



**VIRIDIS GRADUATE INSTITUTE
ECOPSYCHOLOGY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES
Catalog 2019**

Viridis Graduate Institute

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Viridis Graduate Institute is a California 501c(3) Nonprofit Institute. Tax ID: 80-0713846.

Viridis Graduate Institute is a Distance Education Provider.

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STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

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. On June 21, 2019, the Commission awarded to Viridis Graduate Institute initial accreditation for a period of three years, through June 2022.

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. DEAC's scope of recognition by the Secretary of Education is the accreditation of postsecondary institutions in the United States that offer degree and/or non-degree programs primarily by the distance or correspondence education method up to and including the professional doctoral degree.

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.

STATE AUTHORIZATION

State of California

Viridis Graduate Institute has been granted provisional approval to operate by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE) effective February 28, 2018, with an expiration date of February 28, 2023. Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education. 2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Ste. 400, Sacramento, CA 95833. Toll free phone number: 888-370-7589. Web: www.bppe.ca.gov.



WELCOME

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 the humanities and depth psychology, liberal arts, and the sciences. The journey is meant to be transformative—personally, academically, ecologically, and socially. We believe it is 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 is a 100% Distance Education provider. All program courses are held online in synchronous real time live audio and video that allow students and faculty a rich, immediate exchange.

Viridis Graduate Institute Administrative Location:
417 Bryant Circle. Ojai, CA 93023
Student Inquiries: (011) 805-889-0169
Viridisinstitute@gmail.com

As a prospective student, you are encouraged to review this catalog prior to signing an enrollment agreement. You are also encouraged to review the School Performance Fact Sheet, which must be provided to you prior to signing an enrollment agreement.

MISSION STATEMENT

Viridis Graduate Institute Mission

Viridis Graduate Institute, a nonprofit distance-learning institution, offers a distinctive education in ecopsychology and environmental humanities designed to prepare graduates with the professional and collaborative competence needed to respond creatively to the challenging problems affecting our ecological and social systems.

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 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.

Viridis Graduate Institute is a response to the call for a resurgence of creative and scholarly work that seeks to bridge science and the humanities in a new field with an ecological focus and a curriculum comparable to what has developed in better-defined disciplinary fields. This response attempts to redirect the customary division of academic disciplines where science is located on one side, and the humanities on the other, and psychology falling somewhere in between. The disconnection among fields is no longer viable in a world that needs the best ideas from a variety of disciplines to solve global challenges.

During the Renaissance, when natural science and human studies entered our culture, three distinct foci emerged—a logos of nature (science), a logos of the human (humanities), and a logos of God (theology). However, there was not represented a logos and a mythos of the psyche, a contextual understanding, a narrative, that represented the interdependence between the natural world and that of the human psyche. Viridis Graduate Institute brings together logos and mythos in an innovative discipline of ecopsychology, a term coined by Theodore Roszak in his 1992 book, *The Voice of the Earth*.

German biologist Ernst Haeckel coined the term *ecology* in 1866, as the study of complex interactions. In the early nineteenth century, Alexander von Humboldt, one of the founders of modern observational science, and Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, both insisted on a productive fusion of the sciences, arts, and humanities. Ecopsychology draws upon the deep rich history of both sciences and the humanities to give breadth and depth to a cohesive consilience of study.

The field of ecology expanded with contributions by Carolus Linnaeus, Humboldt's notion of a living interconnected planet, the discovery of natural selection by Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace, the works of Henry D. Thoreau, George Perkins Marsh, Aldo Leopold, George Evelyn Hutchinson, Eugene Odum, Paul Shepard, Rachel Carson, Wangari Maathai, Vandana Shiva, Sylvia Earle, and many others. One could think of Aristotle as the first ecopsychologist, being the first to record observations of marine life, and exploring aspects of the psyche or soul, the essence of any living thing.

At Viridis Graduate Institute, ecopsychology follows ideas from ecology, mythology, and depth and archetypal psychology, which is located in the humanities. The humanities consist of those branches of knowledge that concern themselves with human beings, their culture, and critical methods of inquiry derived from an appreciation of human values. Depth psychology is the modern field whose interest is in the unconscious levels of the human psyche, the deeper meaning of our actions, behaviors, attitudes, beliefs (S. Freud, C.G. Jung, James Hillman, Patricia Berry, Thomas Moore, and Ginette Paris). Everything in our lives is psychological, and to know this ("to know thyself"), requires of us to make meaning from the events and experiences of our lives because we affect all others with whom we share the planet. Mining from depth and archetypal ideas that to be alive—to be in nature, let alone conscious—is to be subject to certain unavoidable pressures, conflict, and the deep understanding that to live a meaningful life requires of us also to be in relationship with loss.

WHAT IS ECOPSYCHOLOGY?

There are many ways to understand ecopsychology, and all explorations make significant contributions to how we understand our relationship to the planet. Lori Pye brought forward the unique combination of biology, ecology, archetypal psychology, and mythology to develop an academic discipline that promotes an interrelated theory, practice, and application for ecopsychology.

There are remarkable similarities between elemental composition, processes, and patterns of behavior of living organisms, and that of the universe as a whole, setting humanity within the wider, deeper scheme of the natural world. Ecopsychology is the psychological study of essential ecological principles (energy, diversity, waste, change, and connection) that not only shape and form organismic and planetary behavior but also inform human imagination and behavior. Humanity formed and shaped by the plurality of processes and patterns in nature, in turn, affect these processes and patterns with our practices.

Ecopsychology utilizes ecological, biological and depth psychological principles essential to the examination and transformation of unconscious narratives that drive human practices, civic illiteracy, policies, and decisions for how we design and build our world. An ecopsychological study fosters relationship, empathy, aesthetics, and an ethical ethos toward all of life.

In this context, ecopsychology examines and explores the human psyche for 1) ideas that give us eyes to see anew; 2) a technique to examine human narratives driving behavior, and how to transform narratives, thereby changing the behavior and the practice; 3) a quality of presence across contexts. Through ecopsychology, we ecologize our psychology and psychologize our ecology. In this way, we can nudge our species along a different path, one that considers relationship, aesthetics, justice, interdependence, and destiny.

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*).” It is from these rich ecological and depth psychological histories, descending from traditions of natural history, art, classical literature, and poetics beginning in antiquity, that Viridis Graduate Institute takes up and threads through its mission, values, pedagogy, and curriculum.

INSTITUTIONAL VISION

Viridis Graduate Institute’s vision is to be an exemplary non-traditional distance education provider in order to inspire learning that can create conscious change in the world.

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 relational solutions 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.

Institutional Learning Outcomes and Core Competencies

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

- 1. Adaptive Leadership Capacity** – An enhanced ability to anticipate, detect, and adapt more consciously to changes in an organization, institution or society. Exhibit the capacity to make innovative contributions and assume leadership roles that promote intelligent and humane application of the problem-decision-action cycle.
- 2. Aesthetic Sensibility** - An enhanced awareness and sensitivity to relationships among the natural world, arts, symbolism, ritual, design, and human concerns and behavior. Develop a worldview imbued with aesthetics.
- 3. Archetypal Psychological Knowledge** – A capacity to identify, analyze, and elucidate images, symbols, metaphors, psychological complexes and other unconscious dynamics. Develop a capacity for self-reflection and engagement in intrapsychic, interpersonal, and collaborative relationships.

4. **Communication Competence** – The ability to use the processes of reading, writing, speaking, listening and observing to effectively acquire, develop, and convey ideas and information. Communicate effectively to create a purposeful message designed to increase awareness or knowledge, to foster understanding, and to promote reflection and potential change in the listeners’ attitudes, values, beliefs, or behaviors.
5. **Creative and Critical Thinking** – Qualitatively and quantitatively evaluate issues from a variety of distinct thought processes that include creativity, imagination, novelty, rationality, logic and coherence.
6. **Ecopsychological Ethos** – Demonstrate a commitment to living a psychological life; to being active participants in a co-reciprocal ecological world that requires our attention, responsibility, and care.
7. **Integrity and Ecological Ethics** – Develops an ecological ethics that continually questions and examines one's integrity and how one should best live and act in relationship to self, others and the natural world with a conscious understanding of their consequences.
8. **Motivation for Lifelong Learning** – Establish a commitment to explore, question, and deepen personal consciousness, expand their curiosity about the world we live in, and persist in educating one’s self throughout a lifetime.
9. **Personal Identity** – Acquire a sense of personal worth, integrity, and self-confidence that arise from the experiences of studying the natural world, and diverse cultures as an effective vehicle for gaining a sense of one’s place in the world as an individual and global citizen.
10. **Professional Identity** – Increase the knowledge, skills, and ecopsychological practices that can be utilized across all vocational sectors or industries, as their professional identity both parallels and supplements their educational and life goals of developing a sense of success in the world.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

The president of VGI, Dr. Lori Pye is a member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Commission on Education and Communication.



Viridis Graduate Institute participates in the **United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)**, which seeks to mobilize the educational resources of the world to help create a more sustainable future. The ESD offers oversight, advice, and coordination support to Member States, National Commissions, stakeholders, and UNESCO programs.

Viridis Graduate Institute is honored to be 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**.

Viridis Graduate Institute is an endorser of **The Earth Charter**.



ReWilding Yellowstone National Park, WY. 2018

ACADEMIC GOVERNANCE

Viridis Graduate Institute is a California 501(c)3 nonprofit organization 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 Dissertation Project Supervisory 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 thesis and Doctoral Dissertation 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, e.g., grades, registration data, and transcripts.

IT Director

VGI's information technology director is responsible for the overall planning, organizing, and execution of all IT functions, including backup and security. This includes directing all IT operations to meet the Institute's requirements as well as the support and maintenance of existing applications and development of new solutions that better serve Viridis Graduate Institute and its students.



ReWilding Yellowstone National Park, WY. 2018

Advisory Board

The Advisory Board provides engaged support for Viridis Graduate Institute. Tasks the Advisory board may oversee include, but are not limited to:

- Engagement and communication / ambassadors for VGI's mission
- Raising money
- Advising on programs / helping with organizational planning
- Providing pro bono work to assist with other staff-driven needs
- Seeking opportunities for exposure of VGI in the community

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.

Academic 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 overseeing the academic quality and content of the curriculum. To fulfill this assignment, the committee will initiate specific strategies to promote academic breadth, depth, and integrity, and to facilitate innovation in the programs offered to students. This Committee is comprised of the President, Vice President, Academic Dean and two 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, and Academic Dean. 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.

If a student feels that he or she has 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 - Lori.Pye@viridisedu.org.

Academic Committees

Thesis and Doctoral Dissertation Project committees have an historic and established place in the academic world. The Committee oversees all aspects of a student's doctoral or thesis 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 of Viridis Graduate Institute.

Thesis Project Committee Responsibilities

The Thesis Committee consists of two faculty members assigned to each Master's student: Chair and Reader. The Committee oversees all aspects of a student's thesis, 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 thesis in a timely way. As part of its review of the student's thesis project, the Committee will consider the adequacy and scope of the project and the methodology utilized by the student. The Committee will review the drafts and provide feedback and suggestions to the student in a timely manner. See **Thesis Handbook** for more details.

Doctoral Dissertation Project Committee Responsibilities

The Doctoral Dissertation Project Committee oversees all aspects of a student's Doctoral Dissertation 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 Dissertation Project in a timely way.

The Doctoral Committee is made up of three members assigned to each Doctoral student: Chair, Reader, and External Reader. Students can nominate a candidate for External Reader, but VGI will have final approval. 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 Dissertation Project or research project. At least two committee members have a degree from an institution other than VGI and at least one member is a member of the VGI faculty. See **Doctoral Dissertation Project Handbook** for more details.

Faculty Policies

Viridis Graduate Institute faculty consists of professors and guest presenters. 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 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 Doctoral Dissertation Projects, theses, and student projects, and participating on doctoral committees. 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, and 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 this chapter of CCR §71720(b)(3), or as having committed any act that would constitute grounds for the denial of a license under Section 480 of the Business and Profession Code (California).

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.

In addition, the Executive Team and all faculty are required to respond to a student's email or phone call within 48-hours.

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:

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 opportunities for faculty and staff to support the mission and processes of Viridis:

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.

Biannual Faculty Meetings (fall and 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 Ecopsychology

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 Faculty Resources on Populi.

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 conferences, workshops, and events as participants and as presenters. When possible, faculty will help cover class for those who plan to attend an educational event. 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 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

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. Viridis Graduate Institute demonstrates through its mission, policies, future resource allocations, scholarly activity, curricular development and program review that academic inquiry, knowledge, learning, creativity, and responsible scholarship are central to the Institute's understanding of its purpose and vision.

Viridis Graduate Institute demonstrates through board policy, strategic planning, financial allocation, online learning policies, and faculty-student interactions that it values lifelong learning. Members of our Board of Trustees teach and specialize in this area. The Institute is committed to building a vibrant and inclusive educational environment that promotes learning and the free exchange of ideas. Our academic and learning 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 the academic efforts of others.

Diversity

Viridis Graduate Institute values the diversity of its students, faculty, staff, and the other people with whom it interacts. Our differences assure that VGI is a forum for the expression, consideration and evaluation of ideas. The educational process is clearly enriched and strengthened by the fact that these ideas arise and are evaluated from such diverse perspectives.

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. We have a responsibility to encourage and develop excellence among our faculty, staff and students.

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.

Student Success

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

Viridis Graduate Institute Pedagogy

- Openness to the inquiry, experiential learning, and diversity in learning.
- The depth of materials that cultivate psychological reflection, critical analysis, creative thinking, imagination, and connection to daily life.
- Balanced scope and accuracy in presenting issues, challenges, and global problems.
- A curriculum that emphasizes development and application of thinking and feeling, skill and ethics in order to promote personal, ecological and social responsibility, problem-solving, and self-efficacy.
- Ecopsychology and Environmental Humanities examines diverse fields of knowledge:
 - Natural science, natural history, earth science, social science, research in neuroscience
 - Depth and archetypal psychologies
 - Mythology / cross-cultural studies
 - Evolutionary psychology
 - Indigenous Traditions
 - The arts: literature, music, visual arts
 - Industrial ecology
 - Human health, disease, and environment
 - Economics/business/statistics (green practices)

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.

2019-20 Academic Calendar

August 27, 2019	Student Orientation / Faculty Orientation on Zoom
September 5-8, 2019	ReWilding Experience Fall
September 9, 2019	Fall Quarter Classes begin
November 18, 2019	Winter Break
November 28, 2019	Thanksgiving Day Closed
December 24-26, 2019	VGI Closed
December 31, 2019	VGI Closed until January 2, 2020
January 1, 2020	New Year's Day
January 6, 2020	Winter Quarter Classes begin
March 12, 2020	Spring Break
March 19-22, 2020	ReWilding Experience Spring
April 1, 2020	Spring Quarter Classes begin
June 4, 2020	Summer Break
June 15, 2020	VGI Application deadline for Fall 2020

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. Students participate in **Synchronous Academic Class Sessions** on Zoom that 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. Graduate students are required to earn competency units through experiential learning.
- VGI's faculty members are practitioners and professionals in their respective fields, and their experience is brought into the virtual classroom.
- An emphasis on encouraging students to recognize and integrate diversity in intercultural, inter-group, intergenerational, and interpersonal dynamics.
- Discussion and reflection are fully encouraged as ways of self-learning and of furthering the learning and understanding of the Viridis Graduate Institute community.
- A supportive environment that encourages collaborative learning, social awareness, and activism, and that respects the multiple roles of adult students.
- The development of communication, novelty, and creative and critical thinking skills to support effective and independent thought and action; and a curriculum designed to prepare students to find meaningful work, invent or develop new vocational opportunities, improve professional opportunities, and lead more purposeful 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.

Professors conduct each session via a live audio and video platform, where student cohorts are active participants in the learning exchange. Each class engages students in the lively exchange of ideas at the center of active learning. Additionally, VGI's eLearning course management system (Populi) hosts an extensive resource for student research, the VGI e-Library. We have found that our online classes enhance intellectual growth by providing tools and enabling experiences not possible in a traditional academic setting.

The Curricula

Arts & Humanities

The arts and humanities have a long, rich history in helping to resolve complex problems in our world.

Studying arts and humanities teaches students to approach situations from multiple perspectives, thus widening their worldview and deepening their understanding of who they are. This allows them to develop a sense of personal ethics, social conscience, psychological flexibility, and the capacity to hold various tensions. The arts and humanities apply the best of human creativity, reason, and expression to understanding complicated issues, practices, and policies. Arts and humanities have always held insight into the intricacies of human relationships. They promote a deep appreciation for diversity in ideas, cultures, and the natural world, and they develop an aesthetic value for all of life.

Natural Sciences

The natural sciences provide the foundations for understanding the natural world and for using that knowledge to solve practical problems. Ecology is the scientific study of interactions of organisms with one another and with the physical and chemical environment. Ecology is a core subject in VGI programs, as it addresses the full scale of life, from microscopic bacteria to large-scale processes that span the entire planet.

Ecology comes from the Greek *oikos*, meaning “home” or “dwelling,” and *logos*, meaning “the study of.” Ecology, then, is “the study of home.” The roots of ecology, as a broader discipline, can be traced to the Greeks and their development of natural history and science. An understanding of ecological principles is essential for the survival of the human species.

Social Sciences

Social science is a branch of science concerned with relationships—the relationships between individuals within a culture or society, and the way biology and the environment interact, shaping much of who we are. Methods of science are applied to understand why we think and act the way we do as individuals, as a group, or as a larger society. Social science offers ways to enrich communities and societies.

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 comprehensive 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 must be in conformity with the following: completion and passing of a Competency Exam and completion of a Thesis Project.

The Doctor of Arts program must be in conformity with the following: completion and passing of a Competency Exam, completion and successful oral defense of a Doctoral Dissertation 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 subscribes to the Statement of Principles of Good Practice in College Admission and Recruitment, which has been approved by the American Council on Education (ACE) and the American Association of College Registrars and Admissions Counselors (AACRAO).

Viridis Graduate Institute adheres to the “best practices” agreed upon 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 and 501(c)3 organizations.

Statement of Good Practices in Admissions

Professionalism

We believe our work in the 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 actions.

Collaboration

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

Education

We believe in and 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 believe that we have a responsibility to treat one another and students in a fundamentally fair and equitable manner.

Social Responsibility

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

DEGREE PROGRAMS

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. All programs are delivered through Zoom technology. Zoom provides a real time (synchronous) classroom environment for students and faculty.

Master of Arts in Social Sciences with Emphasis in Ecopsychology and Environmental Humanities

Credits: 54 quarter credits

Program Length: 2 years

The following is required to be received by VGI to be considered for admission:

1. [Online Admission Application Form](#). The applicant will be notified within 24-hours of receipt if eligible to proceed with admissions.
2. [Master of Arts Student Enrollment Agreement](#)
3. **Application Fee of \$100 due with Student Enrollment Agreement.**
4. **Official Transcripts** – From previously attended colleges, and universities by mail or electronic file.
5. **Scanned Color Copy of a Government Issued Identification** (e.g. driver's license or passport)
6. **Scheduled Interview** – Upon submission of the admission materials and Student Enrollment Agreement, the applicant will complete a telephone or Zoom interview with Viridis Graduate Institute.

Download [Master of Arts Student Enrollment Agreement](#)

This form is in a fillable PDF format. Please submit to: vgi.registrar@viridisedu.org

Mail Official Transcripts to:

Viridis Graduate Institute

Attn: Registrar

417 Bryant Circle, Ojai, CA 93023

Doctor of Arts with Emphasis in Ecopsychology and Environmental Humanities

Credits: 90 quarter credits

Program Length: 3 years

An applicant for the doctoral program 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 doctoral degree program.

The following is required to be received by VGI to be considered for admission.

1. [Online Admission Application Form](#). The applicant will be notified within 24-hours of receipt if eligible to proceed with admissions.
2. [Doctoral of Arts Student Enrollment Agreement](#)
3. **Application Fee of \$100 due with Student Enrollment Agreement.**
4. **Official Transcripts** – From previously attended colleges, and universities by mail or electronic file.
5. **Scanned Color Copy of a Government Issued Identification** (e.g. driver's license or passport)
6. **Two Letters of Academic Recommendation** – The letters of recommendation should be written by persons competent to judge the applicant's probable success in a doctoral program. These letters are generally written by 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 registrar@viridisedu.org by the authors.
7. **Scheduled Interview** – Upon submission of the admission materials and Student Enrollment Agreement, the applicant will complete a telephone or Zoom interview with Viridis Graduate Institute.

Download [Doctoral of Arts Student Enrollment Agreement](#)

This form is in a fillable PDF format. Please submit to: vgi.registrar@viridisedu.org

Mail Official Transcripts to:

Viridis Graduate Institute

Attn: Registrar

417 Bryant Circle, Ojai, CA 93023

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.

Viridis Policy for Non-English Transcripts

Students are expected to be proficient in the oral and written use of the English language. International students are to follow the same admission requirements, fees, and responsibilities as domestic students. International student transcripts must be in the original language and include an official English translation. This translation cannot be done by the applicant.

Foreign Credential Evaluation

Applicants with non-U.S. educational credentials must first obtain a foreign credentials evaluation from:

World Education Services (wes.org)Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc. (ece.org)International Education Research Foundation (IERF) at (ierf.org)**International Applicants must follow the process outlined above and provide the following if necessary:**

1. Proof of English language proficiency, or TOEFL scores.

TOEFL Requirements

Applicants whose native language is not English, who cannot show Proof of English language proficiency, or 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 530 on the paper-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL PBT), or 71 on the Internet Based Test (iBT), a 6.5 on the International English Language Test (IELTS) or 50 on the Pearson Test of English Academic Score Report.
- Doctoral Degree: A minimum score of 550 on the paper-based Test of English as a Foreign Language

(TOEFL PBT), or 80 on the Internet Based Test (iBT), a 6.5 on the International English Language Test (IELTS), or 58 on the Pearson Test of English Academic Score Report.

- A minimum grade of Level 3 on the ACT COMPASS's English as a Second Language Placement Test;
- A minimum grade of Pre-1 on the Eiken English Proficiency Examination.

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, diploma, or certificate) you earn in the Doctoral Program is also at the complete discretion of the institution to which you may seek to transfer. If the (credits or degree, diploma, or certificate) 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 or degree, diploma or certificate) 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 award credit for prior experiential learning, including assessment, due to the specialization of our programs.

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. Applicants who submit enrollment materials and are not eligible for admission will be refunded the full enrollment fee.

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
6. Date for the Online Fall Student Orientation

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 Comprehensive 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 SIS course roster to verify student IDs on first day of class in the first quarter.
5. The faculty hosting the Comprehensive 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 the SIS.
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. Tuition and fee payments can be made online using our secure PayPal payment site. VGI accepts checks or credit cards at no additional cost to the student. Wire transfers incur a bank fee. 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.

Program Sequence Policy

Viridis Graduate Institute does not require students to complete a prerequisite course(s) before entering the Master of Arts or Doctor of Arts 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. Therefore, students follow the program sequencing. VGI has one enrollment period: Fall. Conditions for enrollment into the Master of Arts degree program are met by completing the student enrollment process and submission of Official Transcripts for their baccalaureate degree, which demonstrates a specific skill level or knowledge base sufficient for the program.

Conditions for enrollment into the Doctor of Arts degree program 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.

ECOPSYCHOLOGY INTENSIVES

Nondegree Program

Overview

Intensives in Ecopsychology are seminar style courses that provide an opportunity for participants not seeking a degree to enhance their understanding of ecopsychology and its wide-ranging personal and professional applications. Learning how complexities in nature work allows us to better understand the complexities of human nature.

Intensives in Ecopsychology provide an opportunity to examine and explore both personal and cultural narratives that underpin disparaging behaviors and attitudes. Have you ever wondered why we treat each other, or the planet, the way that we do? What would one need to learn to be effective in changing destructive or divisive patterns of behavior in a community, business, or the culture? 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.

Objectives

- Apply basic ecopsychological principles that enable recognition, evaluation, and a change in narratives,
- Apply reflection, creative thought necessary for transforming narratives,
- Develop ideas and practices that advance ecopsychology in a community, organization, or vocation.

An ecopsychological understanding widens perspectives and enhances the capacity for making informed and mature decisions essential to our daily life, our businesses, organizations, and communities in ways that ensure more relational and flourishing behaviors and practices emerge.

Students who are becoming community leaders are compelled to make a difference by deepening their awareness of themselves in relation to the world around them. In doing so, they adopt new ways of seeing, thinking and interacting that result in innovative, sustainable solutions.

The Intensives 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 and interested in learning more about ways to transform disparaging narratives and practices toward the planet and all species we share Earth.

ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAMS

Viridis Graduate Institute offer the following degree programs in Ecopsychology and Environmental Humanities:

Master of Arts in Social Sciences with Emphasis in Ecopsychology and Environmental Humanities

Doctor of Arts with Emphasis in Ecopsychology and Environmental Humanities

MASTER OF ARTS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES WITH EMPHASIS IN ECOPSYCHOLOGY 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 Ecopsychology 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 develop the skills and capacities for recognizing narrative and metaphor and their psychological roles in all human behavior.
- The student will demonstrate competency in applying ecopsychological principles in assessing personal and cultural narratives that drive ecological and social destruction.
- The student will demonstrate the capacity to apply ecopsychological concepts and principles toward transforming narratives, behavior, and human practices into workable relational solutions.

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 knowledge of concepts and principles in ecopsychology toward assessing and evaluating complexity, flourishing, and collapse in a variety of ecological, economic, and social systems,

1a. Evaluate human evolution and our relationship with nature and culture from across historical periods and cultural contexts in order to more deeply understand the complex process of human biological, neurological, and psychological evolution,

2. Creativity

Apply reflection, creative thought, and assessment skills in evaluating and transforming narratives into entirely new meaning that promote and support engagement in ethical, responsible and collaborative relationships,

3. Communication

Analyze complex information from a variety of sources and perspectives and communicate findings in written and oral form using logical coherence, consistency, and creativity,

4. Ecological & Civic Literacy

Demonstrate advanced capacity to develop and apply in practice intrinsic values of justice, beauty, and inclusivism within interdependent ecological, social, and economic systems that promote diversity, opportunity, and change,

5. Ecopsychological Sensibility

Respond to interconnected ecological and sociological problems in our world and develop ecopsychological approaches and practices toward change in narrative, behavior, and practices underpinning these issues.

6. Transdisciplinary Synthesis

Demonstrate an advanced competency to employ ideas and theories from the many disciplines and fields that intersect with environmental, ecological, social, and economic concerns.

Master of Arts Program Curriculum

YEAR 1

ReWilding Experience

Fall Quarter

EEHUM 700 Ecopsychology I	3 Credits
EEHUM 701 Mythological and Philosophical Foundations of Ecopsychology	3 Credits
EEHUM 702 Depth & Archetypal Psychology	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: Flora & Fauna	3 Credits
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Comprehensive Examination 1	Year 1	1 Credit
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YEAR 2

ReWilding Experience

Fall Quarter

EEHUM 800 Ecopsychology & Narrative Inquiry	3 Credits
EEHUM 801 Climate Crisis & Ecopsychological Applications	3 Credits
EEHUM 802 The Unconscious in Art, Mind & Brain	3 Credits

Winter Quarter

EEHUM 803 Ecopsychological Ethos	3 Credits
EEHUM 804 The Practice of Ecopsychology	3 Credits
EEHUM 805 Thesis Project Research & Writing	3 Credits

EEHUM 811 Master's Thesis Project	5 Credits
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Thesis must be completed by September 15 of the third year.

The Thesis Project Timeline and project extension policies are located in the **Thesis Project Handbook**.

Comprehensive Examinations

The Master of Arts Comprehensive Exams are posted to Populi at the end of the final quarter for Year 1 (June) and Year 2 (March). 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.

Adequate steps are taken by Viridis Graduate Institute to ensure that the degree candidate has personally fulfilled the degree requirements stipulated by the Institute. The student's achievement is assessed by an appropriate number of proctored examinations spaced throughout the program of study at the end of year 1 and at the end of Year 2.

The Institute verifies that the student who registers for the Institute's distance education programs is the same student who participates in, completes examinations, and receives the academic credit. Student identification (IDs) are kept in the Student Information System and will be verified by each instructor before each Comprehensive Exam.

This process will ensure that the student taking the proctored examination is the same person who enrolled in the program and that examination results will reflect the student's own knowledge and competence in accordance with stated educational objectives and learning outcomes. Viridis Graduate Institute uses valid government-issued color photo identification to confirm the identity of a student.

Time Commitment for Degree

Students must complete coursework in no less than eighteen (18) months (6 quarters) from the date of enrollment. The thesis project must be completed in six (6) months from the end of final quarter. The maximum time to complete the program is 2 years.

Requirements for Graduation

1. Students must complete 54 quarter credits to fulfill the unit requirement for graduation.
2. A minimum grade of "B" is required in each completed course. A cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 must be maintained.
3. Students must attend at least eight of the ten weeks of courses per quarter. Please See Attendance Policy on page 60.
4. Students must successfully pass one written **Comprehensive Examination** at the end of year 1. 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 concept paper for the Thesis Project to be approved by the Academic Dean. This is to be completed in Year 2 winter quarter in EEHUM 805.

6. Students must submit a completed **Thesis Project** to be accepted by the Chair and the Institution by Year 3 fall quarter.

The M.A. degree is awarded when the student has: completed 48 quarter credits of coursework, successfully passed one Comprehensive Exam (1 credit), and successfully completed a Thesis Project (5 credits) for a total of 54 quarter credits.



ReWilding Sequoia National Park, CA. 2015

DOCTOR OF ARTS WITH EMPHASIS IN ECOPSYCHOLOGY 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. The doctoral program emphasizes narrative transformation required for behavioral change necessary for a more just, aesthetic, and egalitarian world.

Through the exploration of ecology, philosophy, depth and archetypal psychology, mythology, toxicology, art and image, 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.

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 with Emphasis in Ecopsychology and Environmental Humanities

All doctoral students may earn a Master of Arts in passing from Viridis Graduate Institute after successfully completing 48 graduate credits including passing a Comprehensive Examination, provided that all doctoral work is completed.

Degree Program Objectives

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

- The student will demonstrate creative and critical skills, psychological capacities, and sensibility in applying ecopsychological principles and concepts in assessing complex and contested narratives, metaphors, and imagery that underpin human behavior.
- The student will demonstrate ways to advance ecopsychological literacy, promote public responsibility, and apply creative thought and imagination to change destructive human narratives, behaviors, and practices toward society and the planet.
- The student will develop an ecopsychological ethos that continually questions and examines one's integrity and how one should best live and act in relationship to self, others and the natural world.

Degree Program Learning Outcomes

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

Critical Thinking

1. Apply multiple perspectives from ecopsychology and utilize archetypal psychological skills in evaluation and change of individual, group, and cultural narratives underpinning a variety of ecological, economic, and social issues;
 - 1a. Evaluate and critique human evolution and our relationship with nature and culture from across historical periods and cultural contexts in order to more deeply understand the complex process of human biological, neurological, and psychological evolution; and be able to communicate ecopsychological approaches for how humanity can envision a more conscious participation in human evolutionary processes;

Creativity

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

Communication

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

Ecological & Civic Literacy

4. Develop original approaches and applications that advance intrinsic values of justice, beauty, and inclusivism within interdependent ecological, social, and economic systems to enhance diversity, opportunity, and change;

Ecopsychological Sensibility

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

Transdisciplinary Synthesis

- Demonstrate an advanced competency to employ ideas and theories from the many disciplines and fields that intersect with environmental, ecological, social, and economic concerns.

Doctor of Arts Program Curriculum

YEAR 1

ReWilding Experience

Fall Quarter

EEHUM 700 Ecopsychology I	3 Credits
EEHUM 701 Mythological and Philosophical Foundations of Ecopsychology	3 Credits
EEHUM 702 Depth & Archetypal Psychology	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: Flora & Fauna	3 Credits

Comprehensive Examination 1

1 Credit

YEAR 2

ReWilding Experience

Fall Quarter

EEHUM 800 Ecopsychology & Narrative Inquiry	3 Credits
EEHUM 801 Climate Crisis & Ecopsychological Applications	3 Credits
EEHUM 802 The Unconscious in Art, Mind & Brain	3 Credits

Winter Quarter

EEHUM 803 Ecopsychological Ethos	3 Credits
EEHUM 804 The Practice of Ecopsychology	3 Credits
EEHUM 806 Doctoral Dissertation Project Research & Methodologies I	5 Credits

Spring Quarter

EEHUM 807 Doctoral Dissertation Project Research & Methodologies II	5 Credits
EEHUM 808 Animal Sentience	3 Credits
EEHUM 809 Traditional Ecological Knowledge	3 Credits

Proctored Comprehensive Examination 2	1 Credit
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YEAR 3**Fall Quarter**

EEHUM 900 Ecopsychological Applications for Professional Life	5 Credits
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EEHUM 901 Doctoral Dissertation Project	22 Credits
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Doctoral Dissertation Project must be completed by December 15 of the fourth year.

Detailed information and timetables can be found in the *Doctoral Dissertation Project Handbook* on Populi / Student Resources.

Proctored Comprehensive Examinations

The Proctored Comprehensive Exams are posted to Populi at the end of the final quarter for Year 1 (June) and Year 2 (June). 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.

Time Commitment for Degree

Doctoral 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 Dissertation Project. Students have nineteen months (19) from the beginning year 3 to complete the Doctoral Dissertation Project. The maximum time to complete the program is 4 years.

The Doctoral Dissertation Project Timeline and project extension policies are located in the **Doctoral Dissertation Project Handbook**.

Requirements for Graduation

1. Students must complete 90 quarter credits to fulfill the unit requirement for graduation.
2. A minimum grade of “B” is required in each completed course. A cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 must be maintained.
3. Students must attend at least eight of the ten weeks of courses per quarter. See Attendance Policy, p. 61.
4. Students must successfully pass two written Comprehensive Examinations at the end of the final quarter for Year 1 (June) and Year 2 (June).
5. Students must submit a concept proposal for the Doctoral Dissertation Project to be approved by the Academic Dean. This is to be completed in Year 2 spring quarter in Doctoral Dissertation Project Research & Methodologies II.
 - Students must complete two courses in Doctoral Dissertation Project Research & Methodologies I and II during the second year of the program. The purpose of the courses is to guide students through project development and research protocol. Students will formulate a solid project concept, develop a valid approach and methodology, and complete a Doctoral Dissertation Project concept proposal and outline to be approved by the end of the courses in order to be advanced to candidacy.
6. Students must submit and defend an original Doctoral Dissertation Project accepted by the faculty and the Institution.

When all members of the committee have approved the Doctoral Dissertation Project, the student is required to pay the Doctoral Dissertation Project fee and schedule their online Doctoral Dissertation Project Defense date with the Chair. Final approval and acceptance of the Doctoral Dissertation 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.

The D.A. degree is awarded when the student has completed 66-quarter credits of coursework, successfully passed two Comprehensive Exams (2 credits), and successfully completed and defended a Doctoral Dissertation Project (22 credits) for a total of 90 quarter credits.

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.

Required Reading

The Master’s and Doctoral programs each have a **Required Reading List**. This document contains the texts for each course, ISBN numbers, and cost.

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 and guidance, personal login information for Populi access 24 hours/ 7 days a week.

Student Resources on Populi:

- Academic Calendar (also on VGI website)
- Catalog (also on VGI website)
- Student Handbook
- Thesis and Doctoral Dissertation Project Handbooks
- Curriculum Schedule, Course Descriptions, Study Guides, Required Reading lists.

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** 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 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.

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

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.



ReWilding Sequoia National Park, CA. 2015

PROGRAM FINANCIAL INFORMATION

MASTER OF ARTS TUITION

Graduate Quarter Credits 54

Tuition 2019

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.

Tuition: \$12,150

Fees:

Technology Fee (non-refundable): \$300

Thesis Project Fee (paid separately): \$1,500

TOTAL PROGRAM TUITION & FEES: \$13,950

TUITION & FEES SUMMARY

TUITION & FEES		Cost per credit	Tuition	Fees	Tuition & Fees
Year 1 Credit Hours	30	\$ 225	\$ 6,750.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 6,900.00
Year 2 Credit Hours	24	\$ 225	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 1,650.00	\$ 7,050.00
TOTALS			\$ 12,150.00	\$ 1,800.00	<u>\$ 13,950.00</u>

PAYMENT

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

MONTHLY TUITION PAYMENT SCHEDULE

PAYMENT SCHEDULE				
Tuition	20 payments of \$607.50	Due first of the month		\$12,150.00
Tech Fee (non-refundable)		Due 9/1 Year 1	\$ 150.00	\$150.00
Tech Fee (non-refundable)		Due 9/1 Year 2	\$ 150.00	\$150.00
Thesis Fee		Due 6/1 Year 3	\$ 1,500.00	\$1,500.00
TOTAL TUITION & FEES				<u>\$13,950.00</u>

Textbook Costs

The cost of textbooks is not included in the quoted tuition. You may purchase them from a vendor of your choice. Textbooks costs are based on new book prices.

ESTIMATED TOTAL CHARGES FOR THE ENTIRE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM:

Total Tuition & Fees: \$13, 950

Estimated books: \$700.00 (based on new texts).

Graduation fee: \$50.00

Estimated entire TOTAL: \$14,700

TOTAL CHARGES THE STUDENT IS OBLIGATED TO PAY WITH STUDENT ENROLLMENT AGREEMENT: \$100**REWILDING EXPERIENCE - Optional**

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

Fee: Fall ReWilding

\$600 (September). Fee due August

Spring: Fall ReWilding

\$600 (March). Fee due January

Program Fees**Nonrefundable Enrollment Fee of \$100.00.**

Due with the submission of Student Enrollment Agreement.

Thesis 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.

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 any of the following avenues of financial assistance.

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

DOCTOR OF ARTS TUITION

Graduate Quarter Credits 90

Tuition 2019

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.

Tuition: \$20,250

Fees:

Technology Fee (non-refundable): \$300

Dissertation Project Fee (paid separately): \$3,000

TOTAL PROGRAM TUITION & FEES: \$23,550

TUITION & FEE SUMMARY

TUITION & FEES		Cost per credit	Tuition	Fees	Tuition & Fees
Year 1 Credit Hours	30	\$ 225	\$ 6,750.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 6,900.00
Year 2 Credit Hours	33	\$ 225	\$ 7,425.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 7,575.00
Year 3 Credit Hours	27	\$ 225	\$ 6,075.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 9,075.00
TOTALS			\$ 20,250.00	\$ 3,300.00	<u>\$ 23,550.00</u>

PAYMENT

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

MONTHLY TUITION PAYMENT SCHEDULE

PAYMENT SCHEDULE				
Tuition	25 payments of \$810	Due first of the month		\$20,250.00
Tech Fee (non-refundable)		Due 9/1 Year 1	\$ 150.00	\$150.00
Tech Fee (non-refundable)		Due 9/1 Year 2	\$ 150.00	\$150.00
Dissertation Fee		Due 6/1 Year 3	\$ 3,000.00	\$3,000.00
TOTAL TUITION & FEES				<u>\$23,550.00</u>

Textbook Costs

The cost of textbooks is not included in the quoted tuition. You may purchase them from a vendor of your choice. Textbooks costs are based on new book prices.

ESTIMATED TOTAL CHARGES FOR THE ENTIRE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM:

Total Tuition & Fees:	\$23,550
Estimated books:	\$700.00 (based on new book price)
Graduation fee:	\$50.00
Estimated entire TOTAL:	\$24,300

TOTAL CHARGES THE STUDENT IS OBLIGATED TO PAY UPON ENROLLMENT: \$100

PROGRAM FEES

Nonrefundable Enrollment Fee

The enrollment fee helps offset a portion of enrollment and admissions costs. It is a one-time non-refundable fee paid upon submission of signed Student Enrollment Agreement form.

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

Other 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
Doctoral Project Extension Fee (Year 5)	\$8,000
Thesis Extension Fee (Year 3)	\$4,000

The Independent Study Fee is paid with the course tuition amount.

REWILDING EXPERIENCE - Optional (*Fees are paid separately and are not calculated in tuition and fees*). ReWilding Experiences are offered twice each year (Fall and Spring). A student may participate in any ReWilding offered.

Fee: Fall ReWilding

\$600 (September). Fee due August 1.

Spring: Fall ReWilding

\$600 (March). Fee due February 1.

The ReWilding Experiences are optional. 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. This is one of the most popular aspects to a VGI education, creating lifelong friendships and a strong vibrant ecopsychological community. Lodging is included in 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 for each ReWilding. The ReWilding take place in National Parks or areas where food is easily available. The ReWilding Fee must be paid in full at least thirty days (30) before the date of the ReWilding. ReWilding estimated meal cost per day: \$45

CANCELLATION & REFUND 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 policies conform to the requirements of the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE) Ed. Code §94911, refund policies required by the federal Department of Education in 34 CFR 668, and complies with the refund and termination procedure requirements of the institution's accrediting body, the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC).

Federal Trade Commission Cancellation Notice

STUDENT'S RIGHT TO CANCEL

A student has five (7) calendar days after signing an enrollment agreement to cancel enrollment and receive a full refund of all monies paid to Viridis Graduate Institute minus the application fee of \$100. If a student withdraws after seven days, the following refund policy applies.

If the student enrolls in either the master's or doctoral program, each course is treated separately for the purposes of calculating any refund to the student. No student is obligated for tuition charged for a quarter term that has not commenced when the student withdraws.

A student may submit notice of cancellation or withdrawal in any manner, however, the Institute prefers to receive this notice in writing. Enrollment cancellation may be conveyed to the Institute by email, post mail, and telephone.

Email: vgi.registrar@viridisedu.org

Mail: Viridis Graduate Institute
417 Bryant Circle • Ojai, California 93023

Telephone: (011) -805-889-0169

REFUND POLICY

Students who withdraw from a course may be entitled to a tuition refund. Refunds are paid within 10 days of notification of withdrawal. The time-based refund amount is based on the day of withdrawal as indicated in the chart below or based on the last date of attendance.

Length of Term	Percentage of Tuition Returned to the Student Minus the Application (\$100) and Technology Fee (\$300). If you withdraw:	
10-Week quarter term	Within 7 business days of enrolling at VGI.	100% of tuition 100% technology fee
	Before the start of the quarter	100% of tuition 100% technology fee
	During week 1 of the quarter	80% of tuition
	During week 2 of the quarter	60% of tuition
	During week 3 of the quarter	40% of tuition
	During week 4 of the quarter	20% of tuition
	During week 5-10 of the quarter	0%

Sample Tuition Refund Calculation:

A student who withdraws from the first course during week 3, receives a 40 percent refund on the tuition paid. Student pays a one-time application fee of \$100 (non-refundable) and a tuition payment of \$675 for a 3-semester credit hour course for a total of \$775. $\$775 - \$100 = \$675 \times .40 = \270 . The student receives a refund of \$270 within 10 days following notification of withdrawal.

Example:

VGI Institutional Charge	Amount
New Student Application Fee	\$100
Tuition (3-credit graduate course @ \$225)	\$675
Total Tuition & Application Fee Charged:	\$775

Refund calculation based on withdrawal during Week 3 from EEHUM 700 (10 week course)

VGI Institutional Charge	Amount Refunded to the Student
New Student Registration Fee	\$0
Tuition (3-credit graduate course)	$\$675 \times .40$ (40%) = \$270.00
Eligible Refund:	\$270.00

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 pre-enrollment and admissions requirements, including, but not limited to, paying required enrollment fee, submission of all previous college transcripts, proof of completion of relevant diplomas or 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 unless extended by VGI.

After the Scheduled Start Date, Viridis Graduate Institute may terminate this agreement if the student still has not met any of the pre-enrollment or admission requirements specified above. In accordance with policies defined in the Student Handbook and this Catalog, Viridis Graduate Institute may also terminate the agreement if the student fails to meet Satisfactory Academic Progress, or if the student violates VGI's policies for academic authenticity or its code of conduct for student behavior. Viridis Graduate Institute may also administratively withdraw a student, resulting in the automatic termination of this agreement, if VGI determines that the student is no longer enrolled based on a variety of reasons such as a lack of academic activity, failure to establish academic verification at the beginning of a new term, or failure to pay tuition.

ReWilding Refund Policy

If for any reason the student must cancel their participation in ReWilding, a refund of the fee is issued to the student based on the calculation below. Refund is sent to student within 10 days of the cancellation notice.

Time	Refund Amount from \$600
Up to 31 days before ReWilding Experience date.	\$500
After 30 days	\$0

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@viridisedu.org.

Terms of Enrollment Agreement

Master's Program Termination Date of Student Enrollment Agreement

The term of this agreement is thirty-six (36) months from the date of the contract acceptance as indicated by the institutional signature and date. There are no extensions for coursework. An extension may be provided for Thesis Projects. Fees will apply. Please see **General Service Fees**.

Doctoral Program Termination Date of Student Enrollment Agreement

The term of this agreement is forty-eight (48) months from the date of the contract acceptance as indicated by the institutional signature and date. There are no extensions. An extension may be provided for Dissertation Projects. Fees will apply. Please see **General Service Fees**.

Federal Trade Commission Cancellation Notice

The applicant may cancel this contract and receive a full refund of all monies paid to date if cancellation is made in any manner (preferably in writing) to the Office of the Registrar and mailed/delivered to the Institution at the address stated herein within five (5) calendar days after the date of signature. See Student's Right to Cancel.

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.

Returned Checks

A charge of \$30.00 will be made for all returned checks. Viridis Graduate Institute reserves the right to require payment by cashier's check, money order, or credit card.

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.

Loan Deferment

Viridis Graduate Institute does not participate in the Department of Education's Federal Student Aid programs and is not eligible to process In-School Deferment Requests for student loan deferral.

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.

STUDENT TUITION RECOVERY FUND (California Students)

You must pay the state-imposed assessment for the Student Tuition Recovery Fund (STRF) if all of the following applies to you:

1. You are a student in an educational program, who is a California resident, or are enrolled in a ReWilding program, and prepay all or part of your tuition either by cash, guaranteed student loans, or personal loans, and
2. Your total charges are not paid by any third-party payer such as an employer, government program or other payer unless you have a separate agreement to repay the third party.

You are not eligible for protection from the STRF and you are not required to pay the STRF assessment, if either of the following applies:

1. You are not a California resident, or are not enrolled in a ReWilding program, or
2. Your total charges are paid by a third party, such as an employer, government program or other payer, and you have no separate agreement to repay the third party."

"The State of California created the Student Tuition Recovery Fund (STRF) to relieve or mitigate economic losses suffered by students in educational programs who are California residents, or are enrolled in a ReWilding programs attending certain schools regulated by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education. You may be eligible for STRF if you are a California resident or are enrolled in a ReWilding program, prepaid tuition, paid the STRF assessment, and suffered an economic loss as a result of any of the following:

1. The school closed before the course of instruction was completed.
2. The school's failure to pay refunds or charges on behalf of a student to a third party for license fees or any other purpose, or to provide equipment or materials for which a charge was collected within 180 days before the closure of the school.
3. The school's failure to pay or reimburse loan proceeds under a federally guaranteed student loan program as required by law or to pay or reimburse proceeds received by the school prior to closure in excess of tuition and other costs.
4. There was a material failure to comply with the Act or this Division within 30 days before the school closed or, if the material failure began earlier than 30 days prior to closure, the period determined by the Bureau.
5. An inability after diligent efforts to prosecute, prove, and collect on a judgment against the institution for a violation of the Act."

However, no claim can be paid to any student without a social security number or a taxpayer identification number. **The STRF assessment is NOT required at this time.**

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 Ph.D. 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 credit¹ or 30 hours of student work for one quarter credit².

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.

¹One credit/semester hour is 15 hours of academic engagement and 30 hours of preparation.

²One 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 thesis or dissertation 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:

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 session, making discussion board postings, and delivering a final paper or presentation to the class. Faculty maintain an attendance roster, which is submitted to the Registrar at the end of the quarter.

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” grade or lower and a **No Pass** for that course. The student will receive an F 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.
- If a student knows in advance that they will not be able to meet the minimum attendance requirements due to unusual and unavoidable circumstances, they may petition the Education Council for a **Course Completion Plan**. Students with a Course Completion Plan are expected to listen to all class recordings, prepare responses to all questions put forth by the instructor, and complete all coursework by the course due dates. The granting of a Course Completion Plan is not guaranteed and is dependent on the student’s overall SAP and at the discretion of the Education Council.
- In all other instances, students who know they will not meet the attendance requirements for the course will need to submit a **Withdrawal 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 to withdrawal. Any course from which the student has withdrawn will have to be retaken in the next quarter that it is offered.

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.

- **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.

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. The Registrar will send written verification of a Leave of Absence request approval to the student.

A Leave of Absence must be approved by the Education Council. Reasons for requiring a leave often include bereavement, illness, care-giving, maternity, paternity, and call to active military duty. Additional documentation may be requested. Once the request has been approved by VGI Education Council, the student will be notified by email to their VGI Gmail address.

For students who take a Leave of Absence prior to the start of the quarter, enrollment ends on the last day of the preceding quarter. If a student needs to take a Leave of Absence after the quarter has begun, the date on which the Registrar's Office receives the Leave of Absence Form constitutes the effective date of the leave. This date will be used to calculate any refund of tuition and/or fees based upon the Refund Tuition Policy.

If a student needs to take a Leave of Absence while in dissertation phase, their dissertation committee will be dissolved, and the student will have to reconvene a committee upon reenrollment. Fees may apply.

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 tuition and fees, in effect at the time of their readmission.

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. An Independent Study must be approved by the instructor and the Education Council.

Students are encouraged to discuss their plans with the Academic Dean or President before taking a Leave of Absence.

Withdrawal Policy

Students wishing to withdraw from Viridis Graduate Institute are required to notify the Registrar's Office in writing. Upon receipt, the Registrar will notify the Academic Dean. The Refund Policy will be administered by the Registrar's Office.

Student Withdrawal

Student-initiated withdrawal occurs when the student notifies VGI of the intent to withdraw. The withdrawal date is the date the student notified VGI of the intent to withdraw.

Administrative Withdrawal

Administrative withdrawal occurs when VGI determines that the student is no longer enrolled based on a variety of reasons such as a student's lack of academic activity, failure to establish satisfactory academic progress, or failure to pay tuition. Prior to 50% completion of the term, the withdrawal date is the date determined by VGI. At 50% completion of the term or later, the withdrawal date is the last date of student academic activity or 50% completion of the term, whichever date is later.

Inactive Status

In the event VGI fails to receive any coursework from a student within a ten (10) week period, or final coursework within twelve (12) week time frame for final assignments, the student will be placed on inactive status. To return to active status, the student must submit a Request for Reactivation form accompanied by a \$50.00 reactivation fee before the start of the quarter following inactive status notification. Inactive status in no way suspends any financial obligations students may have to the Institute.

If an inactive student chooses not to return to active status within sixteen (16) weeks, the process for withdrawal from the program will be initiated by VGI. Students desiring to return to their studies must be re-evaluated and will be subject to any changed academic requirements, tuition increases, and policy changes in force at the time of re-enrollment.

Re-Enrollment

To resume enrollment following an approved Leave of Absence, students must submit a **Request for Re - Enrollment form** to the Registrar's Office at least six (6) weeks prior to the intended quarter of re-enrollment. 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 tuition and fees, in effect at the time of their readmission. To re-enter the program following a Withdrawal or Leave of Absence, a student must be in good financial standing and good academic standing. 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 thesis and Doctoral Dissertation 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. If a student feels they have been treated unfairly or unjustly by faculty or staff with regard to an academic process such as grading, testing, or assignments; violation of an academic or institutional policy; or, if the student has a grievance on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, age, marital status, national origin, physical disability, veteran's status, or any other basis prohibited by applicable federal, state, or local laws or any other matter, the student must submit a written statement of the grievance to Dr. Lori Pye, President of Viridis Graduate Institute.

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.

If the student complaint cannot be resolved after exhausting the Institution's grievance procedure, the student or any member of the public may file a complaint about this Institution with the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education by calling the Toll-free number: (888) 370-7589 or go to the website: www.bppe.ca.gov. Any questions a student may have regarding this catalog that have not been satisfactorily answered by the Institution may be directed to the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education at 2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 400, Sacramento, CA 95833 P.O. Box 980818, West Sacramento, CA 95798-0818, Telephone: (888) 370-7589 or (916) 431-6959 or by fax (916) 263-1897. Website: www.bppe.ca.gov.

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.

Student Honor Code:

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.



ReWilding Denali National Park, AK. 2017

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@viridisedu.org.

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@viridisedu.org). 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 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@viridisedu.org, 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 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;
- The Doctoral Dissertation Projects, theses, 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 the **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 (www.viridisedu.org) 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 prospective students

Email addresses and other personal information of prospective students will never be shared with third parties. VGI will use email addresses and other personal information to provide interested parties with the information they request and any other topics pertaining to enrollment at VGI. When prospective students apply or subsequently enroll as a VGI student, VGI uses passwords to protect the privacy of applicants and students who use personalized areas of its sites. The highest level of security is used for storing information (SSL encryption). VGI staff monitors the sites for technical reliability.

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:
viridisinstitute@gmail.com

To opt out by phone:
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 committee. If a personal relationship develops between faculty and student that is desired by both parties, VGI requires that the relationship is put “on hold” until the student graduates and is no longer part of the faculty-student dynamic. Additionally, that faculty member is not allowed to teach the course in which the student is currently enrolled.

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.

Open Door Policy

VGI is, in essence, an ecosystem, operating with many of the same principles as all ecosystems. We believe that there must be communication and exchange between all those involved with the school (Board of Trustees, administration, faculty, students and operations) at all levels in order to be successful. For that reason, an open-door policy exists that allows all individuals to discuss with leadership any conflicts and concerns that may arise relative to Viridis Graduate Institute.

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.



ReWilding Grand Canyon National Park, AZ. 2014

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.

Drug & Alcohol Use

Violation of this policy will result in immediate dismissal from Viridis Graduate Institute's programs.

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.



ReWilding Glacier National Park, MT. 2016



ReWilding Zion National Park, UT. 2016

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. See Special Term Dates for select courses (below).

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@viridisedu.org).

MASTER'S PROGRAM TERM DATES

DOCTORAL PROGRAM TERM DATES



ReWilding Denali National Park, AK. 2017

DEGREE PROGRAM COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

YEAR 1**FALL QUARTER****Sept - Nov****ReWilding Experience (September)****EEHUM 700 Ecopsychology I**

3 Credits

Description**Ecological Psyche, Energy, Composting**

In Ecopsychology I, students examine the ecological psyche, the principle of energy, and processes of decay and renewal (composting) found in both ecological and psychological systems. Earth systems and its organisms depend on the constant exchange of energy through the circulation of air and water and exchanges in the soil. 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 Mythological and Philosophical Foundations of Ecopsychology

3 Credits

Description

Ecopsychology traces its roots to a rich history of human inquiry about the "idea of nature" through mythological and philosophical 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 Depth & Archetypal Psychology

3 Credits

Description

This course explores the foundations and applications of depth and archetypal psychology, which is grounded in the humanities. Depth and archetypal psychology honor unconscious, conscious, known and unknown manifestations of psyche. Students examine ideas and theories, as well as the development of how meaning is constructed by individuals and the collective in the cultivation of thought, image, art and narrative. The course will focus on translating into practice the four basic ideas of Archetypal Psychology: Personifying, Pathologizing, and Psychologizing.

WINTER QUARTER**Jan - March****EEHUM 703 Ecopsychology II****3 Credits****Description****Diversity & Waste**

In Ecopsychology II, students examine the principles of diversity and waste that operate in both ecological and psychological systems. All ecosystems require biodiversity to flourish. Greater biodiversity promotes resilience and responsiveness to surprise, stressors, and disturbances. Similarly, the human ecosystem requires psychological diversity of ideas, curiosity, and imagination. Psychic diversity cultivates capacities for complexity, flexibility, and resilience, which helps us to respond to surprises, stressors, and disturbances.

All organisms feed on continual cycling of matter and flows of energy, which is composted, used and recycled through multiple networks of life, such that nothing is wasted. The human psyche circulates conscious and unconscious disparaging narratives and practices that foster human and planetary impoverishment. Humans can learn to compost narratives by engaging the ecological principles and processes of decay and renewal, which promote new psychic life.

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 contemporary narratives active in the current geopolitical landscape. Students will develop the skills necessary to recognize various ways that narrative patterns resurface through language and behavior. Students will use ecopsychological principles to transform disparaging narratives and practices.

ReWilding Experience (March)

SPRING QUARTER**April - June****EEHUM 706 Ecopsychology III**

3 Credits

Description**Change & Connection**

In Ecopsychology III, students study the principles of change and connection. Ecological and biological evolution matters. All living beings and linked ecosystems of the biosphere evolve or undergo change throughout their life history. Life proceeds through evolution and interactions, which promote novelty, renewal, or death. Psychological evolution also matters and proceeds through uneven and often unanticipated shifts that include periods marked by opportunity and creativity, as well as trauma, loss, and crises.

Events in the ecological world are interconnected through interactions and exchanges of ecological principles and processes. Life flourishes through cooperation and partnership among invisible and visible interactions. Human beings are intricately woven into and dependent on the ecological world. Psychological experiences and events are interconnected as we function by the same ecological principles that govern death and life for all planetary beings.

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

This course examines the idea that we are all in the business of business. This course offers a broad overview of the systemic nature of business—from local to global systems that are intertwined with planetary processes and limitations. Students will explore ideas of power found in all business practices and behaviors as well as their own relationship with kinds of power. Through the application of ecopsychological principles, students will redefine their relationship with kinds of powers and reframe the typical understanding of power operative in the culture.

EEHUM 709 Omnibus I: Flora & Fauna

3 Credits

Description

This course is a structured, supervised independent study where students examine the flora and fauna of their local biome. Interconnected through a series of complex relationships, flora and fauna are critical to the survival of the whole ecosystem. Students will demonstrate the interdependence and connection among plants and animals.

Comprehensive Exam 1 (June)

1 Credit

YEAR 2**FALL QUARTER****Sept - Nov****ReWilding Experience (September)****EEHUM 800 Ecopsychology & Narrative Inquiry**

3 Credits

Description

Behaviors driven by dominance, purism, and supremacy are active in today's cultures. Students will use ecopsychological principles to expose and assess narratives and practices perpetuated by these destructive behaviors.

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 The Unconscious in Art, Mind, and Brain

3 Credits

Description

This course examines the intersections of psychology, neuroscience, and art in order to understand how perceptions are developed and that by expanding perceptions we change the way in which we see the world. The course has a focus on Viennese culture and its leaders in science, medicine, and art (Freud, Klimt, Kokoschka, and Schiele), who began a revolution that changed forever how we think about the human mind, our conscious and unconscious thoughts and emotions, and how mind and brain relate to art. Topics also include current research on the division between the two hemispheres of the brain that has a critical effect on how we see and understand the world around us.

Requirement: Student must visit one Art Museum during this course.

WINTER QUARTER**Jan - March****EEHUM 803 Ecopsychological Ethos**

3 Credits

Description

Aesthetic judgement (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 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 The Practice of Ecopsychology

3 Credits

Description

The practice of ecopsychology seeks to examine, recognize, and change narratives underpinning disparaging and destructive human ecological and social practices. The course is designed to give the student practice in the applications of ecopsychological principles and archetypal psychological ideas that promote narrative transformation. Students 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 805 Master's Thesis Project Research & Writing

3 Credits

Description

This course will guide students through research protocol and CMS writing style in order to develop and complete a scholarly Thesis Project. Students will identify a topic, formulate a solid project concept, and develop a valid approach and methodology.

EEHUM 810 Master's Thesis Project

5 Credits

Students who select to conclude their studies at the master's level at the end of Year 2 will develop a thesis project to be completed by the fall quarter. Students conduct original research through approved methods and write a thesis project under the supervision of a Thesis Project Committee,

Thesis Projects are to be completed by September 15.

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

EEHUM 806 Doctoral Dissertation Project Research & Methodologies I

5 Credits

Description

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

SPRING QUARTER**April - June****EEHUM 807 Doctoral Dissertation Project Research & Methodologies II**

5 Credits

Description

This course serves as the second phase of developing a scholarly Doctoral Dissertation Project and will guide students through research and information and data-collection strategies for the final Doctoral Dissertation Project, culminating in an expanded Doctoral Dissertation 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 Dissertation Project requirements.

EEHUM 808 Animal Sentience

3 Credits

Description

As the bedrock of ethics and moral systems, sentience—the capacity to feel—is at the very core of arguments to ascribe basic rights to animals. This course surveys the current scientific evidence for sentience in all the major vertebrate groups (mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fishes), plus emerging evidence for sentience in some invertebrate groups. Using published scientific papers and texts, as well as the new online journal *Animal Sentience*, we will explore pain, pleasure, consciousness, awareness, and emotions, all of which sentience encompasses. We will consider the scientifically- and politically-charged controversies regarding animal sentience. Students will complete the course with a better understanding of animals' relevant capacities, and where to “draw the line” on animal sentience.

EEHUM 809 Traditional Ecological Knowledge

3 Credits

Description

Traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and Māori environmental knowledge (MEK) are the product of generations of learning and experience with the lands, waters, fish, plants, wildlife, and other natural resources in particular areas of the world. The course aims to provide an overview of ecological understanding from indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing important in the contemporary world.

Comprehensive Exam 2 (June)

1 Credit

YEAR 3**FALL QUARTER****Sep-Nov****EEHUM 900 Ecopsychological Applications for Professional Life**

5 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 Dissertation Project

22 Credits

Description

Under the supervision of a Doctoral Dissertation Project Committee, students conduct original research through approved methods and write a Doctoral Dissertation Project, culminating in a Doctoral Dissertation Project defense in front of their committee on the Zoom platform. Students are given a maximum of eighteen months to complete the Doctoral Dissertation Project.

First drafts of Doctoral Dissertation Projects are to be completed by May 15, in Year 3. All draft revisions and the defense are to be completed by December 1 of Year 4.

Description

The Doctoral Dissertation Project takes place in Year 3 and requires approval from the instructor and Doctoral Dissertation Project Committee Chair in order for the student to continue based on the successful submission of the first draft of the Doctoral Dissertation Project. The course will provide the student with suggestions from their Committee on their first draft. Students will then rewrite and finalize their Doctoral Dissertation Project based on this feedback. Students will submit the final draft to their Chair for approval. Once approval is received, the student will then have their Doctoral Dissertation Project copy edited by a professional editor approved by VGI. Once the professional copy is approved by the Chair, the student is eligible to prepare for the defense of their Doctoral Dissertation Project. If the Doctoral Dissertation Project defense is approved, the student is then eligible to receive their Doctor of Arts degree.



ReWilding Sequoia National Park, CA. 2015

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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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