



UMass Amherst **Land Protection Certificate Program**

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Goal

- Provide a formal training in core land protection knowledge and skills.
- Increase the pace of conservation by training the next generation of land protection professionals in the many facets of land protection.
- Develop a collaborative effort with the land protection community to help train the next generational of land protection leaders

Target Audience

- UMass Amherst Graduate Students
- Related professionals (e.g., foresters, real estate, lawyers)
- Volunteer land trusts/open space committee members
- Land trust staff

What is a certificate program?

Participants are awarded certificates upon completion of specific course work. The certificate is not a degree; rather, it is a focused collection of courses that, when completed, affords the participant a record of distinct academic accomplishment in a given discipline or set of related disciplines. A certificate program can be completed while earning a graduate degree or through continuing education for those not enrolled in a graduate program.

Certificate Requirements

Participants would be required to earn 12(?) graduate level credits in each of the three core knowledge areas: ecological, social, and tools and techniques. Participants would be allowed to choose coursework within each of these core areas that best meet their interests and professional path. In addition, participants would need to complete XX hours of practicum and take a mandatory capstone course to synthesize their training.

Core Area I: Ecological

Possible courses include:

- Forest Ecology and Conservation
- GIS
- Landscape Ecology
- Wildlife management
- Wetlands
- Silviculture

Core Area II: Social

Possible Courses include:

- Social Mission Enterprises (Public Policy)
- Managing for Mission (Public Policy)
- Education
- Evaluation
- Family Forest Owners of New England
- Communication

Core Area III: Tools and Techniques

Possible courses include:

- Land protection tools
- Conservation easement stewardship
- Land ownership and real estate transactions

Practicum

- Participants would be responsible for completing XX hours of work related to land protection.

Capstone Course

- A course to integrate and synthesize the participant's land protection experience.

MLTC Discussion Questions

- I would need a minimum of 12-15 participants a year to make the land protection certificate viable. How much interest in a land protection certificate might there be beyond UMass?
- Would students/participants benefit enough to want to pay for a land protection certificate? For example, when applying for a job, would having a land protection certificate make someone more competitive? Would it enhance someone's existing work enough to pay for it?
- What are the core skills/knowledge that you would recommend including in the program?