PROGRAM PROPOSAL

FACULTY: Liberal Arts & Sciences X ; Fine and Performing Arts; Education; Engineering & Business; Honors Program

DEPARTMENT: Interdisciplinary

PROGRAM NAME: Environmental Studies Minor

TYPE OF PROPOSAL (check one): _____ New Program X Revision of Existing Program

Please check here to indicate that you have consulted with Library Collections Developer X
(Consultation can be done by phone, fax, and/or E-mail. This sheet is checked by proposer, not librarian.)

Recommended by Program Chair: Lawrence A. Wood Date 1/13/13

Reviewed and Approved by Faculty Review Committee (if necessary):

Chair of Committee: Date 1/23/14

Recommended by Dean: Date 3/3/14

Undergraduate Programs:
Reviewed and Approved by College Curriculum Committee:

Chair, College Curriculum Committee: Date 3/6/14

Graduate Programs:
Reviewed and Approved by Graduate Council:

Dean of the Graduate College: Date

APPROVED BY ACADEMIC SENATE AND THE FACULTY

Presiding Officer of the Faculty Date

APPROVED BY VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: (ALL PROGRAMS)

Vice President Date
SUNY - NEW PALTZ
OUTLINE FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSALS FOR NEW OR REVISED PROGRAMS

(submit one original plus original cover sheet to your dean's office; 12 photocopies are also required for curriculum committee review)

Part I: Summary Information for College Records

1. Name of department – Environmental Studies (Interdisciplinary Minor)

2. Date of submission to Dean's Office – 11/10/13

3. Name of chair (typed and signed) – Lawrence McGlinn (Fall 2013), Brian Obach (Spring 2014)

4. Name of program – Environmental Studies Minor

5. Proposal type – Revision

6. Are present library holdings, audio-visual equipment, and laboratory facilities adequate? Yes

Part II: In-Depth Narrative Justifying Recommendation by Department

1. In narrative form, please describe the nature of the program. For revised programs, clearly describe how the old and new programs differ, and include a detailed justification for each proposed change.

The Environmental Studies minor emphasizes the social science approach to the environment, drawing on Geography, Sociology, Political Science and Anthropology for most of its courses. However, the minor also requires a solid physical science basis of Environmental Chemistry and Environmental Geology, along with Statistics. The final component of the minor is a fieldwork requirement which can be met by 20 hours of work outside the classroom as an intern, a volunteer at a local CSA, a leader of an environment-themed club, or any other activity that exposes students to real environmental work.

The changes the Environmental Studies Committee proposes for the minor are meant to improve and simplify the program while making it more accessible to physical science majors who might want to reach into the social science world for a minor.

1. The first change to the program is the addition of a required course, People-Environment Relations (GEO272). This is a broad course covering a range of environmental issues from soil degradation to gender relations to climate change. Ultimately, the Environmental Studies Committee will develop a course, Introduction to Environmental Studies, that will more fully meet this requirement, but, for now, People-Environment Relations is the closest course to such an introduction that is offered on campus.
2. With the addition of People-Environment Relations, we will drop one elective from the program, leaving only one elective required.

3. In an effort to be more accommodating to physical science majors, we will add General Chemistry I (CHE201) as an alternative to Environmental Chemistry (CHE100), and Physical Geology (GLG 220) as an alternative to Environmental Geology (GLG205) in the Environmental Science section. General Chemistry I covers many of the same topics as Environmental Chemistry in more depth, and it is required of most physical science majors, so it is an appropriate alternative.

4. The 20-hour fieldwork requirement was initially broken into two parts: ENV191 and ENV192, so that students who did two different activities of at least 10 hours could get credit for them separately. In practice, almost every Environmental Studies minor has done their fieldwork in one place for one group. Moreover, registration for the two classes has proven confusing for both students and advisors. So, we propose to drop ENV192, making ENV191 the only fieldwork course, representing the 20 hours of non-classroom work. There are no credits for these courses, so the number of credits for ENV191 will remain (0).

5. The committee does not want Environmental Studies minors to be required to take more than one statistics course, so to avoid a heavy application of workflow substitutions, the statistics requirement will add alternatives: Introduction to Statistics MAT241, Social Statistics SOC307 and Psychological Statistics PSY275 to the existing requirement of Statistics and Social Policy MAT185.

6. The Environmental Studies Committee has approved Environmental Ethics (PHI303) and Renewable Energy (EGG250) as elective courses.

II. Explain the relations of this program to the department’s overall goals, and other programs, if appropriate.

The environmental studies minor occupies a niche for students interested in socio-cultural and policy aspects of environmental issues. It also appeals to students with an emotional connection to the environment that leads them to activism. The minor provides context for their convictions and practical ideas to focus their passion. It is not as heavy on physical science as the environmental science minor in Geology. It serves students who are simply fascinated by or concerned with the environment, or students who plan to pursue Environmental Studies in graduate school.

III. Describe the department’s plans for evaluating the success of this program in the future. SEI’s alone do not constitute an evaluation plan.

A short exit survey will be sent to graduating Environmental Studies minors so that the Environmental Studies committee may receive feedback on their experience in the minor.

See attached draft survey.
CURRENT Minor in Environmental Studies - 22 credits

Social Science: Two courses chosen from the following.................6 credits
ANT250 Ecological Anthropology (3, SSCI)
GEO274 Environment and Culture (3, SSCI)
POL347 Politics of Environment and Development (3)
SOC317 Environmental Sociology (3)

Environmental Science.............................................................7 credits
CHE100 Environmental Chemistry (3, NSCI)
GLG205 Environmental Geology (4, NSCI)

Mathematics...................................................................................3 credits
MAT185 Statistics and Public Policy (MATH)

Electives: Two courses chosen from the following.........................6 credits
ANT481 Transcultural Health (3, WRLD)
GEO285 Geography of Hazards (3, NSCI)
GEO383 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (3)
GEO406 Natural Resource Management (3)
GLG339 Natural Resources and Energy (3)
GLG346 Conservation and Environmental Impact (3)
POL311 American Environmental Politics (3)

Fieldwork (ENV191 and ENV192).....................................................0 credits
20 hours work for approved organization

REVISED Minor in Environmental Studies - 22-23 credits

Environmental Studies........................................................................3 credits
GEO272 People-Environment Relations (3)

Social Science: Two courses chosen from the following.....................6 credits
ANT250 Ecological Anthropology (3, SSCI)
GEO274 Environment and Culture (3, SSCI)
POL347 Politics of Environment and Development (3) or POL311 American Environmental Politics (3)
SOC317 Environmental Sociology (3)

Environmental Science......................................................................7 credits
CHE100 Environmental Chemistry (3, NSCI) or CHE201 General Chemistry I (3, NSCI) and CHE211 General Chemistry Lab (1)
GLG205 Environmental Geology (4, NSCI) or GLG201* Physical Geology (3, NSCI) and GLG211* Physical Geology Lab (1)

Mathematics.......................................................................................3-4 credits
MAT185 Statistics and Public Policy (MATH) - preferred, OR
MAT241 Introduction to Statistics (3, MATH)
SOC307 Social Statistics (4, MATH)

Electives: One course chosen from the following..............................3 credits
ANT481 Transcultural Health (3, WRLD)
EGG250 Renewable Energy (3, NSCI)
GEO285 Geography of Hazards (3, NSCI)
GEO383 Intro to Geographic Information Systems (3)
GEO406 Natural Resource Management (3)
GLG339 Natural Resources and Energy (3)
GLG346 Conservation and Environmental Impact (3)
PHI303 Environmental Ethics (3)
POL311 American Environmental Politics (3)
SOC307 Social Statistics (4, MATH)

Fieldwork (ENV191)...........................................................................0 credits
20 hours work for approved organization
Colleagues,

A proposal to revise the Environmental Studies minor has reached the Curriculum Committee (see second attachment). As you are likely already aware, the proposed revisions involve courses in your departments.

I have summarized the proposal on the attached Word document - all proposed changes are highlighted in the right column. To confirm that you agree to the changes affecting your department, please reply to this e-mail at your earliest convenience.

Many thanks -

Val

Jeff Miller (PSIR): No response. (Course already appears on the existing plan of study as an elective option, so no additional consultation is required.)

Pamela St. John (Chem): Looks good. I am in favor of giving students a choice of either Gen. Chem. I (and lab) or Environmental Chem. for the Environmental Studies minor. Thanks, Pamela (4/10/14)

Fred Vollmer (Geology): Val, I am fine with GLG205 or (GLG220 and GLG221). It is a stronger option. I do not expect any problem accommodating students, and it is likely easier for the students given our more limited offering of GLG205. Cheers, Fred (4/9/14)

Diego Dominici (Math): I would be happy to approve the proposal. Diego requested that the plan identify a Math stats courses as “preferred” and agreed to MAT185, as proposed in the revision. (4/10 and 4/11/14)
Glenn Geher (Psych): Val - having psych stats in this mix is fine. GG (4/10/14)

Chih-Yang Tsai (Business), following confirmation from Brian that the number of students will be relatively small: Thanks, with my full support. C-Y (4/3/14)

Baback Izadi (Engr.): Val, I am fine with the requirement. Baback Izadi (4/2/14)

Bruce Milem (Phil.): Hi Val, I agree with the changes that affect my department. Thanks! Bruce (4/2/14)

John Sharp (Geog.): ...the Geography Department approves of the change to have People-Environment Relations become a required course for the Minor in Environmental Studies. Cheers, John (4/5/14)