

PSM in Environmental Sciences

Proposal to Extend the Existing Graduate Degree to Distant Locations Via

Online Delivery by Ecampus

Correspondence

From: Bradoch, Alfonso
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 4:40 PM
To: Beach, Gary
Cc: Trempy, Janine
Subject: FW: PSM in Environmental Sciences: Ecampus Proposal

Hi Gary,

Thanks for your review and comments. I've addressed them below, and have attached the edited document per the below. I also excluded the reference to a gpa requirement, which is not present in the Catalog.

Related to this, I understood that a new policy was being prepared by Curriculum Council such that all curricular issues with a campus-based program would need to be addressed prior to review of Ecampus proposals to the Council. Was that policy affirmed? Many of the issues you've raised here, and in response to prior proposals, have more to do with problems with the original, approved program descriptions. This is sometimes the result of program 'drift,' where by program requirements are changed at the department level but are not appropriately run through the curricular process. Since the current Curriculum Council process for Ecampus programs is a review process, it becomes problematic when Ecampus builds proposals that align with the catalog description, only to find that there are other curricular issues with the campus-based program.

If an Ecampus proposal is aligned with the description stated in the OSU catalog, it would make sense under the current review process to move the Ecampus proposal forward, with recommendation that the curricular problems with the original program be addressed by the offering department. This could help speed the review process, while also addressing curricular issues that you've surfaced. Hopefully this will be the policy the Council adopts in addressing this kind of curriculum 'drift.'

Thanks!
Alfonso

From: Beach, Gary
Sent: Friday, May 06, 2016 2:35 PM
To: Bradoch, Alfonso
Cc: Trempy, Janine
Subject: PSM in Environmental Sciences: Ecampus Proposal

Alfonso,

Per your request, here are my review comments and recommendations regarding the PSM in Environmental Sciences proposal.

1 p. 2 General Degree Requirements:
Recommendation: Change
PSM Degrees Requirement (45 credits)
to
PSM Degree Requirement (45 credits); i.e., drop the “s” in
Degrees.

Document corrected. However, this was taken directly from the OSU catalog, which should also be edited.

2 p. 2 Areas of Concentration
There is a discrepancy with regard to the number of Areas of Concentration. The text indicates “eight tracts or areas of concentration....” However, there is only seven Areas of Concentration listed.

Also, this list of Areas of Concentration is not present in the current online Catalog, and in the printed Catalog of Record for AY 2015-16.

Recommendation: Either change the text to read “seven” rather than “eight” or add one more Graduate School approved Area of Concentration.

The number was corrected to seven areas of concentration.

3 p.2 Professional Core Courses (8 credits)

Questions: One would assume that there would be a specific list of courses that would be required as part of the Professional Core. What approved courses make up the Professional Core? Should these courses be listed?

We were striving for alignment with the Catalog description for the program, which does not list the core courses. Presumably if that was an essential part of the description, it would have been required during the initial approval of the program. If the Council reviews and recommends this modification to the Catalog, I’m sure the proposer will comply.

4 p.2 Environmental Sciences Track Electives (8-10 credits)

Questions: There are only three ENSC courses available online at the graduate level (see the list below).

- Are additional ENSC courses going to be developed by Ecampus? If so, what courses will be developed?
- Will Special Topics (ENSC X99) and (ENSC 501 to ENSC 510) courses be added to the curriculum?
- A six credit internship or project is required as part of the degree program. However, there is no ENSC 506 Projects course, nor is there a ENSC 510 Internship course available for student to enroll in. Are these two courses going to be offered by Ecampus? If so, then our office can assist by expediting CPS proposals to establish these special topics and blanket-numbered courses on behalf of the Environmental Sciences Program.

Yes, these ENSC courses will be developed for online delivery as will others for the program. Regarding the elective courses, for the sake of alignment with the Catalog description, the summary of courses to be developed and those that are available for students to take online as part of degree completion under contract between the student and the faculty committee, were not included in this proposal. The list of courses that potentially could fit into the program’s elective curriculum amounted to 50 pages of course listings, reflecting the inherent flexibility of the graduate program’s requirements.

General Catalog & Schedule of Classes



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ENSC Courses, Ecampus - Distance Ed

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Schedule of ENSC Classes for:

Filter by Course Level:

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- Signifies that the course is offered in current or future terms.
- Signifies the course as a Baccalaureate Core Course.
- Signifies the course as a WIC Core Course.
- Signifies that fees may apply to the course.
- + - Include restriction.
- - Exclude restriction.
- * - Prereq may be taken prior to or simultaneously with this course.

▲ [ENSC 101 ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES ORIENTATION \(1\)](#)

Introduction to the Environmental Sciences Program and related professional and educational opportunities. Recommended for all freshman and first-year transfer environmental sciences majors, but open to all students interested in learning about career options in the environmental sciences. Graded P/N.

▲ [ENSC 410 INTERNSHIP \(1-12\)](#)

Supervised practical experience working with professionals at selected cooperating institutions, agencies, laboratories, or companies. Graded P/N. This course is repeatable for a maximum of 48 credits. **PREREQS:** Instructor and departmental approval required.

▲ [ENSC 479 ENVIRONMENTAL CASE STUDIES \(3\)](#)

Improves students' ability to ask questions, gather and synthesize information, and communicate ideas on environmental topics. Instruction and information necessary for the course is entirely Web based. (Bacc Core Course) (Writing Intensive Course) **PREREQS:** One year of college biology or chemistry and junior standing required.

▲ [ENSC 505 READING AND CONFERENCE \(1-16\)](#)

This course is repeatable for a maximum of 16 credits. **PREREQS:** Departmental approval required.

▲ [ENSC 515 ENVIRONMENTAL PERSPECTIVES AND METHODS \(3\)](#)

Unique perspective or method each quarter. Possibilities include: remote sensing, modeling over a range of scales in time, space, and levels of system organization; and risk analysis.

▲ **ENSC 520 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS (3)** 

Develop analytical thinking, explore analytical approaches, enhance writing skills, and gain experience in oral communication about environmental issues.

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Please let me know if you have any questions regarding my review of your proposal.

Best wishes,

--Gary

Gary L. Beach

Senior Curriculum Coordinator
Office of Academic Programs,
Assessment, and Accreditation
308 Waldo Hall
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331

Gary.Beach@oregonstate.edu

541-737-2815 (office)

541-760-1103 (cell)