints, such as grade grievances, are not reviewed by the Council and should not be submitted for review. Prior to registering a non-instructional complaint with the Arizona SARA Council, the student/complainant must complete Viridis Graduate Institute's and the Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education's complaint process, as listed above. Distance education students who have completed the internal institutional grievance process and the applicable state grievance process may appeal non-instructional complaints to the AZ SARA Council.

AZ SARA Complaint Eligibility
To file a complaint against an Arizona SARA Council-approved institution, you must meet the following requirements:

- File within two years of the incident about which the complaint is made.
- Complete the institutional complaint process prior to submission with the Council.
- Complete the applicable state complaint process prior to submission with the Council: AZPPSE-Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education Complaints
- The complaint must be a formal assertion in writing that the terms of SARA, or of laws, standards or regulations incorporated by SARA, are being violated by a person, institution, state, agency or other organization or entity operating under the terms of SARA.
- You are a student of an Arizona SARA Council-approved institution.

For additional information on the complaint process, please visit the AZ SARA complaint page: https://azsara.arizona.edu/complaints

Job Placement Disclaimer

Viridis Graduate Institute does not guarantee job placement, advancement, or continued   employment to graduates upon program completion or upon graduation. The Institute   does not provide any occupational assistance.

Student Honor Code

Viridis Graduate Institute is committed to building a vibrant, diverse and inclusive educational ecosystem that promotes learning and the free exchange of ideas. Our academic and learning communities are based on the expectation that participants uphold the shared goal of honesty, integrity, and pride in one's own academic efforts and respectful treatment of the academic efforts of others. All students are expected to submit a signed copy of the honor code and to comply with all institutional and academic policies.

As a student of Viridis Graduate Institute, I recognize that in the pursuit of my educational goals and aspirations I have certain responsibilities toward my fellow distance learners, my Institute, instructors, administration, and myself.

I will observe fully the standards, rules, policies, and guidelines established by VGI, the Distance Education Accrediting Commission, the State Education Agency, and other appropriate organizations serving an oversight role for my Institute.

I will adhere to high ethical standards in the pursuit of my education, and to the best of my ability will:
- *Conduct myself with professionalism, courtesy, and respect for others in all of my dealings with the VGI instructors, administration, and other students.*
- *Present my qualifications and background truthfully and accurately for admission to the institute.*
- *Observe the Institute's policies and rules on submitting work, completing oral and written examinations, participating in discussions, and conducting research.*
- *Never turn in work that is not my own or present another person's ideas or scholarship as my own.*
- *Never improperly use, destroy, forge, or alter my Institute's documents, transcripts, or other records.*
- *(When applicable) Never divulge my online username or password.*

Academic Honesty

VGI requires students to act with integrity and maintain a code of honor in all academic and institutional matters. If, however, it is deemed that a student has violated this code of honor, the following acts shall constitute academic dishonesty:

1. Cheating of any kind: Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise.
2. Fabrication: Intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.

- Falsification of any oral or written examination, record, assignment, or report.
- Representing oneself as another student for the purpose of taking an examination or allowing oneself to be represented by another for the same reason.
- Furnishing false or misleading information to school officials or on official records.
- Forging, altering or misusing the school name, the name of school employees, documents, records, or identification.

3. Facilitating Academic Dishonesty: Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to violate any provision of the Honor Code:
   - Collaborating with another student during an oral or written examination without permission.
   - Collusion by obtaining or giving another student unauthorized assistance with coursework.
   - Knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, or soliciting contents of an oral or written examination, record, assignment, or report.
   - Representing oneself as another student for the purpose of taking an examination or allowing oneself to be represented by another for the same reason.
   - Using any technology to infringe upon the rights of others.
   - Using technology (or verbally threatening to do so) to take any action that endangers or impairs the safety, health, life, or freedom of any person affiliated with Viridis Graduate Institute.
   - If it is determined by a student's Instructor, VGI Faculty, or any other staff member, that willful plagiarism has occurred, the student will receive a grade of XF (failure due to academic dishonesty).

4. Plagiarism: Intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise.
   - Plagiarism.
   - Using material not authorized by the Institute's curriculum to complete an assignment or oral and written examination without permission.
   - Knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, or soliciting contents of an oral or written examination, record, assignment, or report.
   - If plagiarism re-occurs, the student's enrollment at VGI may be suspended.

INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES

Non-Discrimination
Viridis Graduate Institute admits students of any race, color, national origin, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at VGI. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship programs, and other school-administered programs.

Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance
It is the policy of Viridis Graduate Institute to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Viridis Graduate Institute is an Equal Opportunity Educational institution and is committed to providing access to students with disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). VGI will provide auxiliary aids and services to students with hearing, speech or vision impairments in accordance with 28 C.F.R. 36.303, and otherwise make reasonable modifications to its policies and practices in accordance with 28 C.F.R. 36.302, in order that its programs are accessible to individuals with a disability. If you have a need for auxiliary aids or services, or other modifications please contact Viridis Graduate Institute Office of the Registrar at: vgi.registrar@viridis.edu.

Applicants, prospective students, or current students with disabilities have the following rights and responsibilities:
- Have the right to equal access to all programs.
- Disability records will be maintained separately from academic records; disability records will be used solely to determine appropriate services.
- Have the responsibility to give advance notification of accommodations needed prior to the beginning of enrollment.
- Have the responsibility to submit both documentation of their disability and a request for services.
- Have the responsibility to initiate the request for services or accommodations; requests should be addressed to the Registrar (vgi.registrar@viridis.edu). Students must communicate to the Registrar the nature of their disability and any necessary and reasonable accommodations to allow them full participation in programs.
- Students must meet the requirements of the academic program of study with or without reasonable accommodation.

Students are encouraged to disclose and submit a **Special Needs Request Form** for any disability requiring accommodation immediately following enrollment and prior to starting classes. All students seeking accommodation under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or the ADA must submit documentation of the physical or mental disability from qualified medical or testing personnel.

Academic Freedom
The responsible academic community must welcome the conflict of ideas likely to ensue from diverse ideas and backgrounds. Academic responsibility provides an opportunity for expression of diverse points of view that in turn generates academic freedom.

This same policy provides for faculty the freedom to research, publish, lecture, and conduct demonstrations in their field of expertise while urging faculty responsibility for the accuracy, sound judgment, and respect for the rights of others to express opinions.

Sexual Harassment

It is the goal of Viridis Graduate Institute to promote an educational environment, whether online or face-to-face at VGI residencies, that is free of sexual harassment. Sexual harassment of students, faculty, or staff occurring anywhere in the Viridis Graduate Institute environment is unlawful and will not be tolerated. Further, any retaliation against an individual who has complained about sexual harassment, or retaliation against individuals for cooperating with an investigation of a sexual harassment complaint is similarly unlawful and will not be tolerated.

Gender-based Discrimination

Viridis Graduate Institute promotes an educational environment that is free of gender-based discrimination. Gender-based discrimination is unlawful and will not be tolerated. Further, any retaliation against an individual who has complained about gender-based discrimination, or retaliation against individuals for cooperating with an investigation of a gender-based discrimination complaint is similarly unlawful and will not be tolerated. Any inappropriate conduct will be dealt with if encountered by students, faculty, or staff.

Student Change of Address

It is the responsibility of the student to notify VGI with regard to any change of physical address, contact phone numbers, and/or email address. All correspondence will be sent to student's VGI Gmail account during the time of academic enrollment.

Student ID Numbers and ID Cards

Student ID cards are issued to all enrolled students. The identification number is used on all official student records. Students may request replacement ID cards if lost by contacting the Office of the Registrar.

Requesting Official Transcripts

To request an official transcript, complete the official Transcript Request Form available on Viridis Graduate Institute website, and submit it to **vgi.registrar@viridis.edu,** including a $10.00 fee.

Educational Records

FERPA applies to all records that fall within its broad definition of "educational records." Student educational records at Viridis Graduate Institute include all records directly related to a student that are maintained by or for Viridis Graduate Institute. Records can be in any medium, including handwritten notes, paper files, email, electronic files, video, or audio files. The records are not limited to those in "official' files and include records maintained in any Viridis Graduate Institute office or file. With limited exceptions, a student can see their educational record at Viridis Graduate Institute that is directly related to that student during normal business hours and when requested in advance.

Record Retention Policy

Viridis Graduate Institute manages data in an efficient and effective manner, maintains historical records related to its financial and administrative operations, and purges documents as part of its normal management process. The institution maintains an electronic set of documents and a second set of all academic and financial records required by law at a different location, which are maintained in a fire-resistant locked file cabinet. All records that the Institution maintains are be made immediately available by the Institution for inspection and copying during normal business hours by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education and any entity authorized to conduct investigations.

- Student Records Retention Period: Permanent
- Corporate Records: Permanent
- Finance & Administration, Insurance, Human Resources / inactive, Technology: 7 years
- Advertising—(a) flyers, brochures, newspaper, and other print advertisements, (b) scripts for, and audio and video recordings of, broadcast advertisements, and (c) internet content, and (d) scripts for telephone solicitations: 5 years.

The institution shall maintain a file for each student who enrolls in the institution whether or not the student completes the educational service. In addition, the file shall contain all of the following pertinent student records:

- Written records and transcripts of any formal education or training, testing, or experience that are relevant to the student's qualifications for admission to the institution;
- Personal information regarding a student's age, address, birth date, and social security number that has been voluntarily supplied by the student;
- Copies of all documents signed by the student, including Student Enrollment Agreements, Student Tuition Statements;
- For independent study courses, course outlines or learning contracts signed by the faculty and administrators who approved the course;
- Capstone Projects and other student projects submitted by graduate students are housed in student electronic files;
- A document showing the total amount of money received from or on behalf of the student and the date or dates on which the money was received;
- A document specifying the amount of a refund, including the amount refunded for tuition and the amount for other itemized charges, the method of calculating the refund, the date the refund was made, and the name and address of the person or entity to which the refund was sent;
- Copies of any official advisory notices or warnings regarding the student's progress; and
- Complaints received from the student.

Cyber Security Training

Students, faculty, and staff are required to take **Cyber Security Training** (included in Student and Faculty Welcome Packets) and agree to adhere to the following policy:

- Students, faculty, and staff are required to read and follow recommendations made in the Cyber Awareness Training and submit a signed copy of the completed Cyber Awareness Training.
- Students, faculty, and staff are required to communicate with each other, share non-personal data, or submit assignments using Viridis Gmail accounts.
- Faculty and students are required to communicate on all course and assignment questions, requesting information, or sharing ideas using Viridis Gmail accounts.
- Students, faculty, and staff are required to change VGI passwords periodically.
- Students are required to follow the Ethical Computer Use Institutional Policy found in the Catalog and Student Handbook.

Executive Staff only
- The Executive Team will encrypt all student educational records that are shared electronically, housed on personal computers or housed on Populi.
- Viridis Graduate Institute does not share student data, information, or educational records with anyone. ONLY the student may request information pertaining to their educational records as stated in FERPA Laws in VGI Institutional Policies.

Student's Rights:
- Instruction by unfettered teachers
- Access to all information pertinent to the subject of study
- Freedom to select their internships and associates
- Intellectual disagreement with instructors and associates without fear of reprisal

Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure adopted by the American Association of Institute Professors and the Association of American Colleges. Policy V530.2 provides further protection of students' freedom of expression:
- The professor should encourage free discussion, inquiry, and expression. Student performance is to be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards.
- Students are free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled.
- Students are protected through academic grievance procedures from capricious grading or other retaliatory action.

Website Privacy
Upon visiting the VGI website, the only personal information VGI collects is the information voluntarily provided by students or prospective students through our online inquiry or application forms. Any personally identifiable information collected on this website is used by VGI to contact interested parties about the Institute's programs, administer application to the Institute, and provide additional information as needed, potentially including contact via phone or email.

VGI will not release, sell, rent, or trade personal information gathered on the website to any third party for the promotion of other services or products. VGI will collect anonymous non-personally identifiable information about website visits through pixel tags, sometimes known as cookies. These tags help us track information about each visit and are used to help us better design online ads via the Internet.

How we treat personal information of students
Personal information (including email addresses) of students will never be shared with third parties. Student information will not be shared outside Viridis Graduate Institute.

Opt-Out Policy
At any time, parties have the option and the right to request that VGI discontinue further communications via email, phone, or direct mail.

To opt out by email: To opt out by phone:
viridis@viridis.edu   Call 805-889-0169

Copyright/Educational Fair Use
Faculty members of VGI are responsible for observing the laws concerning the use of copyrighted material. Section 107 of the Federal Copyright Law Revision of 1978 provides that fair use of a copyrighted work for purposes such as teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research, is not an infringement of copyright.

Copyright laws and statutes are complicated. The four statutory criteria used to determine whether the use made of a work in any particular case is a fair use are as follows:
1. The purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational uses;
2. The nature of the copyrighted work;
3. How substantial a portion is used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole; and
4. The effect of the use upon the potential market.

Student – Faculty Relations
The relationship between student and faculty is a unique and special one. VGI encourages faculty to give encouragement, appropriate feedback, and support to each student in order to inspire them in their studies. However, students must respect the ethical boundaries between professor and student and conduct themselves professionally at all times. VGI requires that *both* the student and faculty member be responsible for enforcing these boundaries. It is important for students to contact the Academic Dean in order to further clarify if a questionable situation should arise. If a breach of these boundaries occurs for any reason, even if it is initiated by a faculty member, students must contact the Academic Dean immediately. The situation will be reviewed by the executive staff immediately.

Confidentiality
Faculty and staff are responsible for safeguarding confidential information obtained in connection with their

employment. In the course of teaching, students may have access to confidential information regarding VGI; it is their responsibility not to reveal or divulge any such information. Anyone violating this policy may be disciplined by VGI.

Academic Policy Violations

Any violations, complaints, grievances, or questionable behavior with regards to Viridis Graduate Institute's academic policies will be referred to the Grievance Committee for review and recommendation for action. The appeal of the committee's recommendation is referred to the President, who has the final decision.

Ethical Computer Use

All students have the responsibility for ethical computer use. This means that users agree to abide by the following conditions and any other situations that require common sense. If students have any questions about what constitutes ethical computer use beyond what is mentioned here, they have a responsibility to inquire with VGI administration before proceeding or be subject to a policy violation.

1. The integrity of the systems must be respected. Users of VGI systems (Populi, VGI Gmail, Zoom) will not divulge passwords, pins, private keys or similar elements to anyone else, and they will not exploit sessions left open or otherwise misappropriate or steal the "identity" of another user.
2. Privacy of other users must not be intruded upon at any time.
3. Users must recognize that certain data are confidential and must not share that information.
4. The rules and regulations governing the use of VGI Internet and Gmail access must be respected.
5. Persons responsible for computing devices connected to the network will ensure that those devices are maintained in a secure state in accord with related policy.
6. No one shall obtain unauthorized access to other users' accounts and files.
7. The intended use of all accounts, typically for VGI instruction and administrative purposes, must be respected.
8. Commercial use is prohibited.
9. Users shall become familiar with and abide by the guidelines for appropriate usage for the systems and networks that they access.
10. Students specifically agree that they will not utilize email addresses obtained through using Viridis Graduate Institute's services (VGI Gmail) to transmit the same or substantially similar unsolicited messages to 10 or more recipients in a single day, unless such messages specifically pertain to coursework and are communication to a teacher, faculty members, or other students.
11. Students are responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of all of their login identification, name/numbers, passwords, and similar information. Students must immediately notify Viridis Graduate Institute of any unauthorized use of their registration name/numbers, passwords, or similar information.

Online Etiquette

Distance Education via the World Wide Web presents communicators with an ethical task. When participating in Distance Education, it is important to remember several points of etiquette that will smooth communication

between the students and their instructors:

1. Avoid language that may come across as strong or offensive. Language can be easily misinterpreted in written communication. If a point must be stressed, review the statement to make sure that an outsider reading it would not be offended, and then post the statement. Humor and sarcasm may easily be misinterpreted as well, so try to be as matter-of-fact and professional as possible.
    Note: Non-violent Communication is an important component of Viridis Graduate Institute's communication practice.
2. Keep writing to a point and stay on topic. Online courses require a lot of reading. When writing, keep sentences poignant and brief so that readers do not get lost in wordy paragraphs and miss the point of the statement.
3. Read first, write later. It is important to read all posts or comments of students and instructors within the course discussion before personally commenting to prevent repeating commentary or asking questions that have already been answered.
4. Review, review, then send. There is no taking back a comment once it has been sent, so it is important to double-check all writing to make sure that it clearly conveys the exact intended message.
5. An online classroom is still a classroom. Though the courses may be online, appropriate classroom behavior is still mandatory. Respect for fellow classmates and Instructors is mandatory at VGI.
6. The language of the Internet. Though still a fairly young type of communication, certain aspects of this form of communication are becoming conventional. For example, do not write using all capital letters, because it will appear as shouting. Language should be respectful at all times.
7. Consider the privacy of others. Do not give out a classmate's email address or other information.
8. Keep attachments small. If it is necessary to send pictures, change the size to an acceptable 100k.
9. No inappropriate material. Do not forward virus warnings, chain letters, jokes, etc., to classmates or instructors. The sharing of pornographic or any form of discriminatory or inflammatory material is forbidden.

Drug & Alcohol Use

Viridis Graduate Institute prohibits the use of alcohol, drugs, drug activity and/or paraphernalia used in illicit drug activity by any of its students, faculty, or administration at all ReWilding activities, or any other of its activities. Any violation of this policy will result in immediate dismissal from Viridis Graduate Institute's programs.

INSTITUTIONAL POLICY VIOLATIONS

Sexual Harassment

It is unlawful to harass a person because of that person's sex. Harassment can include sexual harassment or unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical harassment of a sexual nature. Harassment does not have to be of a sexual nature, however, and can include offensive remarks about a person's sex. For example, it is illegal to harass a woman by making offensive comments about women in general. Both victim and the harasser can be either a woman or a man, and the victim and harasser can be the same sex.

Gender-based Discrimination

Gender discrimination means discrimination based on a person's gender or sex. Gender discrimination involves treating someone unfavorably because of that person's sex. Sexual discrimination also can involve treating someone less favorably because of their connection with an organization or group that is generally associated with people of a certain sex. Discrimination against an individual because of gender identity, including transgender status, or because of sexual orientation is discrimination because of sex in violation of Title IX.

If any student believes that they have been subject to sexual harassment or gender-based discrimination in any form, they have a right to file a complaint, either written or oral, to the President of Viridis Graduate Institute. The complaint should include dates, times, places, witnesses, and specifics of what was said and done to whom and by whom. All complaints will be kept confidential to the extent permitted by law and will be revealed only on a "need to know" basis (i.e. access to the information is necessary to the investigation and/or the safety of the accused and the accuser or required by law).

A complaint of sexual harassment or gender-based discrimination will be promptly investigated by the President in a fair and expeditious manner to ascertain if there is enough evidence to report to the Grievance Committee. If so, the committee will convene to review the complaint and make its recommendations to the President. If dissatisfied with the resolution, the person against whom the complaint was filed or the person who filed the complaint may appeal to the President, who will take the issue to the Board of Trustees Executive Committee. The appeal will be based upon the written complaint and response contained in the investigative record of the Grievance Committee. The appeal should be resolved within ten (10) business days of the date of the filing of the appeal. The decision of the Executive Committee will be final, and no more appeals will be granted.

All Other Institutional Policy Violations

Any other violations, complaints, grievances, or questionable behavior in regard to Viridis Graduate Institute's institutional policies will be referred to the Grievance Committee for review and recommendation for action. The appeal of the committee's recommendation is referred to the President, who has the final decision.

DEGREE PROGRAM TERM DATES

All degree programs are designed to comply with Viridis Graduate Institute's admission policy. A student's term begins upon Fall enrollment in a program and culminates with graduation. Term length will vary depending on the program selected. Individual courses must be completed within a maximum of ten (10) weeks, three courses per each quarter.

Courses assignments are due **twelve (12) days** after the class end date. Instructors have **ten (10)** days after assignment due date to submit final Assessment to Office of the Registrar (vgi.registrar@viridis.edu).

Academic Calendar with TERM DATES – on POPULI

ReWilding Denali National Park, AK. 2017

STAFF AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Viridis Graduate Institute
Administrative Office
3345 South Rural Road,
Tempe, AZ 85282-5404
Phone: (011) 805-889-0169
Email: viridis@viridis.edu
Website: www.viridis.edu

Executive Staff

President, Chief Academic Officer
Lori Pye, Ph.D.
lori.pye@viridise.edu
Phone: 805-889-0169

Vice-President
Ann Vermeer, D.A.
ann.vermeer@viridis.edu

Academic Dean
Leslie Stoupas, Ph.D.
leslie.stoupas@viridis.edu

Office of the Registrar
vgi.registrar@viridis.edu

Director of IT
Populi Administration

VGI Faculty
Gregory Cajete, Ph.D.
Director of Native American Studies and an Associate Professor in the Division of Language, Literacy and Sociocultural Studies in the College of Education at the University of New Mexico.
Gregory.cajete@viridis.edu

Andra Daunhauer, D.A.,
Doctor of Arts in Ecological Psychology and Environmental Humanities, Viridis Graduate Institute
M.S., Child and Family Studies ~ Wheelock College: Boston, MA
B.A., Psychology & minor in Religious Studies ~ Indiana University: Bloomington, IN
andra.daunhauer@viridis.edu

Hans Gruenn, M.D.
Medical Doctorate, University of Heidelberg, Germany
drg@lmcla.com

Lori Pye, Ph.D.
Ph.D., Mythological Studies with an Emphasis in Depth Psychology,
Pacifica Graduate Institute, Carpinteria, CA.
Bachelor of Science, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.
lori.pye@viridis.edu

Laura Rodriguez, D.A.
Doctor of Arts in Ecological Psychology and Environmental Humanities, Viridis Graduate Institute
Juris Doctor (J.D.), Ohio State University
M.A., Geography, University of Chicago
laura.rodriguez@viridis.edu

Robin Saltonstall, Ph.D.
Ph.D., Medical Sociology (Integrative Health), University of California, San Francisco Medical School
M.P.A. Science and Technology Policy, University of Washington Evans School of Public Policy and Governance
B.A. Geography and Geoscience, minor in Medieval Studies, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
robin.saltonstall@viridis.edu

Alissa Simon, D.A.
Doctor of Arts, Harrison Middleton University; Tempe, AZ.
M.A. in Comparative Literature, Arizona State University; Tempe, AZ.
Bachelor of Arts in English Literature (*cum laude*)
Bachelor of Arts in Spanish Literature (*cum laude*), University of New Mexico; Albuquerque, NM.
alissa.simon@viridis.edu

Leslie Stoupas, Ph.D.
Ph.D., Mythological Studies with an Emphasis in Depth Psychology,
Pacifica Graduate Institute, Carpinteria, CA.
M.A. English, Western Washington University
B.A. English, University of Colorado, Boulder
Secondary Major: Philosophy
leslie.stoupas@viridis.edu

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DISCLAIMERS

Disclaimer Notice
The Viridis Graduate Institute Catalog and its provisions do not constitute a contract between VGI and any party or parties. Every reasonable effort is made to ensure the factual accuracy of the information contained in the Catalog. VGI reserves the right to make any changes, deletions, or revisions it deems necessary to the policies, procedures, rules, regulations, academic requirements, and tuition and fees set out in the Catalog. VGI reserves the right to make changes and additions to the information in the Catalog without prior notice. Students will be informed of all changes in a timely manner.
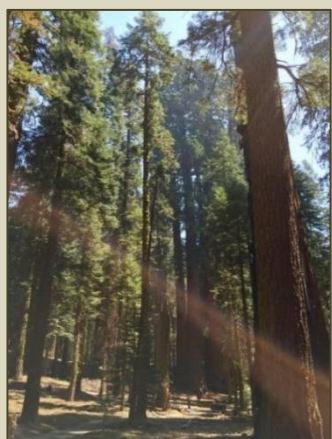
Viridis Graduate Institute has never had a pending petition in bankruptcy, operated as a debtor in possession, or has had a petition in bankruptcy filed against it that resulted in reorganization under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code.

Viridis, *Latin for "green, to sprout" or the notion of "green life," promises to be one of the most important and visionary movements in this day of profound change. If you are a conscious, awake and participatory citizen today, you must be engaged in the preservation of culture, and of our planet and its beautiful natural world. Viridis Graduate Institute stands out as an educational organization that appreciates both the ecological and the psychological dimensions involved in this effort.* –Thomas Moore, Author, *Care of the Soul.*

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DEGREE PROGRAM COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

YEAR 1

FALL QUARTER   **Sept – Nov**

ReWilding Experience - Optional (September)

EEHUM 700 Ecopsychology I   3 Credits
Description
Ecological Psyche, Energy, Composting
This course introduces the ecological psyche and what co-constitutes and co-shapes its continuous sympoiesis. Energy is the main ecological process examined in this course along with processes of decay and renewal (composting) found in both ecological and psychological systems. Earth's linked spheres (atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and lithosphere) in relation with biogeochemical cycles and all lifeforms depend on the constant exchange of energy. Earth's resources are finite. There are limits to growth and resources.

The human organism also depends upon constant exchanges of energy—biological, physical, emotional, and psychological. The human psyche circulates energy in the form of narratives, beliefs, and practices. Human energy and resources are finite. Understanding how we psychologically exchange and circulate energy is critical to the flourishing of our psychic ecosystem and the culture.

EEHUM 701 Narrative Foundations of Ecopsychology   3 Credits
Description
Ecopsychology traces its roots to a rich history of human inquiry about the idea of nature through a variety of mythological, philosophical, and cultural traditions and the narratives and practices that result. Students will begin to consider how these traditions and perspectives continue to permeate contemporary culture's attitudes, decision-making, and practices.

EEHUM 702 Body Ecologies   **3 Credits**
Description
This course takes a distinctively ecopsychological approach to the exploration of nonhuman and human bodies, including land and water bodies. Students explore diverse ecological and psychological aspects to nonhuman and human expression, identity, and behavior. Students examine new evolutionary theory of "social selection" (as opposed to sexual selection), and how bias, binary constructs, and notions of "natural normativity" in science and human society perpetuate human exceptionalism and distort our understanding of nature.

EEHUM 703 Ecopsychology II   3 Credits
Description
Diversity & Multiplicity
In Ecopsychology II, students examine ecological and psychological diversity and multiplicity. All ecosystems require diversity to flourish. Greater diversity and multiplicity promotes resilience and responsiveness to surprise, stressors, and disturbances. The human ecosystem requires psychological diversity and multiplicity of ideas, curiosity, and imagination. Ecopsychological diversity cultivates complexity, flexibility, and capacity to work with uncertainty and contraries. Multiplicity allows for resilience, the recognition of opportunity, and the ability to respond responsibly to surprises, stressors, and disturbances.

EEHUM 704 Biogeography: Humans & Landscape   3 Credits
Description
Biogeography is the study of the variation of patterns in species diversity and distribution across numerous habitats, which are linked by the evolutionary history of the animals and plants within them. This course explores the study of place and landscape as inseparable from every organism, including the human species. Students will research Earth's biogeographical regions; eight different habitats (forest, ocean, freshwater, grasslands, wetlands, polar, desert, and mountains), and the three main global ecoregions (terrestrial, freshwater, and marine), in order to discover the rich biodiversity of the Earth, the human threats to these areas, and ideas for how an ecopsychological education can help to mitigate those threats.

EEHUM 705 Contemporary Cultural Narratives   3 Credits
Description
This course examines persistent contemporary narratives active in the current geopolitical landscape. Students will develop the skills necessary to recognize various ways disruptive and destructive narrative patterns resurface through language and behavior. Topics include: narratives of human supremacy (racism, white supremacy, sexism, and misogyny), exceptionalism, dominance, purity, and authoritarianism. Students will use ecopsychological principles to transform disparaging narratives and practices.

ReWilding Experience - Optional (March)

EEHUM 706 Ecopsychology III   3 Credits
Description
Waste
One lifeform's waste, discarded shell, or skin is another lifeform's resource. All organisms find resources from ecological compost or broken-down substances and materials continually cycled through multiple networks of atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and lithosphere, such that there is no waste in nature. The human psyche circulates conscious and unconscious narratives and disparaging practices that perpetuate human and planetary impoverishment. Humans can learn to compost narratives by engaging the ecological processes and psychological composting, which promotes new psychic life.

EEHUM 707 Ecotoxicology   3 Credits
Description
Rachel Carson launched environmental and ecological toxicology disciplines with the 1962 publication of her book *Silent Spring*, which covered the effects of uncontrolled pesticide use. This course examines the influential history of toxicology and explores the harmful effects of various chemical, biological, and physical agents on living organisms at the ecosystem and population levels. Using both an ecotoxicology lens and ecopsychological perspectives, students will explore ways in which toxicants and pollutants impact human, communal, and global well-being across stages of the life cycle, within food webs, via bioaccumulation, and through transgenerational genetic transfer.

EEHUM 708 Business Ecologies   3 Credits
Description
Ecopsychologists are society's change agents: creators of innovations that disrupt the status quo and transform our world for the better. Solving interconnected world problems requires ecological literacy and psychological capabilities that enable one to work with diverse peoples, cultures, and interrelated issues that are not always obvious, yet drive despoliating outcomes. Revisioning any enterprise requires innovation that is not isolated from interdependency of the well-being of planetary life and processes. An ecopsychological enterprise ensures that ethics and process guide alignment-making practices and actions.

EEHUM 709 Omnibus I   4 Credits
Description
This course is a structured supervised independent study where students begin to consider topics for their culminating projects and test out their ideas and research. A summation of the project reflection will be submitted by the student at the conclusion of the course.

Competency Exam 1 (November)   1 Credit

YEAR 2

FALL QUARTER   **Sept – Nov**

ReWilding Experience - Optional (September)

EEHUM 800 Ecopsychology IV   3 Credits
Change, Relationship
Description
Change, driven by ecological and biological evolution, matters. Earth and all its living beings are involved in reconfigurations throughout their life history. Life proceeds through intra-actions and evolution, which promotes novelty, death and renewal. Psychological evolution also matters and proceeds through uneven and often unanticipated narrative shifts that include periods marked by opportunity and creativity, as well as trauma, loss, and crises. Psychological reconfiguration is as necessary as ecological reconfiguration.

Ecological processes of energy, diversity, waste, and change are entanglements of relationality and interdependence of behavior. Life flourishes through relationship, cooperation, and partnership. Ecological movements of atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and lithosphere in relation with biogeochemical cycles shape Earth's death and life processes. The same ecological processes that affect complex narratives and behaviors of Earth affect the complexity of narratives and behaviors of the ecological psyche. We live with a pluralistic and responsive planet that acts upon all lifeforms as much as we act upon the planet.

EEHUM 801 Climate Crisis & Ecopsychological Applications   3 Credits
Description
The climate crisis is the most critical issue of the times, presenting major social, economic, and ecological challenges. This course will utilize ecopsychological principles to develop ways to educate groups and communities about the interconnecting factors of human-induced climate crisis. Students will examine climate factors and develop an ecopsychological approach essential for transforming human behaviors and practices that underpin the interconnected issues.

EEHUM 802 Image, Perception, & Narrative Change   3 Credits
Description
This course examines image, perception, psychology, and neuroscience as pathways to understanding how perceptions form and inform narratives and their expressions. By expanding ways in which we perceive (rather than what we perceive), we change the way in which we see the world. Students will develop skills necessary to work psychologically with an image in order to understand how image shapes narrative. The course explores the art of Kokoschka and Schiele, and ecological imagery.
Requirement: Student must visit one Art or Natural Science Museum during this course

EEHUM 803 Ecopsychological Ethics   3 Credits
Description

Ethics belongs to all ecological and social discourse, civic and cultural literacy, policy-making, and decisions made in an interdependent world. This course will instruct students on the complexities of human behavior underpinning the ethical problems we face in our world *by doing ethics.* By synthesizing their ecopsychological knowledge with philosophical ideas of justice, beauty, and generosity, students will develop the skills and practice for aesthetic judgement and ethical decision-making.

EEHUM 804 Ecopsychological Assessment   3 Credits
Description
This course provides students the opportunity to practice applying ecopsychological processes as assessment tools that help promote narrative transformation. Students will closely and carefully evaluate group, organization, community, or corporate narratives and practices and will work with a small group, or within a community setting in order to apply their ecopsychological knowledge, skill, and leadership capacities for change.

EEHUM 806 Research & Methodologies   5 Credits
Description
This course serves as the first phase of developing a scholarly Doctoral Capstone Project and will guide students through project development, research protocol, and information and data-collection strategies. Students will identify a subject area of study, formulate a solid project concept, and begin to develop a valid approach and methodology. Students will draft a Doctoral Capstone Project concept proposal to be approved by the end of the course in order to proceed to EEHUM 807. This is a hands-on class designed to assist students in their project development and understand the VGI Doctoral Capstone Project requirements.

This course serves as a Master's capstone Project course.

EEHUM 810 Master's Capstone Project   2 Credits

The MA Capstone Project is the culminating requirement for the Master of Arts program.

EEHUM 807 Doctoral Project Formulation   5 Credits
Description
This course serves as the second phase of developing a scholarly Doctoral Capstone Project and will help students establish their research, methodology, project, and approach to the final Doctoral Capstone Project, culminating in an expanded Project concept proposal and outline, as well as an annotated bibliography. Students meet with the instructor as a class once a month, and individually during the remaining weeks. This is a hands-on class designed to assist students in their project development and understand the VGI Doctoral Capstone Project requirements.

EEHUM 808 Omnibus: Capstone Projects   5 Credits
Description
This course is a structured, supervised omnibus course where students focus on organizing, researching, and assembling required information and content for the Doctoral Capstone Project.

EEHUM 809 Native Science   3 Credits
Description
This course examines traditional forms of Indigenous Education as it relates to the complex ways in which American Indian and other Indigenous peoples form, reflect, and perceive their multiple, complex, and diverse relationships with the natural world. Differences and similarities between American Indian and dominant Western cultural conceptions of the environment and the nature of sustainability are considered within an inter-disciplinary perspective and philosophical ethical framework. The ways in which issues of cultural and environmental practice intersect with Indigenous environmental ethics are also explored.

Competency Exam 2 (April)   1 Credit

YEAR 3

EEHUM 900 Ecopsychological Applications for Professional Life   4 Credits
Description
This culminating course further expands the student's professional communication and presentation skills and confidence in applying ecopsychological principles to various pursuits. Students will hone their competency in responding to complex and contested questions, promoting civic literacy, and transforming destructive narratives and practices.

EEHUM 901 Doctoral Capstone Project   20 Credits
Description
The Doctoral Project takes place in Year 3. Under the supervision of a Doctoral Project Committee, students design a Doctoral Project and write a Doctoral Project Report, culminating in an oral defense in front of their committee on the Zoom platform.

See the *Capstone Project Handbook* for all details.

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