ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES ARE RARELY SIMPLE. From climate change to local conservation, the challenges of sustainability and long-term environmental health raise complex scientific, ethical, economic and political questions that defy easy answers.

PLACE at UVA empowers students to confront these questions so they can build the practical skills, analytic tools and hands-on experience needed to effect change as environmental leaders in government, business and the not-for-profit sector.

The program combines outstanding legal teaching with opportunities for interdisciplinary study, clinical experience and scholarly inquiry.

Interacting with faculty who research and shape the law at the local, regional and global levels, students at UVA Law experience environmental law firsthand as it is practiced today, and study how it can better meet the next generation of challenges.

With a wide range of courses, conferences, student groups and opportunities for independent study, students are part of a vibrant intellectual community that crosses boundaries of academic disciplines and between practice and scholarship.
UNIVERSITY COURSES

Students may receive Law School credit for related graduate courses offered by other departments and schools in the University, including classes on topics such as preservation planning, land use policy, ecology, climatology and business-government relations. Students can obtain joint degrees in law and land use planning, business or environmental sciences.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CLINIC

Students in the clinic represent environmental nonprofits, citizens' groups and other community organizations seeking to protect and restore the environment of Virginia and other parts of the country. The clinic works closely with lawyers at the Southern Environmental Law Center, a preeminent environmental public interest law firm headquartered in Charlottesville. Students participate in a range of activities on environmental matters. They comment on administrative rules, participate in permitting proceedings, advocate before state administrative agencies and boards, and contribute to factual investigations and litigation.

SYMPOSIA

Over the past dozen years, the Law School has sponsored national conferences on growth management, nature conservation, environmental contracting, revitalization of contaminated land, transboundary watershed management and climate change. Law students help plan these conferences and edit and publish the papers that emerge from them.

VIRGINIA ENVIRONMENTAL LAW JOURNAL

Founded in 1979 and managed and edited by students, the journal is a leader in environmental legal scholarship.

VIRGINIA ENVIRONMENTAL LAW FORUM

This popular and active student group hosts speakers and networking events, and sponsors law students who participate in environmental moot court and negotiation competitions. The forum, in cooperation with the Law School's Mortimer Caplin Public Service Center, also provides pro bono opportunities to students interested in environmental law.