

AACR 2

Office of the President
December 11, 2012

Members, Board of Trustees:

ACADEMIC DEGREE RECOMMENDATION:
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Environmental and Sustainability Studies degree (CIP Code: 03.0103, PROG: AS BA ENSS) in the College of Arts and Sciences, effective in the Spring 2013 Semester.

Background: The proposed Environmental and Sustainability Studies (ENS) degree will educate students in a broad range of fundamental environmental studies subjects with concepts of sustainability integrated throughout the curriculum. The programmatic focus on sustainability will place the University at the forefront of degree programs offering courses in this new, critical area of academic endeavor.

Environmental and Sustainability Studies students will obtain the fundamental knowledge required to understand the relationships that exist between the global economy, societal problems and needs, and the natural world. The program will develop the critical thinking, communications, and independent study skills necessary for students to pursue lifestyles and careers that are ecologically viable, socially desirable, and economically feasible. ENS students will be uniquely prepared to participate in the rapidly expanding “Green Economy”.

The interdisciplinary degree will prepare students for career opportunities in city, state and federal government, nonprofit organizations, professional societies, and in the private sector. The integration of different fields, such as science, engineering, politics, law, information technology, project management, business administration, marketing, communications, and economics, will be critical to the emerging environmental professions. Demand will be high for people who combine the ENS degree with a traditional disciplinary degree. The ENS degree provides a great deal of flexibility in the electives the students may choose to best fit their career aspirations.

This program has the approval of the appropriate councils and the University Senate and has completed the forty-five day review by the Council on Postsecondary Education. The Interim Provost of the University supports this recommendation.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____