

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 3419S
Date of Senate Approval 04/04/19

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 27 (ENVR): Change in the distribution of hours required for the Individual Concentration in Environmental Studies

Effective date: Fall 2019

1. Delete: On page 151, the entry for the **Individual Concentration in Environmental Studies:**

In consultation with his or her academic advisor, a student may select an individual course of study of at least 30 credit hours in preparation for careers in such areas as Environmental Journalism, Environmental Planning or Human Ecology. Students choosing an Individual Concentration must file an application with the department chair. The application must contain a letter of justification and a complete listing of courses in the proposed concentration. At least 12 of the 30 hours must be in upper-level ENVR laboratory or field-based courses. It must be submitted at the time the major is declared. The Individual Concentration requires the completion of all other requirements for the Environmental Studies major as listed in I, II and III above.

Add: On page 151, in place of deleted entry:

In consultation with their academic advisor, students may select an individual course of study in areas such as Environmental Communications, Agriculture, Water Resources, and Human Ecology. Students interested in an Individual Concentration request an application from the department chair and work with their ENVR advisor to develop a course of study of at least 30 hours for the proposed concentration.

At least 15 of the 30 hours must be ENVR courses. Of the 15 hours in ENVR, 12 hours must be upper-level ENVR courses, and 7 hours must be field- or laboratory-based ENVR courses. Applications and course listings must be approved by the student's ENVR advisor, the ENVR department chair, and submitted at the time the major is declared. The Individual Concentration requires the completion of all other requirements for the ENVR major as listed in I, II and III above.

Impact: There will be no negative impact on university or department resources. The proposed change increases the number of hours in ENVR courses from 12 to 15, but reduces the number of required hours in ENVR field- and laboratory-based courses from 12 to 7.

Rationale: This will bring the field/lab course hours in line with those required for our Environmental Management and Policy concentration, which was approved by APC last year. ENVR field/lab courses have maximum enrollments of 20 students, compared to 25-30 in most of our lecture-style courses. Reducing the number of field/lab course hours required for the Individual concentration will save department resources by opening seats needed by students in our Ecology and Earth Science concentrations. The total number of hours required for the Individual concentration (30) will not change. Only a few students propose Individual concentrations each year, so the frequency with which any courses are taught will not be affected by this proposal.