ADVANCED COURSE SENIOR CAPSTONE PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Definition: advanced course-based integration of interdisciplinary environmental skills and knowledge.

I. Purpose
The senior capstone experience in ENVS is intended to integrate student course work, skills, and experience across the interdisciplinary exposure of the ENVS curriculum and provide an in-depth learning engagement. It should be appropriate to the student’s chosen concentration area within ENVS and to the academic expectations of 200-level work at University of Vermont. The capstone option should aim to meet these goals of in-depth integrated learning:

✓ Integrate ideas and information from various sources and diverse perspectives
✓ Analyze the elements of an idea, experience, or theory
✓ Synthesize and organize ideas, information, or experience
✓ Critically assess the value of information
✓ Apply theories to practical problems or new situations

II. Requirements
✓ Enrollment in three relevant 200-level courses from the ENVS concentration lists which between them:
  a) are interdisciplinary and relevant to your concentration,
  b) build on previous academic foundations in other courses you’ve taken,
  c) require extensive in-depth group or individual research/project activity.
✓ These three courses are in addition to your required 200-level course for the concentration.

Note: You cannot earn Program Honors through this capstone option; this is only available through the senior thesis capstone and the senior internship capstone.

III. Preparing your proposal
Select the three courses you will be proposing, with flexibility if you need to readjust your proposal. You may consult with your advisor over your choices and ask faculty for course syllabi to be sure the courses meet the requirements. Your proposal should be approved by the Director before your last semester at UVM to ensure you have met all the requirements before graduation. You may meet with the Director to discuss your plan but this is not required. Your 3-4 page proposal should follow this outline:

1. Introduction (one paragraph) – What are the three courses and how do they work together around a topic central to your concentration?
2. Description and justification of courses
   For each course:
   a) Provide a brief description of the major content areas of the course.
   b) List previous related courses for which the 200-level course is a capstone. For example, you might list ENVS 293 Environmental Law, and below it you would list related courses you took such as NR 153 Intro to Env Policy, and/or NR 104, etc. showing how the 200-level course is a capstone to previous work.
   c) Describe the nature of the independent research, group projects, and/or internships you did as assignments in the class. Not all three courses must provide this level of engagement, but between the three courses, this should be a significant feature of the proposed sequence.
3. Conclusion – Provide a summary of the knowledge and skills gained in the three courses that serve as a culminating learning experience of your ENVS major at UVM.

IV. Submitting the Proposal – Due Dates: Dec 1st for May graduation, May 1st for December graduation.
✓ Complete the Advanced Course Capstone Proposal Cover Sheet and attach to your proposal as a cover page.
✓ In addition, please attach course syllabi to the proposal if they are outside of ENVS.
✓ Submit proposal, with attachments, on paper to Environ. Program Assoc. Director Amy Seidl at Bittersweet.
✓ All paperwork will be put in your file and you will be notified via email. It is your responsibility to follow up with Cathy Trivieres to be sure your proposal, or revisions, have been approved.
✓ Any changes to your capstone course choices require a new proposal and approval by the Director.

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