

Cover/Signature Page - Abbreviated Template

Institution Submitting Request: *University of Utah*
Proposed Title: *Minor in Environmental and Sustainability Studies*
Currently Approved Title: *na*
School or Division or Location: *College of Social and Behavioral Science*
Department(s) or Area(s) Location: *Environmental and Sustainability Studies Program*
Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code¹ (for new programs): *30.0000*
Current Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code (for existing programs): *00.0000*
Proposed Beginning Date (for new programs): *8/23/13*
Institutional Board of Trustees' Approval Date: *4/09/2013*

Proposal Type (check all that apply):

R401-5	R401-6
<i>Items submitted will be reviewed by OCHE. If there are any issues, the proposal will be returned for clarification/correction. If no issues, the proposal will be returned with a note of approval and the request will be placed on the General Consent Calendar of the next Regents' agenda.</i>	<i>Items submitted will be reviewed by OCHE. If there are any issues, the proposal will be returned for clarification/correction. If no issues, the proposal will be returned with a note of approval and the request will be placed on the General Consent Calendar of the next Regents' agenda.</i>
4.1.5.2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor*	6.1.1 <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement of Previously Suspended Program
5.1.1.1 <input type="checkbox"/> New Emphasis on an Existing Degree*	6.1.5 <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement of Previously Suspended Unit
5.1.2 <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Proficiency Not Eligible for Financial Aid	
5.1.3 <input type="checkbox"/> Out-of-Service Area Delivery of Programs	
5.1.4 <input type="checkbox"/> Name Change of Existing Programs	
5.1.5 <input type="checkbox"/> Program Transfer	
<input type="checkbox"/> Program Restructure	
<input type="checkbox"/> Program Consolidation	
5.1.6 <input type="checkbox"/> Program Discontinuation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Program Suspension	
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Unit Creation	
5.1.7 <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Unit Transfer	
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Unit Consolidation	
5.1.8 <input type="checkbox"/> New Center	
<input type="checkbox"/> New Institute	
<input type="checkbox"/> New Bureau	
5.1.9 <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate Certificate	

*Requires "Section VI: Program Curriculum" of Abbreviated Template

Chief Academic Officer (or Designee) Signature:

I certify that all required institutional approvals have been obtained prior to submitting this request to the Office of the Commissioner.



 Signature

Date:

Printed Name:

¹ CIP codes must be recommended by the submitting institution. For CIP code classifications, please see <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/Default.aspx?y=65>.

University of Utah
Minor in Environmental and Sustainability Studies
February 12, 2013

Section I: Request

This request is for a new minor in Environmental and Sustainability Studies (ENVST). The University already offers a B.S. and B.A. in ENVST. We would like to offer this minor beginning fall semester 2013. The minor will consist of 14 credit-hours of courses offered by the ENVST Program, and one 3-hour elective course chosen from a list of elective courses, for a total of 17 credit-hours. Students may petition to substitute a different course for the elective. The required courses must be taken at the University of Utah. We have designed the curriculum so that a student can earn this minor by taking all online courses, or all face-to-face courses, or a combination of the two. All ENVST courses in the minor curriculum are offered in both online and on-campus formats. Several of the courses in the list of electives are offered online; the rest are taught on-campus.

In regard to faculty consulted, this proposal was submitted to the ENVST Executive/Curriculum Committee, which thoroughly reviewed it. This committee consists of seven faculty members who either teach courses in the program or have related interests. It includes faculty from seven disciplines and two colleges. It was also approved by the Curriculum Committee for the College of Social and Behavioral Science.

Section II: Need

We are confident that this minor will enroll a significant number of students, for the following twelve reasons:

1. The major in Environmental and Sustainability Studies has grown dramatically in recent years, more than doubling the number of majors in the last eight years. We now have approximately 270 majors. This is clear evidence that students at this university have a vivid interest in environmental and sustainability issues.
2. The dramatic growth in our ENVST Program is part of a larger trend across the U. S. of increased enrollments in environmental and sustainability programs. There has been a dramatic increase in the number and variety of environmental/sustainability programs. According to a report provided by the Council of Environmental Deans and Directors, "Results from the 2012 Census of U. S. Four Year Colleges and Universities," there are 759 sustainability academic programs offered at 351 colleges and universities, including 316 minors and certificate programs (Vincent, Bunn, and Stevens, 2013). That is a dramatic increase in the number of programs since their first inventory was published in 2008. Clearly there is a significant and growing demand by students for programs dealing with the environment and sustainability.
3. Over the years we have received numerous requests from students to initiate a minor in ENVST. We did not count these requests, but they have been numerous and consistent. Beginning in March, 2012, when we first starting planning the minor, seven students have contacted the Assistant Director and asked to enroll in an ENVST minor.

4. The ENVST Program is a well established program with a strong reputation and significant visibility on this campus. In effect, we have a "brand," and this draws students to our program to take the major and we think it will also draw them to the minor. Our visibility on campus has grown significantly recently, for four reasons:

- a. We staff a table at nearly all student-related events.
- b. We sponsor the Wild and Scenic Film Festival, which will be an annual event.
- c. We routinely hold recruiting events and social events to help us connect with students.
- d. Our increased enrollment; our students are our best promoters. Many students enroll in ENVST because they have heard about it from other students.

5. We have a very active set of student organizations that are advised by the Assistant Director. These student groups have requested to be advised by the Assistant Director, because of her connection to the students in the ENVST Program and her personal interest and expertise in the activities in which these students participate.

- a. Student Leadership Committee. This consists of a group of students that actively participate in numerous ENVST Program events. Examples include, the Wild and Scenic Film Festival, tabling events on campus, educational outreach at local elementary schools, Dessert Night for students interested in joining the major, Annual ENVST Program Open House, and additional activities that the students in this group choose to participate in.
- b. EnviroClub. This is a club that meets bi-weekly and brings together students from across campus who are interested in environmental and sustainability issues. These students participate in off-campus field trips and are also very involved in representing the university at other events.
- c. Fossil Free U. This student group meets weekly and is proposing options for the University to divest from certain investment groups. These students are from across campus, but the majority are in the ENVST Program.

6. Starting next year we will be offering a new class on Student Sustainability Leadership. One of the tasks of the students in this class will be to serve as program ambassadors and educate the student population to the opportunities offered by the ENVST Program.

7. Surveys. We administered two surveys to students and asked them if they would be interested in an ENVST minor.

- a. A paper survey was distributed in a sample of classes. 94 students filled out the survey; 61 of those indicated an interest in a minor.
- b. A survey monkey was sent to three colleges on campus that offer classes in our curriculum. 68 students filled out the survey; 42 said they might be interested in a minor.

These surveys make it quite evident that there is a high level of student interest in an ENVST minor.

8. There has been dramatic growth in the economic sector known as "green jobs." According to data provided by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, green jobs are increasing at a rate faster than other types of jobs in the economy. The U. S. Department of Labor projects a 25% increase in the number of environmentally related jobs by 2016 (Vincent 2009). A recent search for green jobs on a well-known jobs website, SimplyHired.com, found 138,856 postings under the heading "environmental," and 120,997 postings under the heading "sustainability." Thus, this minor will help prepare students for jobs in this area.

9. Interdisciplinary training is becoming increasingly important for NSF, NIH, and other federal research funding. Many RFPs now require an interdisciplinary and/or multidisciplinary approach. This minor will help prepare students to participate in this research.

10. The ENVST Program recently created a new Advisory Board. This board will consist of representatives from all of the colleges represented in the curriculum of our Major. This board will enable us to communicate and coordinate more effectively with the 22 departments and six colleges that offer the courses in our curriculum. It will also help us develop pathways and partnerships with other departments and programs that offer environmental/sustainability programs. This will increase our ability to inform other units at the university about the minor and how we can maximize its attractiveness to students from across campus.

11. This minor can be earned by taking online courses. There has been a dramatic increase in the growth of online courses in the U. S. According to the recent report by the Babson Survey, ("Going the Distance: Online Education in the U. S. 2011"), there was a 10.1 percent growth in students taking online courses in 2010. The growth in online course registration has hovered around 10 percent since 2006, significantly outpacing the 2 percent growth rate of on-campus course registration. Clearly this minor responds to a demand from students, and assists the University in maintaining a current curriculum. An additional advantage of online courses is that students do not have to drive to campus to take courses—a significant advantage for a region that is experiencing the worst air pollution in the country.

12. In 2012 sustainability became one of the core values of the university. The "New U" promotes seven core values, including "the pursuit and practice of sustainability through the promotion and coordination of interdisciplinary and cross-campus sustainability research, learning, and programs." This emphasis on sustainability will draw students to this minor. The creation of the minor will also assist the University in meeting the goals of this core value.

A. The Minor Curriculum.

The ENVST Program offers students an opportunity to consider human-environmental relationships and sustainability in the context of natural, social, and economic systems. Students explore the relationships between humans and environments from an interdisciplinary perspective. The program emphasizes the principles of sustainability that are embodied in the University of Utah's definition of that concept: "Sustainability is the harmonious and equitable interaction among ecological, social, and economic systems that provides resources for current generations and leaves future generations with no less access."

The ENVST Program is not a single field of study leading to a specific profession. Instead the curriculum emphasizes flexibility and breadth, and prepares students to understand the environment from an interdisciplinary perspective. A principal assumption of the program is that a basic understanding of diverse perspectives, methodologies, and disciplines is essential to understanding the complexity and systemic nature of environmental problems and the challenges of living sustainably. These themes are explored in depth in the major; they are embedded in the curriculum of the minor, but at a reduced scale.

The courses for the minor consist of two groups.

1. ENVST core courses. These five courses are also required for the Major, and consist of survey courses that cover basic environmental and sustainability themes across multiple disciplines. These courses are taught by faculty from different departments and colleges, and provide the student with a firm grounding in basic principles. The courses cover such essential topics as understanding and using science, research on

relevant topics, environmental and social justice, the global scale of sustainability, and the basic themes in the sustainability literature.

2. One elective course drawn from a comprehensive list of electives that are available to students in the Major in Groups A through F (see Appendix A). There are currently 80 courses on this list. These courses have already been vetted and approved for the Major, so we are confident they will serve well as the elective for the minor. We note that we monitor and adjust this list as new courses are introduced and other courses are no longer offered. We also have a process by which students can petition to include other courses. We consider adding new courses to this list regularly.

Currently there is no minor at the University of Utah focused specifically on environmental issues and sustainability. Weber State University has an emphasis in Environmental Studies, and Southern Utah University has a minor in Sustainability Studies.

Section III: Institutional Impact

The minor in ENVST will increase enrollments in ENVST courses, and in the elective courses. No new courses are required, and the administrative infrastructure needed to administer this program is already in place. We do not anticipate any changes in faculty and staff, although increased enrollments may at some point require that we offer classes with greater frequency, and hire an additional advisor. No new facilities or equipment will be required.

Section IV: Finances

Because this minor relies on existing classes, faculty, and staff, we do not anticipate a need for new funding, nor will it affect the budget of other units at the University.

Section V: Program Curriculum

All Program Courses

Course Prefix & Number	Title	Credit Hours
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Course Prefix & Number	Title	Credit Hours
REQUIRED	ENVST 2050: Intro to Environmental and Sustainability Science	4
	ENVST 2100: Intro To Environmental and Sustainability Studies	3
	ENVST 3365: Environmental Justice	3
	ENVST 3364: Challenges to Global Sustainability	3
	ENVST 5555: Program Capstone Online Segment	1
	Sub-Total	14
Elective Courses (select one course)	See list below	3
	Sub-Total	3
Track/Options (if applicable)	NA	
	Sub-Total	
Total Number of Credits		17

New Courses to Be Added in the Next Five Years

None

Program Schedule

Semester 1	Course Prefix and Number	Course Title
<i>Fall</i>	ENVST 2100	Intro to Environmental and Sustainability Studies
Semester 2		
<i>Spring</i>	ENVST 2050	Intro to Environmental Science and Sustainability
Semester 3		
<i>Fall</i>	ENVST 3364	Challenges to Global Sustainability
<i>Fall</i>	Elective	Choice of a 3 credit elective
Semester 4		
<i>Spring</i>	ENVST 3365	Environmental Justice
<i>Spring</i>	ENVST 5555	Capstone Course in Environmental and Sustainability Studies

APPENDIX A: COURSES FOR ELECTIVE (Select one)

Biology/Natural Science

BIOL/ENVST 3460 Global Enviro. Issues (3) **SL, SF, IR**
GEO 3300 The Water Planet (3) **SF**
GEOG/ENVST 3210/5210 Global Climate Change (3) **SF**
ANTH/ENVST 4261 Paleoanthropology (3)
ANTH/ENVST 4291 Evolution of Human Health (3)
ATMOS 1020 Climate Change (3) **SF**
BIOL 1330 Plants & Society (3) **AS**
BIOL 2400 Prin.of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation (3) **AS**
BIOL 3410 Ecology and Evolution (3)
CHEM 1110 Elementary Chemistry (4) **SF**
CHEM 1120 Elementary Bioorganic Chemistry (4) **SF**
ENVST 3280 Organic Gardening (3)
GEO 1110/1115 Intro. to Earth Systems w/ lab (4)
GEOG/ENVST 1000 Earth Enviro. & Global Change (3) **SF**
GEOG 3110 The Earth From Space (3) **SF**
GEOG/ENVST 3200/5200 Geomorphology (4) **SF**
GEOG/ENVST 3230/5230 Pyrogeography (3) **AS**
GEOG/ENVST 3250/5250 The Crystal Desert (3)
GEOG/ENVST 3360/5360 Ocean Environments (3)
GEOG/ENVST 3400/5400 Population Geography (4) **CW, BF**
GEOG/ENVST 5810 Analysis of Utah Landforms (4)
MET E/ENVST 1001 Energy Resources/ Sustain. World (3) **SF**
PHYS 3150 Energy and Sustainability (3) **IR**

Humanities/Aesthetic Approaches

COMM/ENVST 5360 Environmental Communication (3)
ENGL/ENVST 3080 Studies in Enviro. Literature (3) **HF**
HIST/ENVST 4380 U.S. Environmental History (3)
PHIL 3530 Environmental Ethics (3) **HF**
ARCH 1611 Arch & Planning LEAP II. (3) **FF or HF**
CMP/ENVST 2010 Foundations of Urban Ecology (3)
COMM 4360 Consuming the Earth (3)
COMM 5370 Environmental Comm: Special Topics (3)
ENGL 5080 Advanced Studies in Enviro. Literature (3)
HIST 4855 Environmental History of India (3)
HIST 4860 Environmental History of China (3)
PHIL 5530 Environmental Philosophy (3)
WRTG 4080 Nonfiction Enviro. Writing (3) **CW and HF**

Human Behavior/Policy/Decision Making

ECON 3250 Intro. To Enviro. and Nat. Resource Econ. (3) **BF**

FCS 3600 Intro. to Consumer & Comm. Policy (3) **BF**
H EDU 3700 Environmental Health (3)
GEOG/ENVST 3350 Resource Con. & Enviro. Mngmt. (3) **BF**
POLS 3390 Intro to Enviro. & Sustain. Policy (3) **BF**
ANTH/ENVST 4184 Hunter-Gatherer Ethnology (3)
ANTH/ENVST 4461 Behavioral Ecology & Anthro. (3) **BF**
CMP 3100 Urban & Env Planning: History and Practice (3)
CMP 4380 Green Communities (3)
CMP 5330 Urban Growth Management (3)
CMP 5350 Public Lands & Enviro. Policy (3)
CMP 5360 Environmental Planning Law and Policy (3)
CMP 5370/GEO 5340 System Dynamics and Env Policy (3)
CMP 5371/GEO 5341 Complexity and Sys. Thinking (3)
CMP 5390 Sustainability Planning (3)
CMP 5420 Open Space Design (3)
CMP 5600 Politics of Planning (3)
ECON 5250 Env. and Nat. Resource Economics (3)
FCS/PSY/ENVST 3620 Environment & Behavior (3)
FCS 5630/6630 Healthy Communities
FCS/PSY 5600 Advanced Enviro. & Behavior (3)
FCS/ENVST 5730 Community and Enviro. Change (3)
GEOG/ENVST 3310 Introduction to Natural Hazards (3) **SF**
GEOG/ENVST 3330 Urban Environmental Geography (3) **SF**
GEOG/ENVST 3340/5340 Geog. Disasters/Emerg. Mngmt. (3)
GEOG/ENVST 3370/5370 Utah's Energy Landscape (3)
GEOG/ENVST 3375/5375 Sustainable Transportation (3)
GEOG/ENVST 3380/5380 Wilderness Issues & Mngmt (3)
GEOG/ENVST 3385/5385 Environmental Assessment (3)
PHIL 5191 Hydrotopia (3)
POLS 5322 Enviro. & Sustainability Policy (3)
PRT 3500 Foundations of Outdoor Recreation Studies (3)
PRT 4430 Environmental Interpretation & Comm. (3)
PRT 4440 Field Seminar in Enviro. Interpretation (3)
PRT/ENVST 5170 Foundations of Enviro. Education (3)
PRT/ENVST 5175 Techniques in Environmental Education (3)
PRT/ENVST 5180 Field Ecology in PRT (3)
PRT 5420 Ecology & Mgmt. of Wildland Rec. Settings (3)
PSY 3410 Social Psychology (3)
PSY 4130 Cognition in the Wild (3)
PSY 5400/FCS 5620 Advanced Enviro. & Behavior (3)
SOC/ENVST 3480 Environmental Sociology (3) **IR**
SOC/ENVST 3486 Comparative Enviro. Sociology (3)
SOC 3650 Population and Society (3) QB, QI, **IR**
SOC 3653 Global Population Problems (3)