

# MINOR IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

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**SACRAMENTO STATE**  
*Redefine the Possible*

## In Workflow

1. ENVS Committee Chair (wayne.linklater@csus.edu)
2. ENVS Chair (wayne.linklater@csus.edu)
3. SSIS College Committee Chair (wickelgr@csus.edu)
4. SSIS Dean (mendriga@csus.edu)
5. Academic Services (catalog@csus.edu)
6. Senate Curriculum Subcommittee Chair (curriculum@csus.edu)
7. Faculty Senate Executive Committee Chair (kathy.garcia@csus.edu)
8. Faculty Senate Chair (kathy.garcia@csus.edu)
9. Dean of Undergraduate (james.german@csus.edu; renee.leonard@csus.edu)
10. Dean of Graduate (cnewsome@skymail.csus.edu)
11. President (sarah.billingsley@csus.edu)
12. Catalog Editor (catalog@csus.edu)
13. Registrar's Office (wlindsey@csus.edu)

## Approval Path

1. Fri, 26 Aug 2022 22:08:07 GMT  
Wayne Linklater (wayne.linklater): Approved for ENVS Committee Chair
2. Fri, 26 Aug 2022 22:08:31 GMT  
Wayne Linklater (wayne.linklater): Approved for ENVS Chair
3. Thu, 08 Sep 2022 17:35:18 GMT  
Emily Wickelgren (wickelgr): Approved for SSIS College Committee Chair
4. Mon, 19 Sep 2022 17:43:36 GMT  
Marya Endriga (mendriga): Approved for SSIS Dean

## History

1. May 3, 2018 by clmig-jwehrheim

Date Submitted: Fri, 26 Aug 2022 22:07:30 GMT

**Viewing: Minor in Environmental Studies**

**Last approved: Thu, 03 May 2018 18:11:47 GMT**

**Last edit: Mon, 19 Sep 2022 17:43:07 GMT**

Changes proposed by: Wayne Linklater (223005380)

**Academic Group: (College)**

Social Sciences & Interdisciplinary Studies

**Academic Organization: (Department)**

Environmental Studies

**Catalog Year Effective:**

2022-2023 Catalog

**Individual(s) primarily responsible for drafting the proposed degree major program:**

Name (First Last)	Email	Phone 999-999-9999
Wayne Linklater	wayne.linklater@csus.edu	916-278-6671

**Type of Program Proposal:**

Minor

**Program Change Type:**

Substantive

**Title of the Program:**

Minor in Environmental Studies

**Designation: (degree terminology)**

Minor

**Briefly describe the program proposal (new or change) and provide a justification:**

This is a change to the course requirements for the ENVS Minor. Currently, the minor requires 25 units of course work, which is more than any other science-based minor program at CSUS. We propose reducing the total units required for the minor to 22, reduce the number of required courses, and provide greater flexibility in the selection of courses beyond those required for the minor. We expect these changes to make the ENVS minor more accessible to students within and outside of STEM programs (typically only ~10 students are enrolled in the ENVS minor) and, concurrently, offer a wider array of courses that students can select, including selecting more than one course in a sub-speciality if a student chooses.

1. Removal of large number of courses from the minor. The most important component of this change is the acknowledgement that the original minor required too many units (compared to most other minors on the CSUS campus), and too many course choices, which lead to confusion among students who wished to pursue the ENVS minor degree. Therefore, we reduced the overall number of courses and units required for the degree. We also believe that our minor in ENVS should direct students to focus on a set of courses that provides a basic yet broad and inter-disciplinary understanding of environmental issues and their resolution. To that end, we removed many courses that do not address environmental issues directly and included courses, such as those we call our major electives, in the list of course choices for the minor. For example, courses such as Ornithology and Fisheries Biology provide exposure to specific biological components of the environment; however, they do not incorporate the inter-disciplinary component that we think are so important to providing a complete understanding of environmental issues. They do not, for example, provide exposure to perspectives that include social and cultural impacts, political considerations, and economic impacts. Our environmental studies courses incorporate these perspectives while also providing enlightenment in the specific subject matter addressed by the course. We also removed several ENVS courses, such as ENVS 112, 120, and 121, as they are required and 'bottleneck' courses in our curriculums, which have become oversubscribed with a rapidly growing student number in our BA and BS majors. More important, however, they require and/or provide specific subject matter expertise that is not consistent with a minor degree that emphasizes broad exposure to, and understanding of, environmental opportunities and problems.

2. Addition of several ENVS courses to the list of choices provided to students pursuing the ENVS minor. These are new courses in our curriculum, taught by new faculty who bring diverse, interdisciplinary perspectives to our program. They also provide broad exposure to environmental challenges and their resolution while incorporating diverse social, cultural, political, and economic perspectives. We believe that these courses are appropriate for students who seek a relatively limited exposure to environmental issues through pursuit of the ENVS minor as a complement to majors in disciplines such as engineering, life sciences, design, and the social sciences such as psychology, anthropology and sociology.

This proposal is a revision of a previous proposal originally submitted and returned during Winter 2018. It was returned with a request that the following be addressed:

1. justification for removing BIO 10 and ECON 1B from the core coursework,
2. justification for removing 45 courses (including 10 ENVS courses) from the elective list; and
3. a rationale for adding 5 ENVS courses to the elective list.

In the above text we provide answers to each of these questions. Nonetheless, for clarity, I restate those briefly here.

1. BIO 10 and ENVS 1B are not courses that directly address environmental issues. Students who chose an ENVS minor are choosing it for its ENVS courses, not its courses from other disciplines or departments.
2. First a clarification: the proposal does not remove 10 ENVS courses. Second, the large number of courses from other disciplines are removed from the minor program because they are not directly germane to environmental studies. Student's who choose an ENVS minor are doing so for its courses in environmental studies, not other disciplines.
3. We added new ENVS courses to the minor program because they are new courses offered in our program by new faculty in recent years since the minor program was last modified. The elective courses in the minor needed to be updated.

**University Learning Goals**

**Undergraduate Learning Goals:**

Competence in the disciplines  
Knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world  
Integrative learning  
Personal and social responsibility  
Intellectual and practical skills

## Program Learning Outcomes

### Program Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcome
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1. Information literacy
2. Quantitative literacy
3. Intercultural knowledge and competency
4. Overall competencies in the major/discipline
5. Critical thinking
6. Inquiry and analysis
7. Global learning
8. Integrative and applied learning
9. Civic knowledge and engagement
10. Reading
11. Written communication
12. Oral communication
13. Team work
14. Problem solving
15. Ethical reasoning
16. Foundations and skills for lifelong learning

Will this program be required as part of a teaching credential program, a single subject, or multiple subject waiver program (e.g., Liberal Studies, Biology) or other school personnel preparation program (e.g., School of Nursing)?

No

Please attach a Comprehensive Program Assessment Plan (required)

Program-Assessment-Plan-Template.docx

Please attach a Curriculum Map Matrix (required)

CurriculumMapMatrixTemplate.docx

Catalog Description:

Units required for Minor: 22

## Program Description

The Environmental Studies program can help students use the resources of the entire University to gain an interdisciplinary understanding of such increasingly serious issues as pollution, wildlife and wilderness preservation, land use, biodiversity loss, resource depletion, energy conservation, and a generally healthful relationship between nature and society.

Admission Requirements: Course prerequisites and other criteria for admission of students to the degree major program, and for their continuation in it.

## Minimum Grade Requirement

A minimum grade of "C-" is required in all courses required for the Environmental Studies minor.

As defined by policy <http://www.csus.edu/umannual/acadaff/fsm00010.htm>, a change in units constitutes a substantive change to the program. If your changes constitute a substantive change, please refer back to the "Program Change Type" field above to ensure that "Substantive" is selected.

Program Requirements: (If new courses are being created as part of a new program, it will be useful to propose courses first.)

## Program Requirements

Code	Title	Units
ENVS 10	Introduction to Environmental Science	3
ENVS 111	Environmental Ethics	3
ENVS 187	Environmental Studies Seminar	1
<b>Select one of the following:</b>		<b>3</b>
ENVS 122	Environmental Impact Analysis: CEQA and NEPA	
ENVS/POLS 128	Environment and the Law	
ENVS/POLS 171	Environmental Politics and Policy	
<b>Select four of the following:</b>		<b>12</b>
ENVS 110	Contemporary Environmental Issues	
ENVS 130	Environmental Toxicology	

ENVS 135	California Water and Society
ENVS 137	Conservation and Society
ENVS 140	Energy, Society, and the Environment
ENVS 144	Sustainability Science & Policy
ENVS 147	Urban Agriculture and Aquaponics
ENVS 149	Agroecology
ENVS 151	Restoration Ecology
ENVS 155	Environmental Management and Decision-Making
ENVS 158	Wetlands Ecology
ENVS 163	Ethnoecology

**Total Units**

**22**

### **Fiscal Impact to Change an Existing Program**

**Indicate programmatic or fiscal impact which this change will have on other academic units' programs, and describe the consultation that has occurred with affected units:**

This is a revision of a Winter 2018 submission that received substantive feedback. Our response to that feedback is described in the program proposal and justification (above).

**Provide a fiscal analysis of the proposed changes:**

No fiscal change is anticipated because the proposal is a major change to curriculum but a small reduction in total units (by 3). A Minor is not a program. A budget assessment is not required.

**How will the above changes be accommodated within the department/College existing fiscal resources?**

The substantial change in curriculum does not require a change in resources. It replaces an existing ENVS Minor.

**Will the proposed changes require additional resources?**

No

**What additional space, equipment, operating expenses, library, computer, or media resources, clerical/technical support, or other resources will be needed?**

None

**Estimate the cost and indicate how these resource needs will be accommodated:**

NA

**Please attach any additional files not requested above:**

correspondence over change to Minor.docx

Key: 236