

Rationale for New Course Designator: Integrated Agriculture and Wildland Science (IAWS)

Purpose: The proposed course designator should have an identified purpose within the curricular structure of Oregon State University.

- What academic programs, including majors, certificates, options and minors will be served by courses within the proposed new course designator?

We are currently preparing to submit a Category I proposal for a new degree program, Integrated Agriculture and Wildland Science (IAWS) that will be offered only by our Eastern Oregon Agriculture and Natural Resource Program (EOANRP) La Grande campus faculty. This new degree program will replace all the current programs at this site. The course designator is required to submit new courses proposals to accompany the Category I proposal.

The new program will allow the limited number of EOANRP faculty to leverage their expertise, existing courses shared with Corvallis campus and available EOU courses, and develop new courses which best serve their student body.

- In what ways will the content within the scope of the course designator constitute a coherent body of knowledge?

The will be specific to the integrated nature of the IAWS program and only offered through the La Grande program, which is a cooperative program with Eastern Oregon University. There will be use of existing courses, as well as the addition of new IAWS courses for introductory, capstone, and experiential learning topics.

- Is the proposed usage of the course designator consistent with practices at OSU and other institutions? Give examples.

The use of this course designator will be to create unique courses for the new degree program. In addition, these courses will be uniquely linked to the OSU course offerings in La Grande. The responsibility for this course designator will lie with the on-site, EOANRP Coordinator, the College Assistant Dean of Academic Programs, and designated Associate Dean.

Accountability: Responsibility for the integrity and oversight of the proposed course designator should be clearly identified.

- What will be the academic home of the proposed course designator (College, School, Department, or Program)?

The academic home of the new degree program will be the College of Agricultural Sciences and the EOANRP unit within the college. The faculty in this program are tenured within their affiliated academic homes, including Crop and Soil Science and Animal and Rangeland Resources; and with the Union Branch Experiment Station.

- Who will be responsible for administering the courses with the new designator, e.g. scheduling and catalog updates? Who will be the faculty contacts?

The responsibility for the program day-to-day operation is with the on-site EOANRP Coordinator. The College of Agricultural Sciences' Assistant Dean of Academic Programs and a designated Associate Dean share responsibilities of oversight for the academics and faculty/budget, respectively.

- Who will be responsible for consistency and outcome assessment for courses with the new course designator?

The responsibility for assessment is with the EOANRP Coordinator, EOANRP faculty, and the College of Agricultural Sciences' Assistant Dean of Academic Programs.

- Which units will receive credit for the Student Credit Hours generated by courses with the new subject code?

Student credit hours created within the IAWS course designator will accrue to the College of Agricultural Sciences' EOANRP.

- Who will be responsible for communicating information about the new course designator to students, advisors, Admissions, and other stakeholders?

The EOANRP Coordinator is responsible for communication with students and program advisors. The Assistant Dean of Academic Programs will work with the Coordinator for communication with Admissions and other stakeholders.

Impacts: Who will benefit from the new course designator, and what changes will result from its implementation.

- How will the new course designator benefit students?

Students will benefit from the ability to create a new integrated program for the EOANRP unit. The new program and courses will be unique and leverage the talents of OSU faculty currently in the program. In addition, it will allow the faculty to build courses uniquely around those available through EOU. The IAWS program will prepare students for multiple career paths including state and federal natural resource and agricultural agencies, such as Natural Resources Conservation Service and Forest Service; non-profit management groups, such as the Nature Conservancy and Trout Unlimited; and OSU graduate programs.

- Will courses with the new course designator duplicate or compete with existing course designators?

The new designator will be unique to the EOANRP and therefore should not compete with any existing designators.

- Will there be expected cross-listings or curricular equivalencies?

There will not be any cross-listed courses. There will be some curriculum equivalencies for students who transfer between the Corvallis campus and the EOANRP.

- How is the new course designator expected to affect transfer credits?

In addition, the program serves transfer students from several Oregon Community Colleges (BMCC and TVCC primarily) and nearby 4-year institutions, such as Boise State and Universities of Washington and Idaho for which transfer equivalencies will be developed.

- Will any existing course designators expire when the new course designator is implemented, and who is impacted by that change?

No existing course designators will expire.