



AAPL Accredited Programs Educate and Equip Next-Gen Landmen

AAPL is passionate about empowering the next generation of land professionals with the knowledge and tools for career success. AAPL accreditation recognizes top-notch undergraduate and graduate energy management and petroleum land management programs at universities across the country.

“The AAPL’s accredited programs are a vital part of a pipeline that is creating the next generation of land professionals,” said Mark Caponegro, chairman of the Accreditation Committee. “Even in low price environments, these programs work tirelessly to recruit, retain and

graduate a diverse and informed group of land professionals who are prepared to enter the industry.”

Through its Accreditation Committee, AAPL evaluates existing degree programs, both undergraduate and graduate, offered by universities that seek AAPL accreditation. Programs that apply contain curriculum either associated with landwork or complementary to land professionals. After an evaluation, the Accreditation Committee votes and provides a recommendation to the Executive Committee for final determination.

Further encouraging the infusion of new talent into the profession, AAPL

offers free “Student” memberships as well as scholarship opportunities to students enrolled in its accredited programs. Each year, AAPL’s Landman Scholarship Trust awards over \$250,000 in student scholarships — for a total topping \$2 million since the LST’s inception in 1959.

Following are some highlights from AAPL’s currently accredited programs, including the year they were accredited by AAPL, type of degree, number of graduates to date and recent achievements. Programs are divided into undergraduate and graduate categories and listed in the order in which they received AAPL accreditation.

AAPL ACCREDITED UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS



Price College of Business Robert M. Zinke Energy Management Program University of Oklahoma

ou.edu/admissions/academics/business/energy-management

AAPL accreditation: 1958

Degree: Bachelor of Business Administration in Energy Management

Number of graduates:
Approximately 2,262

The Robert M. Zinke Energy Management Program is committed to producing a business graduate with a strong and diversified understanding of both the domestic and global energy industries. Graduates have a strong foundation in scientific, legal, financial and commercial skills to make a difference in the energy industry. The program strives to create energy leaders who can thrive in any sector of the industry.

The Zinke EM Program continues to update the curriculum and adapt coursework requirements to improve the commerciality of the EM students. Recent changes were driven by survey feedback from employers and graduates. Curriculum review is ongoing and reflects the renewable emphasis in the industry. Exposure to CEOs and industry executives enhances the educational experience of EM students, while the addition of Mike McConnell as program director gives them daily interaction with a president/CEO.



Professional Land & Resource Management University of Louisiana at Lafayette

management.louisiana.edu/programs/undergraduate/professional-land-resource-management

AAPL accreditation: 1981

Degree: Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Number of graduates:
Approximately 600

ULL's Professional Land and Resource Management major — one of the initial five programs in North America — offers extraordinary education and training on how to manage, acquire and negotiate resources, especially related to the oil and gas industry. Graduates master a carefully planned curriculum that gives them diverse opportunities in Louisiana's flagship land and resource industry as well as nationally.

The program combines a sound foundation in the business disciplines with courses in geology, biology, law and liberal arts to meet the challenges of a dynamic domestic and global business environment. In tandem with in-class education, the PLRM program also manages its own oil and agricultural leases, giving students firsthand experience in the business process that is involved in managing resources. This adds exceptional value to graduates' experiences and degrees — and allows them to include "experienced landman" on their résumés. Having the PLRM program in the Gulf region, along a resource corridor that spans the Gulf Coast and beyond, is unprecedented and can lead students to incredible opportunities.

The PLRM program participates in national oil and gas expos in Louisiana and Houston, where students manage a booth showcasing the program and its students. At these expos, all stages of resource utilization are represented — equipment sales, drilling, production, geology and financing in addition to land and resource management firms — enabling students to witness and apply what they have learned in the academic environment. Some students also receive job and internship offers on-site.



Energy Commerce Texas Tech University

depts.ttu.edu/rawlsbusiness/about/eel

AAPL accreditation: 1982

Degree: Bachelor of Business Administration in Energy Commerce

Number of graduates: 997

Energy Commerce is a broad-based business degree that prepares students for careers directly and indirectly related to the energy industry. The program focuses on teaching the primary skills necessary for a successful business career: issue analysis, critical thinking and problem-solving. Students learn and practice through a series of hands-on experiential opportunities, case studies and simulation projects. Faculty and staff engage students on a personal level, bringing their own significant industry experience into the classroom. In addition, faculty conduct extensive academic research resulting in publication.

During the senior seminar capstone course, students have the opportunity to synthesize the many facets of their Energy Commerce education by working in an upstream and midstream/downstream multidisciplinary team to complete a semester-long project that covers many elements of the oil and gas value chain. Teams complete upstream lease analysis and negotiations, production placement and pricing, risk management and project evaluation. The project culminates in a presentation and written report to a panel of industry judges. In the most recent year, over a dozen industry partners from various companies participated in various stages of the project.

In addition, a Texas Tech Energy Commerce student was recently announced as the AAPL Outstanding Graduate Award winner for the 2020-21 school year.



**Energy Management Program
The University of Tulsa**

🔗 business.utulsa.edu/energy-economics/energy-management-undergraduate-program

AAPL accreditation: 2007

Degree: Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Number of graduates: 210

The University of Tulsa's undergraduate Energy Management Program is an interdisciplinary, 124-credit-hour, nontechnical energy program that covers all aspects of the energy industry, including legal, operational, environmental, economic and financial issues as well as the marketplace for energy. Students can focus on upstream, midstream or downstream oil and gas, power or alternative/renewable energy.

The University of Tulsa is developing an Energy Research Institute that will focus on cutting-edge technologies and future energy resources. Energy Management students will benefit from the interdisciplinary coursework that will include knowledge gained from this institute.



**Energy Management
Western Colorado University**

🔗 western.edu/program/energy-management

AAPL accreditation: 2009

Degrees: Bachelor of Business Administration with emphasis in Energy Management and Bachelor of Business Administration with Minor in Energy Management

Number of graduates: 167

Western Energy Management program offers students a comprehensive understanding of

the business of energy, including mineral exploration and production. The program cultivates practical business skills and professional development. Students learn land and resource management principles from the perspective of business administration, economics, law, geology and environmental studies.

Bridging the gap between campus life and the workplace, the Western Energy Management program uniquely offers a wide range of real-world opportunities to connect with industry partners, including networking events, conferences, educational workshops and field trips. Students are members of the WAPL club and have access to several supporting industry organizations.

The Western Energy Management program recently added a full-time position for an external relations coordinator, bolstering the program's strong connections with future students and industry partners. Despite COVID-19 challenges, the WAPL student club remains virtually connected with industry partners. For example, students moderated a series of virtual discussions with leading industry professionals on a wide array of topics ranging from virtual professionalism to the intricacies of title and division orders. With the support of Western, the program advisory board, faculty, industry partners, alumni and students, the program continues to find creative ways to pivot and adapt to shifting market demand.



**Professional Land Management
University of Wyoming School of
Energy Resources**

🔗 uwyo.edu/ser

AAPL accreditation: 2012

Degree: Bachelor of Science in Energy Resource Management and Development

Number of graduates: 40

Housed in the School of Energy Resources, the multidisciplinary Professional Land Management program at the University of Wyoming prepares students for a wide variety of land careers. In their sophomore year, students in the program are immediately immersed in the land profession through their introduction course, which requires them to run title in the local county, from patent to present, in order to prepare surface, mineral and leasehold ownership reports. In their senior year, students further hone their land and drafting skills through courses such as federal lands, contracts, property law and oil and gas law. Ultimately, the curriculum culminates with a senior capstone project that requires the application of the acquired skills to a real-world project.

The University of Wyoming PLM program is proud to be the home of two AAPL outstanding graduates and one other outstanding graduate finalist over the past four years. In addition, cutting-edge capstone projects prepared and presented by students recently included a hypothetical CO2 pipeline for a potential real-world carbon capture and storage project. This year, students are investigating and presenting a project relating to the regulatory, legal, technical, contractual and economic considerations for a commercial solar rooftop leasing program.



**Energy Land Management
West Virginia University**

🔗 davis.wvu.edu/future-students/majors/energy-land-management

AAPL accreditation: 2016

Degree: Bachelor of Science in Energy Land Management

Number of graduates: 140

Providing a strong foundation in the key aspects of energy land management, West Virginia University's ELM program produces

trained professionals who are critically needed in the energy and regulatory sectors. Program graduates understand how energy lands are managed and how associated energy resources can be developed and used for maximum social, economic and environmentally responsible benefit. Students develop detailed knowledge of real property ownership, the leasing of surface and mineral interests, development of heirships and land administration; energy site development, energy and related transportation, and route planning; downstream planning and infrastructure development; and the ethical, regulatory and environmental framework in which they must operate.

WVU's Energy Land Management program is working toward a future where more students are aware of energy careers while simultaneously creating a more diverse and inclusive program. The new Energy, Environment and Excitement Camp provides an opportunity to recruit underrepresented minority students in eighth and ninth grades to WVU's ELM program from nontraditional recruiting areas — introducing a completely new generation and population to the amazing world of energy and landwork. Bridging a gap between education, industry and students, the free camp gives students an immersive experience of college life and introduces them to AAPL professionals, industry partners, current ELM students and faculty. While attending the camp students will participate in condensed energy land management courses, complete a group landwork-based project, present to industry professionals and experience the wonder and beauty of West Virginia.

WVU's ELM program would like to thank AAPL and the Blankenship Initiative for helping to get this initiative off the ground with their very generous donation of \$5,000.



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Marietta College

**Land and Energy Management
Marietta College**
marietta.edu/program/land-energy-management

AAPL accreditation: 2016
Degree: Bachelor of Arts in Land & Energy Management
Number of graduates: 38

Marietta's Land & Energy Management major is distinctive among small liberal arts colleges and large state universities alike. Industry expansion in two geographic regions — Wyoming/North Dakota and Ohio/Pennsylvania/West Virginia — makes this an attractive major for students wishing to remain in the area or take their talents elsewhere. Graduates enter professions involved in land and mineral rights acquisition for fossil fuel and renewable energy resource development along with other commercial development activities. Building on the strength of a rigorous business core, the curriculum also

includes geology, environmental science, communications, writing, mathematics and computing.

In three of the last four years, a Marietta senior has qualified among the finalists for AAPL's Outstanding Graduate Award. Program alumni are working in Texas, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia. This year, two alumni became the first Marietta graduates to earn their registered professional landman credentials.



COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY

**Energy Management/Landman
Colorado Mesa University**
coloradomesa.edu/business/degrees/energy-management-landman

AAPL accreditation: 2017
Degree: Bachelor of Business Administration in Energy Management/Landman
Number of graduates: Approximately 100

The Bachelor of Business Administration with a concentration in Energy Management/Landman

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allows Colorado Mesa University to play an integral role in developing the worldwide energy industry. Students have the opportunity to acquire business knowledge in the areas of geology, environmental sciences and energy management/land.

Business education, analytical and communication skills, and knowledge of environmental rules and regulations in combination with the current practices in energy development, markets and production equip graduates to succeed in the ever-changing energy industry. Through industry support, students may have the opportunity for internships with energy companies, providing a framework for both enhanced learning and networking possibilities. In addition, Western Colorado is well positioned to participate in the further development of fossil fuels, alternative and renewable energy sources.

CMU was the first accredited AAPL university to offer a 4+1 program with Colorado School of Mines. A student can use six credit hours from CMU's undergraduate degree, then take an extra six credit hours of graduate courses and earn a Master of Science in Mineral and Energy Economics from the Colorado School of Mines within a year of receiving their undergraduate degree.

In February 2020, CMU's Landman Energy Management Club helped sponsor Alex Epstein, author of "The Moral Case for Fossil Fuels," to speak at two campus events, which were attended by over 700 people. The first event was recorded and can be viewed on YouTube (www.youtube.com/watch?v=yHKRi6MSof4). The video was said to be one of Epstein's best presentations on the subject, especially when answering questions from CMU's sustainability council.



**Energy Finance, Law & Science
Track in Finance Major
University of Texas at Austin**

mcombs.utexas.edu/Centers/Undergraduate-Energy-Programming/Curriculum

AAPL accreditation: 2020

Degree: Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance with an Energy Finance, Law and Science Track

UT's accredited program is undergoing a rebirth. The new accredited Energy Finance, Law & Science track recently debuted at the McCombs School of Business, enabling finance majors to specialize their studies with an Energy Management minor. The EM program consists of 18 credit hours incorporating coursework in business, geoscience, law and petroleum engineering. The EM program also includes various opportunities for students to engage with industry professionals and gain firsthand experience out in the field.

**AAPL ACCREDITED GRADUATE
DEGREE PROGRAMS**



**Master of Science in Energy
Management
Oklahoma City University Meinders
School of Business**

okcu.edu/business/graduate/energy/master-energy-management

**Master of Science in Energy Legal
Studies
Oklahoma City University Meinders
School of Business**

okcu.edu/business/graduate/energy/energy-legal-studies

AAPL accreditation: 2013

Degrees: Master of Science in Energy Management and Master of Science in Energy Legal Studies

Number of graduates:

202 in M.S. Energy Management;
109 in M.S. Energy Legal Studies

Oklahoma City University's online M.S. Energy Management degree is designed for working professionals in the energy industry. Its 10 cohort-based courses provide an applied understanding of finance, economic modeling, operations and communication skills — areas critical to meeting the unique demands and embracing the opportunities in 21st century energy business. While the courses are presented online, there are many interactive opportunities for discussion and career development.

OCU's online M.S. Energy Legal Studies degree is a cohort-based, energy-focused, online graduate program designed for working professionals that is built on personal attention to students' success. As the regulatory and legal aspects of the energy industry change, the M.S. Energy Legal Studies degree focuses on the underlying legal principles of the energy industry in this dynamic time.

The M.S. Energy Management and M.S. Energy Legal Studies degrees at OCU were the first graduate programs

accredited by AAPL. OCU is proud of its continued engagement with the energy industry and looks forward to future successful collaboration. In January 2021, *U.S. News & World Report* announced that OCU once again has one of the best online business school programs in the U.S. OCU's M.S. Energy Management and M.S. Energy Legal Studies ranked 48th in the country for Best Online Business Programs (non-MBA). The Meinders School of Business has been on the list for seven consecutive years.



Master of Legal Studies in Oil, Gas, and Energy Law*
University of Oklahoma College of Law

law.ou.edu/academics/programs/mls-program/mls-oil-gas-and-energy-law

AAPL accreditation: 2017

Degree: Master of Legal Studies in Oil, Gas, and Energy Law

Number of graduates: 216

The OU College of Law is a leader in oil and gas, natural resources and energy law. The Master of Legal Studies in Oil, Gas, and Energy Law is one of five graduate-level AAPL accredited programs and the only one in a law school. The MLS-OGEL requires 32 credit hours inside the OU College of Law that can be completed in 15 months. The final four credits are earned during a one-week intensive session hosted at the OU College of Law, providing an opportunity to meet and network with other students in the program before graduation. World-renowned faculty who are experts in the energy industry mentor MLS-OGEL students and teach a comprehensive curriculum. The MLS-OGEL program offers a competitive advantage to anyone who assembles land interests for the energy industry, negotiates oil and gas contracts, deals with mineral

rights or works closely with oil and gas or energy attorneys.

Recently, the program revised curriculum to match the updated AAPL definition of landwork to include renewable energy sources. The current MLS-OGEL advisory board represents all facets of the energy industry: energy executives, engineers, geologists, financial experts and landmen. In addition, many MLS-OGEL graduates hold leadership positions within their local landman associations and AAPL.

**Name is changing in Fall of 2021 to Energy and Natural Resources Law*



Master of Energy Business
The University of Tulsa

business.utulsa.edu/energy-economics/masters-energy-business

AAPL accreditation: 2017

Degree: Master of Business Administration

Number of graduates: 135

The Master of Energy Business program is an online, interdisciplinary, 34-credit-hour nontechnical energy program that covers all aspects of the energy industry, including legal, operational, environmental, economic and financial issues as well as energy markets. The program is designed for working professionals.

The University of Tulsa is developing an Energy Research Institute that will focus on cutting-edge technologies and future energy resources. Master of Energy Business students will benefit from the interdisciplinary coursework that will include knowledge gained from this institute.

Centered in the heart of energy-rich Oklahoma, this energy master's degree blends sound business principles and practices generally found in an MBA program with contemporary energy issues and perspectives to create an energy focused educational experience.



Neeley School of Business

Energy MBA

Energy MBA, Neeley School of Business
Texas Christian University

neeley.tcu.edu/energymba

AAPL accreditation: 2020

Degree: Energy MBA

Number of graduates: 120

Texas Christian University's Neeley School of Business offers an Energy MBA designed for working professionals who are currently employed in the energy industry or who aspire to be. The TCU Energy MBA program is recognized by Hart Energy's *Oil and Gas Investor* as the No. 2 energy graduate program in the nation.

The TCU Energy MBA is offered on campus or virtually and can be completed in 18-24 months. The energy focused MBA allows students to combine the integrated, broad business perspective of an MBA with industry specific practices and tools pertinent to the energy industry, including alternative energy sources. The curriculum focuses on gaining in-depth knowledge of current business issues and practices unique to the energy industry as well as strategies for managing the risks and opportunities in this dynamic and growing field.

TCU recently partnered with NAPE and the AAPL Educational Foundation to create an energy case competition to attract MBA students from all over the country to NAPE Summit. With 11 universities participating, the inaugural NAPE/TCU Energy Innovation Case Competition debuted at the 2020 NAPE Summit to tremendous success and served as an excellent example of collaboration between higher education and industry to solve some of the biggest issues facing the energy sector. The 2022 NAPE/TCU Energy Innovation Case Competition will be held at NAPE Summit in February. ▲