EIU College of Sciences and Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences

Interdisciplinary Minor in Environmental Sustainability Proposal

Rationale

With Eastern Illinois University’s commitment to a sustainable campus and educating students to appreciate the opportunities and challenges ahead in balancing their lifestyles with natural resource use, now is the time to formalize instruction in this genre. The School of Technology has introduced new courses to launch an “Alternative Energies and Sustainability Concentration” for their majors. Many of these courses do not have pre-requisites and would be beneficial to College of Science (COS) and other students throughout the University. With these new courses, coupled with COS’s existing core courses in environmental sustainability, the proposed minor will give EIU students the skillset they will need to be competitive in a rapidly changing job market.

Requirements

Eighteen semester hours. At least six semester hours will come from the School of Technology (group A), to help students learn the practical aspects of applied sustainability concepts. Six semester hours will come from BIO/GEG/GEL/CHM course work (group B) focused on biogeochemical aspects of environmental sustainability. Six semester hours will come from the social sciences (Group C), enabling students to understand the applications of environmental sustainability to various social systems.

Catalog Description

Interdisciplinary Minor in Environmental Sustainability: This minor provides students with the skillset needed to be competitive in a job market focused on the applications of environmental sustainability. Students will take courses in alternative energies and sustainability as well as biogeochemical aspects of environmental sustainability. The minor also provides examples of the applications of environmental sustainability to various social systems. Existing prerequisites for courses must be satisfied.

Total Semester Hours: 18

A. Six semester hours in:
   AET 3253: Energy Technology 3 sh
   AET 3453: Alternative and Renewable Energy 3 sh
   AET 4873: Trends in Energy 3 sh
   AET 4453: Energy Sustainability 3 sh

B. Six semester hours, from two different departments (note: GEG & GEL are the same department)
   BIO 3850: Environmental Biology 3 sh
   BIO 4820: Resource Management and Environmental Assessment 4 sh
C. Six semester hours, from two different departments (at least one of which is ECN or PLS)

ECN 2800: Economics of Social Issues 3 sh OR ECN 3810: Economics of Natural Resources 3 sh

GEG/ESC 3200: Human Impacts on the Environment 3 sh

PLS 3763: Environmental Politics and Policy 3 sh

SOC 3820: Environmental Sociology 3 sh

SOC 3622: Population 3 sh

Effective date: Fall 2012

Date approved by the School of Technology Curriculum committee: Approved April 28, 2011

Date approved by the Department of Biological Sciences: Approved November 28, 2011

Date approved by the Department Chemistry: Approved November 8, 2011

Date approved by the Department of Geology/Geography: Approved January 11, 2012

Date approved by the Department of Economics: Approved November 9, 2011

Date approved by the Department of Political Science: Approved November 9, 2011

Date approved by the Department of Sociology & Anthropology: Approved November 8, 2011

Date approved by the College of Sciences Curriculum Committee: Approved January 27, 2012

Date approved by Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences Curriculum Committee: 01/18/12

Date approved by CAA: 02/09/12