

Millikin University  
Student Learning in the Environmental Studies Major

Environmental Studies  
Annual Report, July 1, 2018

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The learning goals for Environmental Studies majors are that all students earning this degree will:

- 1) Develop a deeper understanding of the complex connections between environmental issues and their social, political, economic, scientific, and ethical underpinnings (MU Prepares 2 and 3)
- 2) Develop the critical thinking skills necessary to comprehend environmental issues (MU Prepares 2 and 3)
- 3) Prepare for professional success by engaging in performance learning through a senior capstone project in conjunction with either an internship or research experience (MU Prepares 1)

To measure individual student learning with respect to these goals, the Environmental Studies Coordinator, with the help of the Environmental Studies Committee, will assess graduating students in the program annually, using feedback from assessments at each level to guide programmatic improvement. Assessment met

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The global environment influences every person on Earth every day and is currently facing unprecedented changes because of environmental issues such as human overpopulation, habitat loss, and pollution. Moreover, significant global issues are intimately tied to our relationship with the environment. Global solutions to poverty are rooted in the acquisition and distribution of natural resources, which are in turn, dependent on sustainable use of the environment. Solutions will require an interdisciplinary knowledge of fields such as political science, economics, philosophy, sociology, communications, and science.

The Environmental Studies major is an interdisciplinary major that will stimulate informed democratic citizenship in a global environment and

## Cohort History and Class Size

The number of students in the Environmental Studies major has increased over time (see Table 1). These students consist of incoming freshmen, transfer students and students that change majors between semesters.

Table 1. Total Count of Majors

## Curriculum Map

Courses listed below each goal provide information and experiences necessary for students to complete the departmental goals in a timely manner during their four years at Millikin.

Freshman	EV110: Intro. to Environmental Studies	Environmental Studies Core and Concentration courses (See Appendix A)	
Sophomore	Expanded in all other courses taken	Environmental Studies Core and Concentration courses (See Appendix A)	
Junior	Expanded in all other courses taken	Environmental Studies Core and Concentration courses (See Appendix A)	EV391/392 or EV370/371: Environmental Studies Research or Internship
Senior	Expanded in all other courses taken EV481: Environmental Studies Capstone	Environmental Studies Core and Concentration courses (See Appendix A)	

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- o Goal 1) Improvement between the self-reflection pre-test (given in Intro. to Env. Studies) and post-test scores (given in Env. Capstone) as indicated by an average of 8/15 answers

*Goal 1) Develop a deeper understanding of the complex connections between environmental issues and their social, political, economic, scientific, and ethical underpinnings is assessed through comparison of self-reflections given at the beginning of the major in Introduction to Environmental Studies and at the end of the major in Environmental Studies Capstone.*

Every Environmental Studies major is given a self-reflection survey when they take the Intro. to Environmental Studies course. This course is taken in the spring semester of their first year at Millikin. The same survey is given again in the Environmental Studies capstone, during the

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Annual assessment reports, with ongoing trends, for the Environmental Studies major will be shared with the Environmental Studies Committee. This advisory committee will examine these reports and, if trends indicate that changes are required for program improvement, then recommendations will be made to the faculty who teach courses for the major.

Based on the analysis of assessment results, at this time, there appears to be no need to make any program changes. But, we realize that there is only one year worth of data and as the program continues in the future, we will carefully follow the trends.

#### Program challenges

Since the Environmental Studies major is an interdisciplinary major, there needs to be ongoing refinement of the a UCF curriculum as





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**Advising Checklist for BS Environmental Studies Majors**

NAME:

YEAR ENROLLED:

ADVISOR:

CAREER INTEREST:

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To successfully graduate from Millikin University, a student must complete 124 credit hours, distributed among University Requirements, College requirements, and Major requirements. Of these 124 credits, 39 must be in courses numbered 300 or above.

*Sequential University Requirements for MPSL*

Course	Credits	Recommended for	Course/Semester Taken
University Seminar, IN140	3	Year 1, Semester 1	
Critical Reading & Writing I	3	Year 1, Semester 1	
Critical Reading & Writing II	3	Year 1, Semester 2	
IN250 US Studies Culture	3	Year 2	
IN251 US Studies Social Structures	3	Year 2	
IN350 Global Studies	3	Year 3	

**OPTIONAL MINOR COURSES (21 CREDITS)**


<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Course #</b>	<b>Course title</b>	<b>Credit</b>	<b>Semester taken</b>
Core	EV 110	Intro. To Environmental Studies	1	

**Non-program Electives**

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## New Ecological Paradigm Scale

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Listed below are statements about the relationship between humans and the environment. Please indicate the degree to which you agree with each item. Choose the number of your response for each statement using the following scale: 5 = STRONGLY AGREE, 4 = MILDLY AGREE, 3 = UNSURE, 2 = MILDLY DISAGREE, OR 1 = STRONGLY DISAGREE.

1. We are approaching the limit of the number of people the earth can support.

1      2      3      4      5

2. Humans have the right to modify the natural environment to suit their needs.

1      2      3      4      5

3. When humans interfere with nature, it often produces disastrous consequences.

1      2      3      4      5

4. Human ingenuity will insure that we do not make the earth unlivable.

1      2      3      4      5

5. Humans are severely abusing the earth.

1      2      3      4      5

6. The earth has plenty of natural resources if we just learn how to develop them.

1      2      3      4      5

7. Plants and animals have as much right as humans to exist.

1      2      3      4      5

8. The balance of nature is strong enough to cope with the impacts of modern industrial nations.

1      2      3      4      5

9. Despite our special abilities, humans are still subject to the laws of nature.

1      2      3      4      5

10. The so-called "ecological crisis" facing humankind has been greatly exaggerated.

1      2      3      4      5

11. The earth is like a spaceship with very limited room and resources.

1      2      3      4      5

12. Humans were meant to rule over the rest of nature.

1      2      3      4      5

13. The balance of nature is very delicate and easily upset.

1      2      3      4      5

14. Humans will eventually learn enough about how 58 486.07 Tm0 90woekst 2



Has very few grammar, spelling and punctuation errors.  MLA style correctly used.	Has some grammar, spelling and punctuation errors.  MLA style used but may have errors.	Has many grammar, spelling and punctuation errors.  MLA style not used or with many errors.
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