

The University of Vermont

Proposed Course Changes as of October 30, 2025 (includes course action forms reaching the Provost's Office between August 29, 2025 and October 30, 2025).

These changes will remain posted until November 14, 2025

The following Course Action Forms have been submitted and are ready for entry into Banner. Per the Course Action process, proposed changes will be made available for public review. If no objections are raised, the Course Action Forms will be sent to the Registrar's Office for inclusion in the University Course Listing and the next published Catalogue, effective Fall 2026.

In the event questions are raised, the Provost's Office should be notified (Kerry Castano) and the departments and programs involved should meet to resolve the issue in accord with the Faculty Senate Course Mediation Process found on the Faculty Senate website.

The information provided below is abbreviated. You may view complete forms by logging into the system here: <https://www.uvm.edu/academic-affairs-and-student-success/course-action-forms>

Key:

Proposed New Courses

Revised Existing Courses

SPECIAL NOTES - The following EXISTING course action forms will not be posted for review:

Forms to change co- or prerequisites internal to the department, the enforcement of co- or prerequisites, or the number of times a course can be repeated

Modest changes to titles, course descriptions, number of credits

Forms to deactivate or terminate existing courses that have not been offered in three or more years

Forms to reactivate existing courses

Forms to change the subject prefix of existing courses

Existing courses reviewed and approved by the Catamount Core Curriculum Committee for CCC designation

Forms creating NEW Topics In courses approved by the Catamount Core Curriculum Committee for CCC designation

Course	Short Title	Field	Existing Information	New Information
ASCI 3079	Animals, Disability, and Law	Added		
		College/School		College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
		Department/Program		Animal Science
		Subject Prefix		Animal Sciences
		Credits		3
		Pre/Co-requisites		ASCI 2130, ASCI 1100, PSYC 1400.
		Description		Examines the intersection of animals in policy and law around disability. Covers topics in policy and law around the intersection of differing human physical, mental, and emotional capacity and the use of service, therapy, and emotional-support animals to assist human well-being. Develops skills to promote inclusion, address inequality, and advocate for justice to enhance access and equity for people with disabilities by safely using animals.
		Course - Academic Merit		The proposed course in Animals, Disability, and Law is intended to prepare students for working with therapy animals, service animals, and other human-assistance animals. The course is intended to fit into the proposed Animal Studies major, which emphasizes the study of the human-animal bond. One area where we expect Animal Studies students to focus is on the use of animals for human service, therapy, and emotional support. Work with animals in these settings requires one to navigate laws and policies impacting both human disabilities and differential abilities and animal welfare.
		Effects on Other Departments		We expect the new major in animal studies to draw mostly new students, and not impact other departments greatly. The new major does require PSYC 1400, and we have obtained a letter of support from Psychology.
BIOL 1200	Forensic Biology in Court	Description	Covers crime scene investigation, methods of evidence collection and analysis, cause of death, and DNA identification in the context of biases that can influence the processing, interpretation, and use of evidence in the US court system.	Forensic science is a rapidly changing field that blends expertise in a wide range of natural sciences, social sciences, and the law to better represent the rights of all members of our society. Covers crime scene investigation, methods of evidence collection, and analysis of biological evidence both classical (fingerprints, blood spatter) and modern (DNA profiles and match statistics) contextualized by Constitutional guidelines.
		Change Justification	Seeking N1 Gen Ed designation in addition to existing D1 designation.	Students state that simply referring to the course as 'forensic biology' is misleading as the contextualization in Constitutional guidelines and requirements is also discussed. Therefore a slight change to the description, and more major change to the course title.
		Short Title	Intro to Forensic Biology	Forensic Biology in Court
CDAE 1200	Intro to Emergency Management	Added		
		College/School		College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
		Department/Program		Cmty Dev & Apld Econ
		Subject Prefix		Community Development & Applied Economics
		Credits		3
		Description		Introduces emergency management concepts, including its history, legal foundations, hazard assessment, and the four phases: preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery. Covers planning and public service approaches for disaster management, with a focus on communication and incident management systems. As weather-related disasters increase, provides a foundation for community support. Includes in-person lectures, discussions, and activities, featuring guest lecturers from local, state, and federal emergency management sectors.

Course	Short Title	Field	Existing Information	New Information
				A new course in emergency management would significantly enhance the academic program of the Department of Community Development and Applied Economics by equipping students with essential skills to address and mitigate disasters and crises. It aligns with the department's mission of fostering community resilience, preparedness, and sustainable development. By integrating emergency management concepts, students will gain practical knowledge of hazard assessment, risk management, and disaster response, which are vital for real-world problem-solving. This course would expand career opportunities for graduates, preparing them to contribute to public safety, emergency response, and community recovery, strengthening the department's impact on local and global communities.
		Course - Academic Merit		
		Effects on Other Departments		None
CDAE 2101	The Business of Food	Added		
		College/School		College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
		Department/Program		Cmty Dev & Apld Econ
		Subject Prefix		Community Development & Applied Economics
		Credits		3
		Catalog Prerequisites		CDAE 1020 or NFS 1073.
		Description		Engages students in the business side of food systems. Provides exposure, knowledge, and analytical skills necessary to understand the business activities involved in the production, distribution, and retailing of food; how different types of food businesses balance competing objectives, resources, and stakeholders; strategies for business development and marketing, and the potential consequences and trade-offs of business decisions along food supply chains.
		Course - Academic Merit		This course will fill an identified gap in the undergraduate Food Systems program related to business and entrepreneurship activities across the food system. This topic is of considerable interest to Food Systems students but has not previously been addressed at UVM.
		Effects on Other Departments		None
CLAS 1530	Ancient World and Film	Added		
		College/School		College of Arts and Sciences
		Department/Program		Sch World Languages & Cultures
		Subject Prefix		Classics
		Credits		3
		Description		Explores structural and thematic connections between selected ancient/classical texts and modern films.
		Course - Academic Merit		Regularizing a Special Topics course. It has been offered as a cross-list in CLAS and FTS, but it does not count for the FTS major/minor. JCF: This course would be (or rather already is) an excellent new gateway to classical texts and myths, complementing those covered in Mythology and Trojan War.
		Effects on Other Departments		Hoping for FTS cross-list.
MMG 2700	Foundations in R for Life Sci	Added		
		College/School		Cross-College
		Department/Program		Micr & Molec Gntcs
		Subject Prefix		Microbiology & Molecular Genetics
		Credits		3
		Catalog Prerequisites		BCOR 2300.
		Description		Introduces students to programming in R, with a focus on applications in microbial and cancer genomics. Through a combination of lectures and labs, covers R syntax, data wrangling with the tidyverse, exploratory statistics, and data visualization with ggplot2. Explores discipline-specific topics, including antimicrobial resistance (AMR) gene detection, microbiome composition analysis, and the exploration of transcriptional and mutational profiles in cancer datasets.
		Course - Academic Merit		Although other R-based courses are offered at UVM, this is the only undergraduate course that focuses on using R to view and analyze life-science-specific data. This course is also required for the new Genetic Mechanisms of Cancer minor (see attached proposal)
		Effects on Other Departments		Please see the attached minor proposal for support of the minor, including this course.
MMG 3280	Oncogenomics	Added		
		College/School		Cross-College
		Department/Program		Micr & Molec Gntcs
		Subject Prefix		Microbiology & Molecular Genetics
		Credits		3
		Catalog Prerequisites		MMG 2700, HSCI 2800.

Course	Short Title	Field	Existing Information	New Information
		Description		Explores the biological, genetic, and environmental causes of cancer (etiology). Covers how cancer develops from genetic mutations, epigenetic changes, and environmental exposures while analyzing publicly available cancer datasets. Emphasis will be placed on genomic data, cancer databases, and other bioinformatic approaches used to understand tumorigenesis.
		Course - Academic Merit		This course complements other molecular biology and bioinformatics courses offered in MMG. This course is directly focused on cancer genomics and is a required course for the new Genetic Mechanisms of Cancer minor (see attached proposal)
		Effects on Other Departments		Please see the attached minor proposal for support of the minor, including this course.
NR 4060	Env Prob Sol & Impact Assessmt	Description	Group dynamics, impact assessment, risk assessment, and decision making. Emphasis on the process of solving complex environmental problems, interdisciplinary team work, and the National Environmental Policy Act.	Project-based service-learning course that provides opportunities to integrate interdisciplinary academic learning and skills and apply them in a community context. Involves students working with off-campus community partners on authentic social-environmental problems in peer groups across RSENr majors. Topics include interdisciplinary approaches to problem-solving, project management, community-based participatory action research, application of systems theory, stakeholder assessment and asset mapping, proposal writing, and transferable skills. Emphasis on independent learning and student-designed goals.
		Change Justification		Need a more interdisciplinary course description and other language to distinguish NR 4060 from other capstone courses.
NR 4062	Adaptation to Climate Change	Added		
		College/School		Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources
		Department/Program		Natural Resources
		Subject Prefix		Natural Resources
		Credits		4
		Catalog Prerequisites		SEP 2880.
		Description		Service learning course that examines how ecological systems are responding to climate change and how human communities are currently adapting. Case studies will highlight the use of emerging technologies, design innovations, and planning to create more resilient communities and how concepts of adaptive capacity and social justice are incorporated into these efforts. Students use this knowledge to conduct community-based research in 'consultant' groups for a local community to support adaptation efforts.
		Course - Academic Merit		Adaptation to Climate Change is currently offered as SEP 4090. This course action form is to assign a new prefix and number to reflect its recent approval to substitute for the required RSENr senior capstone. We are currently working to align all approved substitutes for the RSENr capstone as NR 406X course numbers. The change will make it easier for students to identify and enroll in courses that fulfill the NR 4060 requirement. There are no changes to the course and we expect that current catamount core designations will carry over with this new subject code and course number.
SEP 2888	INR Planning	Added		none
		College/School		Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources
		Department/Program		Sustainability, Ecology and Policy
		Subject Prefix		Sustainability, Ecology and Policy
		Credits		1
		Description		Students design a program of study for the Integrated Natural Resources (INR) concentration in the Sustainability, Ecology & Policy major. Upon successful completion, students will have a program of study for their INR concentration.
		Course - Academic Merit		The course is a permanent version of SEP 2990 (syllabus attached), a pre-existing course that students take to plan their Integrated Natural Resources concentration. In this course, students dig into their interests and weave together learning objectives that allow them to pursue those interests in appropriate depth and complexity.
		Effects on Other Departments		none
SEP 3930	Environmental Law	Catalog Prerequisites	NR 2530; minimum Junior standing.	NR 2040, POLS 1013, or POLS 1300; minimum Junior standing.
		Course - Required or Elective Explain	It serves as an optional elective in our SEP major curricular requirements as well as the ENVS major optional electives.	
		Effects on Other Departments	none	
		Companion Documents	RSENr SEP subject code changes 2024.xlsx	
		Syllabus	SEP 3930 Environmental Law Syllabus.pdf	
		Change Justification		In practice, the instructor prefers to have the pre-requisite course be a broader offering to open SEP 3930 to more students.