The Professional Land & Resource Management program prepares you for a successful career in energy exploration and development.

What Is the Western Difference?

Western developed our PLRM program in cooperation with industry professionals who share the goal of graduating the most prepared land professionals in the country.

Our faculty have proven private sector experience and regularly consult with employers to adjust the curriculum to fit real-time industry needs.

Successful land professionals are good facilitators and communicators, who can bring together diverse groups to move toward a common goal. They are resilient and adapt well to changing circumstances as they work to achieve responsible energy development.

Western teaches core values of self-confidence, teamwork, leadership, perseverance and risk-reward balance.

Western’s small program means students get one-on-one attention and professional development that includes résumé preparation, mock interviews, business etiquette and networking. PLRM attracts both traditional, four-year students, as well as industry professionals looking to build their knowledge and credentials. The combination of traditional and nontraditional students creates a culture of mentorship, innovation and entrepreneurship unavailable in other AAPL-accredited programs.

PLRM is one of only nine undergraduate programs nationwide accredited by the American Association of Land Professionals.

The average starting salary for a Landman ranges between $65,000 and $85,000.

Western students have access to industry professionals and multiple opportunities to network as they seek internships and employment.

Western PLRM students have the opportunity to attend industry conferences.

PLRM students have access to scholarships aimed at students in the program, as well as scholarships through the School of Business.

More Information: 800.876.5309 | admissions@western.edu
What Skills Will I Learn?

From your coursework, internships and professional networking, you will develop a broad array of skills. A landman is, at times, a detective, historian, researcher, geographer, writer, negotiator, legal expert, businessman, herder of cats and spokesperson for the industry. Our graduates have a strong business administration education, supplemented by specialized courses related to the land management field.

Business classes cover accounting, economics, management and marketing. Specialized subjects include geographic information systems, environmental and water law, natural resource economics, oil and gas contracts, land management, and petroleum geology.

Students learn about:

- The legal and business sides of oil and gas exploration.
- Securing land and mineral rights that allow companies to increase organizational opportunities and begin exploration.
- Working with geologists, engineers, attorneys and others to facilitate responsible energy development.
- Stakeholder communication and researching land ownership.

What Can I Do With My Degree?

More than 95 percent of our employed PLRM graduates work for oil and gas companies. The remainder work in mining or for government agencies.

More than 50 companies in at least 11 different states throughout the country have hired Western graduates. Some of these employers include ConocoPhillips, Noble Energy, Encana and Anadarko.

Meet Anthony Ball

Anthony Ball chose Western because of the Professional Land & Resource Management program and the tight-knit Gunnison community, which he says supports and cares about the university and its students.

Ball, of Eaton, Colo., also found a tight-knit community in the PLRM program.

“The students are what make this program special,” he says. “We realize our school is not centrally located in the industry, so we respond with resourcefulness and flexibility to capture opportunities. PLRM gives us a hand up, not a hand out. We earn every opportunity, building strength of character.”

Ball also was impressed with the faculty’s commitment to students’ professional development, working to put them on strong footing when approaching multimillion-dollar corporations for jobs.

His career goal is to make a powerful, positive impact on the industry.

“Whether that entails community involvement, educating the public or achieving organizational goals within my company, I want to treat each day as a job interview for my next day at work,” Ball says.