ENVS SENIOR CAPSTONE OPTIONS

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

WHY OPTIONS?
The senior thesis as the only ENVS capstone option is no longer viable due to the large increase in the number of ENVS majors and the limited availability of faculty and staff supervision. Economic pressures campus-wide are requiring greater efficiency in use of resources. Students have asked for alternatives that are more appropriate and helpful in the marketplace and in relation to their chosen concentration areas.

CAPSTONE CRITERIA
- Must be the equivalent of 9 credits of 200-level work (as in 201 and 202)
- Must be individually approved by ENVS faculty
- Must be appropriate to student background and capability

OPTIONS
1. Senior Capstone Thesis/Project
Definition: a concentrated in-depth hands-on interdisciplinary research study, project, or creative arts project in the area of student’s concentration
Requirements:
- enrollment in ENVS 201 and 6 credits of ENVS 202
- approved proposal receiving a minimum grade of B with a minimum grade of B in ENVS 201
- final thesis/project write-up with evaluation by one ENVS faculty and one outside advisor

2. Senior Capstone Internship
Definition: application of interdisciplinary environmental skills and knowledge in an organizational setting with an agreed set of work goals and learning objectives
Requirements:
- enrollment in 6 credits of ENVS 202 and one additional environmentally-related 200-level course in area of concentration
- proposal approval by ENVS faculty supervisor and organization supervisor
- final internship write-up with evaluation by one ENVS faculty and organization supervisor

3. Advanced Course Senior Capstone
Definition: advanced course-based integration of interdisciplinary environmental skills and knowledge
Requirements:
- Enrollment in three additional environmentally-relevant 200-level courses from concentration lists which between them: (a) are interdisciplinary, (b) build on previous academic foundations, and (c) require extensive in-depth group or individual research/project activity.
- Advanced Course proposal approval by ENVS faculty in concentration area with deadlines for submission of: Dec 1st for May graduation, April 1st for December graduation.

June 2012
HONORS
(1) College Honors – To receive College Honors, you must take ENVS 201 and proceed with option (1) above. Please follow the specific dates and guidelines laid out for your academic unit.

(2) Program Honors – To receive Environmental Program Honors, you must take ENVS 201 and complete a senior thesis/project of exceptional quality. Honors are awarded after the full document is submitted and graded, and if the student meets the Program Honors criteria.

All Honors students present their thesis/project at a designated event scheduled in collaboration with their advisors and the Environmental Program, typically in late April or early May. Guests, advisor/evaluators, faculty, and staff are invited.

Environmental Studies Major Flowchart

ENVS 1 and 2

ENVS 151

Concentrations (select one)
- Ecology and Conservation
- Food, Land and Community
- Environmental Policy and Development
- Nature, Culture and Justice
- Sustainability Studies
- Environment and Health
- Individual Design

Senior Capstone Options (select one)
- Advanced Courses
- Internship
- Thesis/Project

Advanced Courses Capstone

Three 200-level courses

Internship Capstone

Six credits of ENVS 202
One 200-level course

Thesis/Project Capstone

ENVS 201

Six credits of ENVS 202