

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY CERTIFICATION OF CURRICULUM PROPOSAL

Preparation Date _____ Curriculum Bulletin _____
Effective Date **Fall 2020** Approved by EPC _____

Department **Geography**
College **AS - Arts and Sciences**
Degree **BA - Bachelor of Arts MS - Master of Science**
Program Name **Environmental Studies** Program Banner Code **ENVS**
Concentration(s) _____ Concentration(s) Banner Code(s) _____
Proposal **Establish program**

Description of proposal:

This is a proposal to establish a new BA to MS degree option. It involves sharing 9 credits between the undergraduate environmental studies major and the graduate Masters degree. Students can apply for the program up through the Fall semester of their Senior year. After graduation with a BA degree, they will be able to enroll full time as a Masters student.

Does proposed revision change program's total credit hours? Yes No

Current total credit hours: **150** Proposed total credit hours **141**


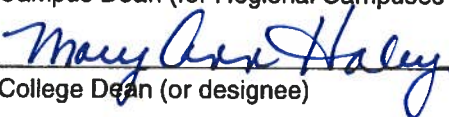
Describe impact on other programs, policies or procedures (e.g., duplication issues; enrollment and staffing considerations; need; audience; prerequisites; teacher education licensure):

We do not expect any impact on programs, policies or procedures

Units consulted (other departments, programs or campuses affected by this proposal):

No need to consult since this is all done within the Dept. of Geography

REQUIRED ENDORSEMENTS

 Department Chair / School Director	<u>10 / 15 / 19</u>
Campus Dean (for Regional Campuses proposals)	<u> / /</u>
 College Dean (or designee)	<u>10 / 25 / 19</u>
Dean of Graduate Studies (for graduate proposals)	<u> / /</u>
Provost (or designee)	<u> / /</u>

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**Department of
Higher Education**

**Miko DeWine, Governor
Randy Gardner, Chancellor**

Combined Bachelor's/Master's Degree Program Request Form

Date of submission: [DATE]

Name of institution: Kent State University

Primary institutional contact for the request

Name: Therese E. Tillett
Title: Associate Vice President, Curriculum Planning and Administration
Office of the Provost
Phone: 330-672-8558
E-mail: ttillet1@kent.edu

Name of bachelor's degree program: B.A. in Environmental Studies

Name of master's degree program: M.S. in Geography

Proposed implementation date: Fall 2020

1. Identify the total number of credit hours in the undergraduate and master's programs combined.

141

2. Describe how the university will ensure that students meet the expected baccalaureate program outcomes before the bachelor's degree is awarded.

The university has a GPS (graduation planning system) in place that keeps students regularly informed on their progress towards their bachelor's degree in their declared major. Students will be informed that completing their bachelor's degree is their primary concern when in the dual program. Further, when students wish to apply for graduate assistantships, they will be told they are only eligible once the bachelor's degree is completed, hence the need to make sure that all criteria are met. Within the Department of Geography, the Environmental Studies program director and graduate coordinator (currently both the same person) both regularly meet with students and will work with them to plan their schedule.

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3. Describe how students are informed of this combined degree program. Include in the answer how students are advised regarding opportunities and challenges associated with the option.

Within Geography, there is a regular communication called "This Week in Geography" which goes out to all declared majors housed within the unit. This program will be mentioned there multiple times. Faculty will also be aware of the program and be asked to regularly inform the graduate coordinator and undergraduate coordinator of any promising students, and we also regularly run analyses of our majors' GPAs to identify the best performing students, so that these students can be approached personally.

4. Describe the options available for students who wish to leave the program with a bachelor's degree before finishing the graduate-level work.

Those students who decide to leave the program without finishing the requisite graduate-level work will obtain a B.A. in Environmental Studies.

5. Describe how the institution ensures that students will pay undergraduate tuition throughout the completion of the undergraduate degree.

Per [Kent State policy](#), students in a combined bachelor's/master's degree program are classified as undergraduate until the bachelor's degree is awarded. Kent State's tuition rate is assigned to the student's level, and not at the course level. Therefore, undergraduate students taking graduate courses will be charged the undergraduate tuition rate.

Attach to this document a listing of the graduate courses in the master's degree program that will apply toward the bachelor's degree program and explain the requirements they will satisfy in the bachelor's degree.

Kent State University agrees to monitor the success of the program and will submit an annual report to Ohio Department of Higher Education on the scope of the program and student success.

Kent State University verifies that the information in this request is truthful and accurate.

Respectfully,

Signed after the request goes to EPC

Melody J. Tankersley, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost (Interim)
Kent State University

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We would expect candidates for the joint BA Environmental Studies / MS Geography to have taken at least 15 credits in Geography courses, whether as part of their Environmental Studies major or as additional electives.

The courses that we would apply for joint credit include the following:

49070	59070	Geographic Information Science
49230	59230	Remote Sensing
41051	51051	Natural Disasters and Society
41066	51066	Global Climate Change
41073	51073	Conservation of Natural Resources
41074	51074	Resource Geography
41077	51077	Water and Society
41082	51082	Geography of Soils
41195	51195	ST: Environmental Geography
42064	52064	Settling the North American Environment
45085	55085	Urban Transportation
46070	56070	Urban and Regional Planning
46080	56080	Urban Sustainability

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