

From: noreply@wsu.edu
To: [curriculum.submit](#)
Subject: 632162 Environment Requirements Revise - Revise or Drop Graduate Plan
Date: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 9:03:49 AM
Attachments: [2021.02.10.09.01.09.04.FormData.html](#)
[2021.02.10.09.01.08.47.currentCatalogFile MS in Environmental and Natural Resource Scie.docx](#)

Lisa Shipley has submitted a request for a major curricular change. His/her email address is: shipley@wsu.edu.

Requested change: Revise or Drop Graduate Plan

Degree: MS Environmental Science

Title: Thesis

New Title: MS in Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences

Requested Effective Date: Fall 2021

Revise plan requirement: Yes

Dean: Swindell, Samantha - Assoc Dean - CAS, Zack, Rich - Assoc Dean - CAHNRS

Chair: Keller, Kent – Director – Environment ,

Catalog Subcommittee
Approval Date

AAC, PHSC, or GSC
Approval Date

Faculty Senate
Approval Date

From: [Keller, Kent](#)
To: [curriculum.submit](#)
Cc: [Swindell, Samantha](#)
Subject: Re: 632162 Environment Requirements Revise - Revise or Drop Graduate Plan
Date: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 4:14:40 PM

I approve. -Kent.

From: "curriculum.submit@wsu.edu" <curriculum.submit@wsu.edu>
Date: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 9:03 AM
To: Kent Keller <cckeller@wsu.edu>
Cc: "Swindell, Samantha" <:sswindell@wsu.edu>
Subject: 632162 Environment Requirements Revise - Revise or Drop Graduate Plan

Keller, Kent – Director – Environment ,

Swindell, Samantha - Assoc Dean - CAS,

Lisa Shipley has submitted a request for a major curricular change.

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Title: Thesis

Requested Effective Date: Fall 2021

Revise plan requirement: Yes

Both Chair and Dean approval is required to complete the submission process. Please indicate that you have reviewed the proposal by highlighting one of the statements below and **reply all** to this email. (curriculum.submit@wsu.edu.) [Details of major change requested can be found in the attached supplemental documentation]

1. I approve this proposal in its current form.
2. I approve this proposal with revisions. Revisions are attached.
3. I do not approve this proposal. Please return to submitter.

If you do not respond within one week, you will be sent a reminder email. If no response is received within three weeks of the submission date, the proposal will be returned to the submitter.

Thank you for your assistance as we embark on this new process. If you have any

From: Swindell, Samantha
To: curriculum.submit
Subject: RE: 632162 Environment Requirements Revise - Revise or Drop Graduate Plan
Date: Sunday, February 14, 2021 3:19:02 PM

1. I approve this proposal in its current form.

From: curriculum.submit@wsu.edu <curriculum.submit@wsu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 9:01 AM
To: Keller, Kent <ckkeller@wsu.edu>
Cc: Swindell, Samantha <sswindell@wsu.edu>
Subject: 632162 Environment Requirements Revise - Revise or Drop Graduate Plan

Keller, Kent – Director – Environment ,

Swindell, Samantha - Assoc Dean - CAS,

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From: [Zack, Richard Stanly, Jr](#)
To: [curriculum.submit](#)
Subject: Re: 632162 Environment Requirements Revise - Revise or Drop Graduate Plan
Date: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 9:37:04 AM

I approve

Rich Zack

From: "curriculum.submit@wsu.edu" <curriculum.submit@wsu.edu>
Date: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 9:03 AM
To: "Zack, Richard Stanly, Jr" <zack@wsu.edu>
Cc: "curriculum.submit" <curriculum.submit@wsu.edu>
Subject: 632162 Environment Requirements Revise - Revise or Drop Graduate Plan

,

Zack, Rich - Assoc Dean - CAHNRS,

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Requested change: Revise or Drop Graduate Plan

Degree: MS Environmental Science

Title: Thesis

Requested Effective Date: Fall 2021

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MS in Environmental and Natural Resource Science thesis option (formerly MS in Environmental Science)

- **Revise name**
- **Revise plan requirements**

Overview:

We propose to change the name and plan requirements for MS in Environmental Science thesis option as part of our proposal to revise all M.S. programs in the School of the Environment. The School of the Environment (SoE) was created in 2013 as a merger of the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences and the Department of Natural Resources. Over the past 8 years the faculty and staff in SoE have worked to combine and leverage their wide-ranging disciplinary expertise toward building a single School, with a shared vision, mission, and goals. An early step in this process was to combine all of the pre-existing B.S. degrees into a single, interdisciplinary degree (B.S. Earth and Environmental Sciences), with multiple majors that reflect the disciplinary strengths within the School. The next step is now to revise the M.S. degrees within SoE to reflect these strengths.

We are making one revision that will be common to all M.S. degree programs and plans in SoE: We plan to add 1 credit hour of SOE 501 (Graduate Skills Seminar) to each of the M.S. degree programs/plans listed below, to be taken in the student's first year. The catalog description of SOE 501 is "*Seminar designed to introduce first year graduate students to the science graduate program; roles and responsibilities of graduate students, teaching assistants and researchers*". The course typically includes instruction and practice in developing a graduate proposal and a professional presentation, among other topics.

The other revisions to each individual degree/plan also result in the same number of total credits, graded credits, and ungraded credits being required for all M.S. degrees in SoE.

Revise name:

Rationale: When the School of the Environment (SoE) formed, it merged faculty in the Environmental Science Program and the Natural Resource Science Programs. However, for the last 8 years, SoE has maintained 2 M.S. thesis option degree plans in these areas, 1 in Environmental Science (offered on the Pullman campus, and extended to the Vancouver and Tri-Cities campuses) and 1 in Natural Resource Science (offered on the Pullman campus). The degree requirements are currently very similar, so to streamline our graduate programs, we plan to drop the M.S. in Natural Resource Science thesis option, and change the name of the Environmental Science thesis option to "Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences thesis option". This is the same name as our current combined Ph.D. plan in Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences.

Revise plan requirements:

Rationale: Currently, Vancouver has a degree plan for the M.S. in Environmental Science thesis option separate from the degree plan on the Pullman and Tri-Cities campuses. We plan to

combine the 2 degree plans under a single M.S. Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences degree program, with 2 curricular plans that have different course requirements.

1. The “Directed Studies” Plan is designed to provide maximum flexibility for faculty and graduate students to take advantage of the wide variety of disciplinary areas, campuses, and research centers included in SoE. This plan has minimal specific requirements (i.e. ,1 credit of SOE 501 Graduate Skills Seminar), so that it may be tailored to meet the needs of individual students, and take advantage of a wide variety of coursework from within and outside of SoE, as approved by students’ graduate committees. The Directed Studies plan differs from the current M.S. in Environmental Science in Pullman because it now requires only a total of 30 rather than 32 credits, a total of 21 rather than 26 hours of graded coursework, at least 15 rather than 9 credits of graded graduate coursework, and at least 4 rather than 6 credits of SoE 700 (Thesis credits).
2. The “Interdisciplinary” Plan requires students to choose courses within distinct content areas, in addition to the required graduate seminar, to provide a general and well-rounded program in environmental and natural resource sciences, and using expertise of current faculty. This will increase interdisciplinary understanding and build cohorts of graduate students.

Both plans can be offered at any WSU campus or Extension/Research Center where SoE graduate faculty are located.

Degree requirements for M.S. in ~~Environmental Science~~ Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences thesis option

Directed Studies Plan (New plan established under the ENRS M.S. degree, modified from current Pullman M.S. in Environmental Science)

- At least ~~32~~ 30 hours total credits, consisting of:
 - At least ~~26~~ 21 hours of graded course work including:
 - At least ~~9~~ 15 hours of graded course work at the 500-level
 - Not more than 6 hours of non-graduate (300-400 level) graded course work
 - 1 hour SOE 501 – Graduate Skills Seminar (not graded)
 - ~~6~~ 4 hours minimum of SOE 700 (Master’s research, thesis, and/or evaluation), 2 of which must be taken in the semester of the final exam (not graded)
 - Courses taken for audit may not be used on the program of study
- Thesis
- Final oral exam - thesis defense

Interdisciplinary Studies Plan (New plan established under the ENRS M.S. degree, same as current Vancouver M.S. in Environmental Science)

- At least 30 hours of total credits, consisting of:
 - At least 21 hours of graded course work including:

- At least 15 hours minimum of graded course work at the 500-level, including:
 - 2 hours of SOE 592 or 597 (Advanced Topics)
 - 3 hours of SOE 544 (Environmental Assessment) or other policy/society/management course
 - 3 hours of statistics, math or other quantitative course work
 - 13 hours of additional graded course work
 - *At least* 8 hours of graded courses must be SOE prefix
- No more than 6 hours non-graduate (300-400 level) graded course work
 - 1 credit of SOE 501 – Graduate Skills Seminar (not graded)
 - 2 credits of SOE 598 (Seminar, not graded)
 - 6 credits minimum of SOE 700 (Master’s research, thesis, and/or evaluation), 2 of which must be taken in the semester of the final exam (not graded)
 - Courses taken for audit may not be used on the program of study
- Thesis
- Final oral exam - thesis defense