

Environmental Studies Academic Learning Compact

EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AREA OF CONCENTRATION

Content Knowledge

- Ecological Literacy – demonstrate knowledge of ecosystems and the challenges of sustainability
- Public policy and history, composed of academic activities in political science and/or economics and/or history
- Self and community, sense of place, composed of academic work in sociology and/or anthropology, and/or psychology
- Humanistic reflection – understanding nature and landscape in fine art or literature and understanding an ethical orientation to environmental choices

Communication Skills

- write clearly,
- exhibit persuasive, accurate, clear public speaking and
- produce graphics to communicate ideas and data
- use current technology including word processing, spreadsheets, power point, web pages, etc. to communicate
- Work effectively with a team on real world environmental improvements
- Prepare a research grant proposal

Critical Thinking Skills

- Collect and analyze ecological and social data
- Attend a conference and think critically about the posters and presentations
- Conduct field work or an internship, and use community research and/or case studies in a research project

Course Mapping: See attached Table

Measures to track student progress: Each semester, course evaluations track student progress in academic activities. At the 5th semester, students prepare a Provisional Area of Concentration form, listing additional academic activities needed to accomplish the Environmental Studies outcomes. At the 6th semester, the student submits a transcript to the Environmental Studies Steering Committee and the ESSC tells the student what still needs to be done to meet the requirements/outcomes for an Environmental Studies AOC. These remaining academic activities are stated on the Thesis Prospectus form.

Measures to demonstrate each graduate's competencies: The Senior Thesis or Senior Project is evaluated for writing clarity, effective graphic illustration, mastery of content, and appropriate research or project design. The Baccalaureate exam evaluates skill in oral communication and critical thinking in relation to the senior thesis/project and the entire undergraduate academic career. The Baccalaureate committee records their evaluation of this oral exam on the Baccalaureate Audit form. These forms for ES graduates will be reviewed annually by the ESSC.

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Outcomes	Content	Critical Thinking	Communication
Clear Communication – write clearly, exhibit persuasive, accurate, clear public speaking and graphic production.			x
Experiential Learning – conferences, internship, field work, case studies.	x	x	x
Ecological Literacy – demonstrate knowledge of ecosystems, and the challenges of sustainability.	x	x	
Service Orientation – Community research, real world connections, improvements to campus environment.		x	x
Mastery of Skills – computer skills, grant proposal writing, collecting social and ecological data.	x		x
Humanistic Reflection – understand nature and landscape in art or literature; understand an ethical orientation to environmental choices.		x	
Competence in Policy and/or History	x	x	
Course Mapping			
Introduction to Environmental Studies	x	x	x
Environmental Practicum		x	x
Environmental Studies Research Seminar or its equivalent		x	x
Research Methods	x	x	
2 Ecology courses/activities	x	x	
Biology	x	x	
Additional Natural Science activity	x	x	
Public Policy and Government	x	x	
Self and Community, Sense of Place	x	x	x
Humanistic Reflection		x	x
Expressive Arts		x	x
ISP of fieldwork, internship, or service in Florida	x	x	
Thesis preparation beyond the minimum in appropriate discipline	x	x	
Senior Thesis/project related to the environment	x	x	x
Baccalaureate exam	x	x	x