Environmental Programs
(EPC/ESP/GIS)

New Student Orientation
Fall 2015
Daniel (Dan) S. Zachary, Associate Program Director (EPC)
Welcome!

- We are very glad that you have chosen to join us!
- This is an exciting time to be pursuing an advanced degree in environmental, energy or geospatial sciences
Environmental programs (#of courses)

- MS in Environmental Sciences and Policy (10)
- MS in Energy Policy and Climate (10)
- MS in GIS (10)
- Certificate in GIS (5)
- MS in ESP and Cert in GIS combination (13)
At the beginning...

- REVIEW and KEEP your letter of admission
  - it details who your advisor is;
  - which courses (in any) you need to take as pre-requisites;
  - Which, if any, courses you might have been waived from.
- REACH out to your advisor for initial guidance,
  - although we hope that this presentation will help your navigate AAP.
You are now in graduate school!

• Why is this important to realize? It is not the same as being an undergraduate!
  • Expectations are higher
  • You should be working independently outside of class
  • Your engagement is expected to be much higher
• Don’t rush – this is not meant to be a series of check-boxes.
Grading standards

- Might be tougher than you are used to.
- Beware: a C puts you on probation; a second one dismisses you
  - If you are a Provisional Student this happens with a B-
- Be conscious of how you are doing in a course. The Withdraw deadline
date should be noted in case things are not going well.
- We do not do a GPA so grades do not ‘average out.’
Once you have connected with your advisor we recommend that you…

- Register for courses via the ‘ISIS’ system
- Take the Blackboard tutorial (without passing it you will not be let into the course shell)
- Take the Research Skills Tutorial offered by the library
- Review the JHU Code of Conduct – not knowing what it says is not an acceptable defense for violations of academic integrity
- BE AWARE of registration drop dates!
  - There is no course ‘shopping’ period as you might have had as an undergraduate
Communication

- Note: all communication goes via your **JHU email**
  - Including announcements and reminders
  - Important and timely messages
- Be sure to check it with great frequency !!!
  - Many students have those emails go to their preferred email.
  - THIS IS REALLY IMPORTANT!
Course choices

• If unsure, connect with advisor
• Always best to start with CORE courses
• Look at multi-year schedule for planning purposes (including format of course)
• You can take up to two courses outside your program, beyond courses that are cross-listed
• Also look at the EPC website under ‘The Experience’ for some of these; more are coming ….
How do I access online courses?

- We use the Blackboard (Bb) Course Management Platform
  - Online Course Resources, JHU Blackboard, [https://blackboard.jhu.edu/](https://blackboard.jhu.edu/)
- Online courses open on the first day of classes (*not earlier!*)
- Be sure to have taken and passed the Bb orientation, otherwise you will not have access to the course shell!
Tuition Refund/Withdraw deadlines

• Be aware!! Refund Schedule
• AAP is very strict about this, there is no ‘shopping’ for classes.
• There is a VERY steep reduction in the amount of tuition you get back IF you drop a course after 8 days before the course begins
• Be aware of the last day to withdraw from a course, usually about 2/3 of the way through the semester
  • If things are not going well, WITHDRAW
Continuous enrollment and LOAs

- JHU-AAP expects **continuous enrollment** of all its active students, with the exception of Summer semester. If you do not enroll in Spring or Fall, you may be assessed a ‘continuous enrollment fee.’

- Need to take a break from your program due to work or personal obligations?
  - Request an Leave of Absence (LOA)

- Where can I find the form?
  - AAP Website=> Current Students=> Forms=> **LOA**

- How many times can I do this?
  - Each has to be approved and is up to the discretion of the Program Director
Clearing your provisions

• How do I ‘clear’ the courses I had to take provisionally?
• Once you have successfully completed the necessary courses, complete the following Student Status link: [http://advanced.jhu.edu/current-students/forms/change-of-student-status/](http://advanced.jhu.edu/current-students/forms/change-of-student-status/)
• If you took courses at an institution other than JHU, send the transcript to the AAP Registrar and then complete the form (best to loop your advisor into this conversation as well).
How do I graduate?

- You have to *apply* to graduate, it does *not* happen automatically at the completion of 10 courses
  - You must apply even if you are not planning on attending the ceremony
  - There is a fee and a deadline to apply to graduate every semester, see AAP website, Current Students => [Graduation](#)
- Curious as to whether you are OK to graduate? Contact [aapgraduation@jhu.edu](mailto:aapgraduation@jhu.edu) and/or your advisor.
Where to find information

- AAP Website => Current Students tab
  - Become familiar with it!
  - Forms and waiver are found there
- Review your program requirements (on program website) carefully and be aware of what is required
  - YOU are in charge of your program!!
  - Advising comes at your initiation
- Information about courses
  - Program website
  - Course instructor (for syllabus), they and their emails are listed on program faculty website)
Services

• Student Services
  • http://advanced.jhu.edu/current-students/student-services-contact-information/
  • aapdisability@jhu.edu

• Career Services
  • Roni White, rwhite77@jhu.edu

• Financial Aid
  • aapfinaid@jhu.edu

• International Student Services
  • http://oisss.jhu.edu/
For EPC students:
Adding/removing/switching concentrations

• Let your academic advisor know!
• Directly communicate with the AAP Registrar, aapregistration@jhu.edu
• Why?
  • Because when you apply to graduate and are being ‘cleared,’ issues come up if you are coded incorrectly
What is the right system to use?

- **ISIS**—Integrated Student Information System (http://isis.jhu.edu/)
  - registration and grade system
  - final arbiter of course schedule

- **Blackboard**—Online learning management system
  - central online resource for all classes (online or on-ground)
  - class shells for all online classes
  - administered and assisted by IRC: http://irc.jhu.edu

- **Registration Office** (online forms and emails)
  - http://advanced.jhu.edu/current-students/forms/
  - approvals for course waivers and exceptions (email from advisor), keep these archived
  - graduation audit, aapgraduation@jhu.edu
  - Incompletes
  - aapregistration@jhu.edu (THIS IS AN IMPORTANT EMAIL!!)
Thanks for your attention!

• Antoinette WinklerPrins, Program Director for all programs
  antoinette@jhu.edu
  • Jerry Burgess, Associate Program Director for ESP, jerry.burgess@jhu.edu
  • Dan Zachary, Associate Program Director for EPC, d.s.zachary@jhu.edu
  • Geri Miller, Program Coordinator for GIS, geri.miller@jhu.edu