

FACULTY AGENDA ITEM

Date: 3/18/2024

Submitted by: Maria Stover, x. 1802

Subject: New Sustainability and Environmental Studies, Minor

Description: This interdisciplinary minor explores the relationship between humans and the environment. The program integrates knowledge and methods from the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities to gain a holistic understanding of the environmental challenges of the 21st century. Students earning a minor in Sustainability and Environmental Studies will be better prepared to understand and communicate a host of complex issues confronting our species and our planet, including climate change, energy, pollution, waste, biodiversity loss, population growth, food production, environmental racism, and the moral standing of nonhuman animals and future generations.

Rationale: This interdisciplinary minor seeks to explore the scientific, social, political, cultural, and ethical relationship between humans and the environment. Through a combination of core courses and electives, this program enables students to integrate knowledge and methods from the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities to gain a holistic understanding of the environmental challenges of the 21st century. Students earning a minor in Sustainability and Environmental Studies will be better equipped to address a host of complex issues confronting our species and our planet, including climate change, energy, pollution, waste, biodiversity loss, population growth, food production, environmental racism, and the moral standing of nonhuman animals and future generations. The knowledge and skills students build in this program will enable them to work more effectively toward sustainability and environmental justice in their personal and professional lives and communities. The occupational outlook for careers related to sustainability and environmental studies is bright: (Data from O*Net, which is updated regularly and is developed under the sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration).

Financial Implications: None indicated.

Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2024

Request for Action: Approval by AAC/FS/ Gen Fac/WUBOR

Approved by: AAC on 3/18/2024

Faculty Senate on date

Attachments: **Yes X** No **_**

Program Change Request

New Program Proposal

Date Submitted: 02/14/24 10:54 am

Viewing: : **Sustainability and Environmental Studies, Minor**

Last edit: 03/19/24 9:04 am

Changes proposed by: Maria Stover (maria.stover)

Catalog Pages Using
this Program

[Sustainability and Environmental Studies, Minor](#)

Final Catalog
Rationale for

2024-2025

Change Type
Summarize
Changes and

In Workflow

- 1. AA Committee
- 2. Faculty Senate
- 3. General Faculty
- 4. WUBOR
- 5. Final Acad Ops
- 6. Registrar

Approval Path

- 1. 03/19/24 9:04 am
Holly Broxterman
(holly.broxterman):
Approved for AA
Committee

General Information

Effective Catalog
Edition

2024-2025

Department

College of Arts and Sciences

College

College of Arts and Sciences

Division

Degree Level

Undergraduate

Program Title

Sustainability and Environmental Studies, Minor

Degree to be
Offered

Minor (MINOR)

Is there a
Washburn
Related

Is this program
offered completely
online?

No

Does this program
lead to a teaching
certification?

No

Program Code

Concentration

Is this program an
interdisciplinary
program?

No

Interdisciplinary

CIP Code

303301 - Sustainability Studies.

Modality

New Program Header

Statement of Justification/Rationale for Offering the Program

This interdisciplinary minor seeks to explore the scientific, social, political, cultural, and ethical relationship between humans and the environment. Through a combination of core courses and electives, this program enables students to integrate knowledge and methods from the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities to gain a holistic understanding of the environmental challenges of the 21st century. Students earning a minor in Sustainability and Environmental Studies will be better equipped to address a host of complex issues confronting our species and our planet, including climate change, energy, pollution, waste, biodiversity loss, population growth, food production, environmental racism, and the moral standing of nonhuman animals and future generations. The knowledge and skills students build in this program will enable them to work more effectively toward sustainability and environmental justice in their personal and professional lives and communities.

Program Demand The occupational outlook for careers related to sustainability and environmental studies is bright: (Data from O*Net, which is updated regularly and is developed under the sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration).

Projected Enrollment for the Initial Three Years of the Program

| Implementation | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Full-Time | Part-Time | | |
| Full-Time | Part-Time | | |
| Year 2 | | | |
| Full-Time Headcount Per Year | - | Part-Time Headcount Per Year | - |
| Full-Time Sem Credit Hrs Per Year | - | Part-Time Sem Credit Hrs Per Year | - |
| Year 3 | | | |
| Full-Time Headcount Per Year | - | Part-Time Headcount Per Year | - |
| Full-Time Sem Credit Hrs Per Year | - | Part-Time Sem Credit Hrs Per Year | - |

Employment

Employment Opportunity Information

Admission and Curriculum

Admission Criteria

Total Number of Semester Credit Hours for the Degree

Curriculum

This minor requires a minimum of 15 credit hours, consisting of 9 credit hours in three core courses and 6 credit hours to be taken from approved courses from at least two of three distribution areas (Humanities, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences). A minimum of 6 hours will be at the upper division level. Students must have a grade of “C” or better in each course. A minimum of six hours used to meet the minor requirements must be earned in residence at Washburn University. Students may request alternate coursework be accepted toward the minor. Students should make these requests prior to completing coursework.

| Required Courses | | |
|---|--|---|
| BI 203 | Human Impact on the Environment | 3 |
| CN 353 | Environmental Communication | 3 |
| Select one course from the following options: | | 3 |
| PH 300 | General Topics in Philosophy (Section Name: Climate Change Ethics) | |
| PH 317 | Ethics of Genetic Technologies | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------|---|
| PH 319 | | Midwestern Environmental Ethics | |
| Subtotal | | | 9 |
| Electives | | | |
| Select one course from two of the following distribution areas: | | | 6 |
| Humanities | | | |
| CN 306 | Health Communication | | |
| CN 308 | Organizational Communication | | |
| CN 341 | Persuasive Speaking | | |
| EN 192 | Literature & Film | | |
| EN 399 | Special Topics - Writing/Reading (Section Name: Animals in Literature and Film) | | |
| Natural Sciences | | | |
| AS 104 | Life in the Universe | | |
| BI 106 | Everyday Biology | | |
| CH 111 | Chemistry in Everyday Life | | |
| GG 101 | Introduction to Geography | | |
| GG 102 | World Regional Geography | | |
| GL 101 | Physical Geology | | |
| GL 103 | Historical Geology | | |
| Social Sciences | | | |
| CE 250 | Introduction to Community Studies | | |
| AN 116 | Biological Anthropology | | |
| AN 303 | Human Origins and Evolution | | |
| AN 317 | Peoples and Cultures of Africa | | |
| AN 320 | Ancient Latin America | | |
| AN 332 | Forensic Anthropology in Popular Culture | | |
| CE 250 | Introduction to Community Studies | | |
| PO 245 | Introduction to Public Administration | | |
| PO 305 | Public Policy | | |
| PO 306 | American Urban and Metropolitan Planning | | |
| Pathway | | | |

Core Faculty

Faculty Workload Analysis

Faculty Workload Analysis (describe how the course offering schedule and anticipated enrollments correlate to faculty lines)

Supplemental Files [Interdisciplinary Minor Division Vote.pdf](#)

Reviewer **Holly Broxterman (holly.broxterman) (03/07/24 9:28 am):** 3/7/2024 - Approved in CFCCC, CFC and 3/5/24 CAS Meeting via paper process. Approved by Dr. Erby to move to AAC queue for 3/18 AAC meeting.
Comments **Holly Broxterman (holly.broxterman) (03/19/24 9:04 am):** Approved in 3/18/24 Academic Affairs Committee Meeting.