

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE

FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number SD5024S

Date of Senate Approval 04/04/2024

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

**APC Document 43 (ENVR): Change the name of the Department of Environmental Studies to the Department of Environmental Science;
Change the Environmental Studies major to an Environmental Science major;
Change the Environmental Studies minor to an Environmental Science minor**

Effective Date: Fall 2024

1. Replace: Throughout the catalog:

All occurrences of “Environmental Studies” with “Environmental Science”

2. Replace: Throughout the catalog:

All occurrences of ENVR with ENVS

Impact Statement: The Environmental Science curriculum and the courses within it will remain the same. We do not foresee any impact on faculty or space and equipment needs. Since we are changing the ENVR prefix to ENVS, there will be significant additions and adjustments needed by the Registrar’s Office to implement these changes throughout the various campus platforms (Banner, GradPlan, catalog, etc). Students currently declared can choose to keep Environmental Studies as their major/minor, or they can redeclare to change it to Environmental Science.

Rationale: The rationale behind the proposed name change is twofold. First, the change will more accurately communicate the curriculum and faculty areas of specialization within the Department, and bring the Department name into alignment with content guidelines as outlined by Classification of Instruction Program (CIP) codes. Second, the proposed name change will aid student recruitment and retention.

Environmental Science (CIP# 03.0104), rather than Environmental Studies (CIP# 03.0103), more accurately represents the Department curriculum, as well as faculty expertise (see Addendum). In addition to concentration-specific upper-level coursework, all majors are required to complete two semesters of Chemistry lecture and lab, with additional requirements in Physics, Geosciences, Mathematics, and/or Statistics. Upper-level course offerings are largely driven by Faculty interests and expertise, and Departmental faculty hold terminal degrees in fields such as Biology, Geology, Environmental Sciences and Engineering, and Management and Policy, which are more in alignment with Environmental Science than Environmental Studies. The Department offers very few courses in the Social Sciences or Humanities, which are considered components of an Environmental Studies program. When asked about their coursework, many of our students already use the term “Environmental Science” to describe their degrees in conversation, and on resumes. Our faculty often advise them to do this, because most of the

graduate programs they apply to are in the Environmental Sciences (or subfields thereof, such as Geology or Ecology), and students coming from Environmental Science degree programs are often assumed to have taken more scientifically rigorous coursework (as is found in our curriculum) than those from Environmental Studies programs.

The proposed name change will also aid in student recruitment and retention. Research consistently places environmental issues among the most important to college-aged young people (see Addendum), and the natural environment around Asheville should make UNCA very attractive to these students. Many high school students become interested in the environmental field after high school coursework in Environmental Science (either Advanced Placement or non-AP), and when looking to pursue those interests, they naturally gravitate towards colleges and universities that also offer degrees in Environmental Science. Environmental Studies is more of an unknown quantity. Changing the Department name from “Environmental Studies” to “Environmental Science” maximizes UNCA’s ability to attract these students.

Addendum: Department of Environmental Studies: APC Proposal to Change the Department Name and Major to “Environmental Science”

Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) Code Definitions for Environmental Studies and Environmental Science

Detail for CIP Code 03.0104

Title: Environmental Science.

Definition: A program that focuses on the application of biological, chemical, and physical principles to the study of the physical environment and the solution of environmental problems, including subjects such as abating or controlling environmental pollution and degradation; the interaction between human society and the natural environment; and natural resources management. Includes instruction in biology, chemistry, physics, geosciences, climatology, statistics, and mathematical modeling.

Detail for CIP Code 03.0103

Title: Environmental Studies.

Definition: A program that focuses on environment-related issues using scientific, social scientific, or humanistic approaches or a combination. Includes instruction in the basic principles of ecology and environmental science and related subjects such as policy, politics, law, economics, social aspects, planning, pollution control, natural resources, and the interactions of human beings and nature.

Recent Surveys Highlighting Importance of Environmental Issues to College-Aged Youth

<https://som.yale.edu/story/2022/global-network-survey-finds-students-more-urgently-focused-sustainability>

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/students/academics/2023/01/02/sustainability-actions-students-take-and-want-their-colleges>

<https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/for-new-generation-college-students-climate-change-isn-t-political-it-s-lived-reality>

Four-Year Plans of Study for Current Concentrations in Environmental Studies



Pathway to Graduation: Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies (Environmental Management & Policy Concentration)

Year One		
Fall Semester <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FYS 178 • ENVR 130 	Spring Semester <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MATH 167 / 191 	The following Liberal Arts Core courses are recommended in the first year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LANG 120 • HUM 124 • Language 1 (or placement) • Scientific Perspectives
Year Two		
Fall Semester <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ENVR 241 • CHEM 132 • ECON 103 	Spring Semester <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHEM 111 • ENVR 324 • Lab- or field-based ENVR course • STAT 185 or Elective 	The following Liberal Arts Core courses are recommended in the second year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HUM 214 • Language 2 • Social Science • Lab Science
Year Three		
Fall Semester <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHEM 231 / 233 • ENVR 334 • ENVR course as EMP elective 	Spring Semester <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ENVR 332 • ECON 339 / Elective • CHEM 145 	The following Liberal Arts Core courses are recommended in the third year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HUM 324 or LA 378 • ARTS 310 • Diversity Intensive
Year Four		
Fall Semester <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ENVR 490 • ECON 480 • Elective • Environmental Policy Elective • ENVR 3xx – 4xx 	Spring Semester <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Policy Elective 	The following Liberal Arts Core courses are recommended in the fourth year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HUM 414 / LA 478 • Diversity Intensive – U.S. Race/Ethnicity-Centric or elective



NOTES:

- The MATH requirement is met with MATH 167 + STAT 185, or just MATH 191.
- Students are required to take ECON 339.
- The physical science requirement may be fulfilled within the major by ENVR 105 or any of the required CHEM courses.
- The scientific perspectives requirement may be fulfilled within the major by ENVR 130 or 106.
- The diversity intensive requirement may be fulfilled within the major by ENVR 282.
- Refer to the current catalog for frequency of elective course offerings (some courses are offered on a Fall/Spring rotation) and specific prerequisite requirements for each course. While you may use the above as a planning tool, please work with your academic adviser to create a customized plan to meet your needs and graduation timeline.
- If possible, general electives can be taken at any time in consultation with your academic adviser.

Credit hour breakdowns appear below.

Degree Requirements:

- Credits in the major + correlate courses **59 HOURS**
- Credits in the Liberal Arts Core **47 HOURS (minimum)** • Potential credits for electives / minor **14 HOURS**



Pathway to Graduation: Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies (Ecology & Environmental Biology Concentration)

Year One		
Fall Semester <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FYS 178 • ENVR 130 	Spring Semester <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ENVR 234 / 282 / 334 • CHEM 111 • CHEM 132 • MATH 167 / 191 / STAT 185 	The following Liberal Arts Core courses are recommended in the first year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LANG 120 • HUM 124 • Lab Science • Diversity Intensive • Language 1 (or placement) • Scientific Perspectives
Year Two		
Fall Semester <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHEM 145 • CHEM 231 / 233 • ENVR 241 	Spring Semester <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Science Requirement • Advanced Ecology Elective 	The following Liberal Arts Core courses are recommended in the second year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HUM 214 • Language 2 • Social Science
Year Three		
Fall Semester <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BIOL 211 (if BIOL 210 not taken) • Advanced Ecology Elective • MATH 167 / 191 / STAT 185 	Spring Semester <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BIOL 210 (if BIOL 211 not taken) • ENVR 480 • Advanced Ecology Elective 	The following Liberal Arts Core courses are recommended in the third year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HUM 324 or LA 378 • ARTS 310 • Diversity Intensive – U.S. Race/Ethnicity-Centric or elective
Year Four		
Fall Semester <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ENVR 490 / 499 • Advanced Ecology Elective 	Spring Semester <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Ecology Elective • Advanced ENVR Elective 	The following Liberal Arts Core courses are recommended in the fourth year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HUM 414 / LA 478



NOTES:

- **Students must take MATH 167 and STAT 185; or just MATH 191.**
 - **The physical science requirement may be fulfilled within the major by ENVR 105 or any of the required CHEM courses.**
 - **The scientific perspectives requirement may be fulfilled within the major by ENVR 130 or 106.**
 - **The diversity intensive requirement can be fulfilled within the major by ENVR 282.**
 - **See approved list of advanced ecology electives in catalog (18 hours of BIOL or ENVR electives required).**
 - **Study abroad is generally best in Year Three.**
 - **Refer to the current catalog for frequency of elective course offerings (some courses are offered on a Fall/Spring rotation) and specific prerequisite requirements for each course. While you may use the above as a planning tool, please work with your academic adviser to create a customized plan to meet your needs and graduation timeline.**
 - **If possible, general electives can be taken at any time in consultation with your academic adviser.**
- Credit hour breakdowns appear below.**

Degree Requirements:

- **Credits in the major + correlate courses 56 HOURS**
- **Credits in the Liberal Arts Core 47 HOURS (minimum) • Potential credits for electives / minor 17 HOURS**

Levo Oculos Meos In Montes ~1927~



Pathway to Graduation: Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies (Earth Science Concentration)

Year One		
Fall Semester • FYS 178 • ENVR 105 • ENVR 130	Spring Semester • ENVR 106 • CHEM 111 • CHEM 132 • MATH 167 / 191 / STAT 185	The following Liberal Arts Core courses are recommended in the first year: • LANG 120 • HUM 124 • Lab Science • Language 1 (or placement) • Scientific Perspectives
Year Two		
Fall Semester • CHEM 145 • CHEM 233 • ENVR 241 • ENVR 282	Spring Semester • MATH 167 / 191 / STAT 185 • ENVR 320	The following Liberal Arts Core courses are recommended in the second year: • HUM 214 • Language 2 • Social Science • Diversity Intensive
Year Three		
Fall Semester • ENVR 338 • ENVR 381	Spring Semester • ENVR 385 • Earth Science Elective	The following Liberal Arts Core courses are recommended in the third year: • HUM 324 or LA 378 • ARTS 310
Year Four		
Fall Semester • ENVR 330 • ENVR 490	Spring Semester • Earth Science Elective	The following Liberal Arts Core courses are recommended in the fourth year: • HUM 414 / LA 478 • Diversity Intensive – U.S. Race/Ethnicity-Centric or elective



NOTES:

- **Students must take MATH 167 and STAT 185; or just MATH 191.**
 - **The physical science requirement may be fulfilled within the major by ENVR 105 or any of the required CHEM courses.**
 - **The scientific perspectives requirement may be fulfilled within the major by ENVR 130 or 106.**
 - **The diversity intensive requirement is fulfilled within the major by ENVR 282.**
 - **Study abroad is generally best in Year Three.**
 - **Refer to the current catalog for frequency of elective course offerings (some courses are offered on a Fall/Spring rotation) and specific prerequisite requirements for each course. While you may use the above as a planning tool, please work with your academic adviser to create a customized plan to meet your needs and graduation timeline.**
 - **If possible, general electives can be taken at any time in consultation with your academic adviser.**
- Credit hour breakdowns appear below.**

Degree Requirements:

- **Credits in the major + correlate courses 57 HOURS**
- **Credits in the Liberal Arts Core 47 HOURS (minimum) • Potential credits for electives / minor 16 HOURS**