

ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY



University Curriculum Committee

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November 8, 2012

TO: Daniel Holland, Chairperson, Academic Senate
FROM: Jean Standard, Chair, University Curriculum Committee *JMS*
RE: Executive Summary – Proposal for the New Conservation Biology Sequence

The University Curriculum Committee has approved and is forwarding for Academic Senate review the attached proposal to add a new Conservation Biology Sequence to the Major in Biological Sciences.

The School of Biological Sciences has given a reasonable rationale for adding the new sequence:

- The primary goal of this sequence is to provide students with sufficient educational background to pursue careers or graduate education in conservation biology, a discipline focused on the health of natural ecosystems and their organisms.
- The courses are organized so as to ensure that sufficient breadth and depth needed to cover key topics in biology that are directly related to conservation while preserving some flexibility in the precise conceptual and taxon courses are taken.
- The sequence will prepare students for internships and entry-level positions in conservation-oriented non-governmental organizations (e.g., The Nature Conservancy), governmental organizations (e.g., state departments of natural resources, federal wildlife and parks agencies), and environmental consulting firms. These employers seek individuals with training that involves ecosystems and their organisms (e.g., plants and animals).
- Students completing this sequence will also be well prepared to enter graduate-level conservation biology programs.
- The School anticipates that this sequence will be a recruitment incentive for students who are interested in careers in conservation biology. This will either increase the number of students in the School of Biological Sciences, or will provide an alternative career path to the many students who think that the only biological careers are in medicine.
- In the beginning students entering this sequence will already be in the major program.

The School of Biological Sciences proposes adding five new sequences and deleting one sequence to reorganize the Major in Biological Sciences. Other proposed new sequences will be presented separately, however they all are part of the revision of the major.

The University Curriculum Committee supports the proposal to add this new sequence.

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Attachments