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**Utah System of Higher Education
Changes to Existing Academic Program Proposal
Cover/Signature Page - Abbreviated Template**

Institution Submitting Request: Utah State University

Current *Proposed (if applicable)*

Program Title: Environmental Studies (BS)

Sponsoring School, College, or Division: Quinney College of Natural Resources

Sponsoring Academic Department(s) or Unit(s): Department of Environment and Society

Classification of Instruction Program Code¹: 03.0103

Min/Max Credit Hours for Full Program Required: 76 / 77 **67** / 70

Proposed Effective Term for Program Change²: Fall 2017

Institutional Board of Trustees' Approval Date: 05/05/2017

Award Type: BS

Program Change Type (check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Name Change of Existing Program
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Program Restructure with or without Consolidation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Transfer to a new academic department or unit
<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Suspension
<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Discontinuation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reinstatement of Previously Suspended Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	Out of Service Area Delivery Program

Chief Academic Officer (or Designee) Signature:

I, the Chief Academic Officer or Designee, certify that all required institutional approvals have been obtained prior to submitting this request to the Office of the Commissioner.

Edward M. Reeve _____

Date: June 21, 2017

I understand that checking this box constitutes my legal signature.

¹ For CIP code classifications, please see <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/Default.aspx?y=55>.

² "Proposed Effective Term" refers to term when change to program is published. For Suspensions and Discontinuations, "effective term" refers to the term the program will suspend admissions.

Program Change Description - Abbreviated Template

Section I: The Request

Utah State University requests approval to restructure Environmental Studies (BS) effective Fall 2017. This action was approved by the institutional Board of Trustees on .

Section II: Program Proposal

Program Change Description/Rationale

Present a brief program change description. Describe the institutional procedures used to arrive at a decision for the change. Briefly indicate why such a change should be initiated. State how the institution and the USHE benefit by the change.

The curriculum for the B.S. in Environmental Studies is being updated to (1) eliminate the Areas of Emphasis, all of which have been found to add no value to the core degree, as evidenced by the majority of students choosing to use the emphasis ("Environmental Stewardship") that allows students to create a custom emphasis of 15 credits; (2) respond to a substantial new market among regional campus students, by making the degree available through Distance Learning modes; and (3) respond to assessment data which indicate a need to increase specific skill development, such as statistical analysis. This third aim is facilitated by the recent and current hiring of faculty in the specified skills areas since the last curricular revision. The proposed changes in the curriculum for the Environmental Studies major (B.S.) are modest -- substantially less than 50% -- but they do include the elimination of the seven existing Areas of Emphasis. These changes were developed by a committee of faculty in the Department of Environment & Society (ENVS). The full ENVS faculty then voted unanimously to adopt these changes at a formal faculty meeting on January 25, 2017.

Consistency with Institutional Mission/Institutional Impact

Explain how the action is consistent with the institution's Regent-approved mission, roles, and goals. Institutional mission and roles may be found at higheredutah.org/policies/policyr312/. Indicate if the program will be delivered outside of designated service area; provide justification. Service areas are defined in higheredutah.org/policies/policyr315/. Will faculty or staff structures be impacted by the proposed change?

The proposed revisions will modernize the Environmental Studies program and make it consistent with new areas of expertise in ENVS and at Utah State University. Assessment data indicate that this change will better meet the needs and career aspirations of students majoring in Environmental Studies by emphasizing specific skill development. These changes also will facilitate the university's ability to make the degree available to students at regional campuses through Distance Learning. In addition, the program restructure will result in greater efficiency, given the elimination of the Areas of Emphasis.

Finances

What costs or savings are anticipated from this change? If new funds are required to implement the change, indicate expected sources of funds. Describe any budgetary impact on other programs or units within the institution.

No budgetary impact is expected from this change. Course delivery by distance mode is either already in place or is currently underway, at no additional expense. Facilitating regional campus student participation should lead to increased enrollments in the program; however, the program has the ability to accommodate these additional students without a need for additional resources.