



Proposal for a New Academic Program

Institution: **Western Oregon University**

College/School: **College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**

Department/Program Name: **Geography and Sustainability**

Degree and Program Title: **(Minor) Sustainability**

1. Program Description

- a. Proposed Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) number.
- b. Brief overview (1-2 paragraphs) of the proposed program, including its disciplinary foundations and connections; program objectives; programmatic focus; degree, certificate, minor, and concentrations offered.

First, note that this minor in Sustainability will not be an option for students majoring in Geography.

The academic minor in Sustainability offers interested students a subset of the intellectual ground that will be covered in the academic major. Thus, in addition to courses offered by the Geography and Sustainability Department, the minor too draws on important intellectual connections to other academic fields of inquiry.

- c. Course of study – proposed curriculum, including course numbers, titles, and credit hours.

At least 28 credits will be required in the minor.

Required courses:

- GEOG 106: Sustainable World (4 credits)
- GEOG 105: Nature & Society (4 Credits)
 - Or, GEOG 107: People, Space, and Place (4 Credits)
- BI 101: General Biology (4 Credits)

Choose at least four from the following:

- GEOG 380: Environmental Conservation (4 Credits)
 - Or, BI 370: Humans and the Environment (4 credits)
- GEOG 331: Environmental Justice (4 credits)
 - Or, PS 449: Environmental Values and Political Action (4 Credits)
- GEOG 306: Geographies of Development (4 Credits)
- GEOG 390: Global Climate Change (4 Credits)
- GEOG 470: Energy, Environment and Society (4 Credits)
- GEOG 412: Selected Topics (4 Credits)

- o Courses that are approved by the faculty advisor
- d. Manner in which the program will be delivered, including program location (if offered outside of the main campus), course scheduling, and the use of technology (for both on-campus and off-campus delivery).
- The main WOU campus will primarily be where courses for the minor will be delivered. Occasionally, classes may be offered at the Salem site. The Geography and Sustainability Department has a long track record of offering online and hybrid classes in addition to the traditional format; some of the courses included in the proposed minor might be offered in the online or hybrid modes.
- e. Adequacy and quality of faculty delivering the program.
- The faculty who contribute to the current programs in Geography and Sustainability will be the ones who will also deliver the courses for this proposed minor. Thus, there is no concern about the adequacy and quality of faculty who will deliver this program.
- f. Adequacy of faculty resources – full-time, part-time, adjunct.
- Current full-time and adjunct faculty are adequate to successfully launch this minor with existing courses.
- g. Other staff.
- Current staff are adequate to deliver this new minor. No additional staff will be needed.
- h. Adequacy of facilities, library, and other resources.
- Current resources are adequate to deliver this new minor.
- i. Anticipated start date.
- Fall 2020.

2. Relationship to Mission and Goals

- a. Manner in which the proposed program supports the institution’s mission, signature areas of focus, and strategic priorities.
- The new minor in Sustainability supports WOU’s mission of creating “lasting opportunities for student success through transformative education and personalized support”. Students are increasingly loud about their concerns for sustainability, and this minor will help them articulate an informed understanding that will complement their major interests. Through the minor in Sustainability, students pursuing any major will have a structured approach to understanding one of the most pressing issues of the time.
- Stewardship and Leadership are among WOU’s core values:

Leadership in service of the public good; action to improve the health of our planet; responsibility for preserving and enhancing the natural, structural, financial, intellectual, and human resources entrusted to us.

This new minor is also consistent with WOU's vision that includes:

Adapting to the changing world through continuous institutional improvement, evolving pedagogies and expertise, sustained scholarly and creative activities, and delivery of critical and innovative programs.

Challenging students, faculty and staff to grow profoundly through inspiring, thought-provoking educational experiences.

- b. Manner in which the proposed program contributes to institutional and statewide goals for student access and diversity, quality learning, research, knowledge creation and innovation, and economic and cultural support of Oregon and its communities.

Oregon has a reputation—nationally and globally—for innovative thinking about sustainability. This minor will provide students with knowledge, skills, and research-based strategies to think more about sustainability, globally and locally. Building up the capacity of students with a minor in Sustainability, whatever their academic major is, will empower them to work towards better outcomes for future generations of Oregonians.

- c. Manner in which the program meets regional or statewide needs and enhances the state's capacity to:
 - i. improve educational attainment in the region and state;
 - ii. respond effectively to social, economic, and environmental challenges and opportunities; and
 - iii. address civic and cultural demands of citizenship.

3. Accreditation

- a. Accrediting body or professional society that has established standards in the area in which the program lies, if applicable.

Not applicable.

- b. Ability of the program to meet professional accreditation standards. If the program does not or cannot meet those standards, the proposal should identify the area(s) in which it is deficient and indicate steps needed to qualify the program for accreditation and date by which it would be expected to be fully accredited.

Not applicable

- c. If the proposed program is a graduate program in which the institution offers an undergraduate program, proposal should identify whether or not the undergraduate program is accredited and, if not, what would be required to qualify it for accreditation.

Not applicable.

- d. If accreditation is a goal, the proposal should identify the steps being taken to achieve accreditation. If the program is not seeking accreditation, the proposal should indicate why it is not.

Not applicable.

4. Need

- a. Anticipated fall term headcount and FTE enrollment over each of the next five years.
- b. Expected degrees/certificates produced over the next five years.
- c. Characteristics of students to be served (resident/nonresident/international; traditional/nontraditional; full-time/part-time, etc.).
- d. Evidence of market demand.
- e. If the program's location is shared with another similar Oregon public university program, the proposal should provide externally validated evidence of need (e.g., surveys, focus groups, documented requests, occupational/employment statistics and forecasts).
- f. Estimate the prospects for success of program graduates (employment or graduate school) and consideration of licensure, if appropriate. What are the expected career paths for students in this program?

Academic minors are no longer required for graduating from WOU. Minors are, thus, electives that students could choose to work on. The fact that minors are electives means that it will be extremely difficult to guesstimate how many students might choose to pursue a minor in Sustainability.

A minor in Sustainability will be a huge asset to students. Visible activism by the younger generation, and inspired by Greta Thunberg, has furthered interest in sustainability among our students, who understand that the criticality of these issues and their own futures.

The employment market is also rapidly developing in various aspects of sustainability. Solar panels, energy efficiency, and waste management are examples of areas in which it will be difficult for business and government to ignore sustainability. Minor in Sustainability will, therefore, vastly expand the potential career options for students.

5. Outcomes and Quality Assessment

- a. Expected learning outcomes of the program.

The learning outcomes that students will work towards are the same as the outcomes for the major in Sustainability:

- Describe social, environmental, and economic elements of sustainable human communities
- Analyze the systemic nature of interrelationships among social, environmental, and economic elements of a thriving human community.
- Apply knowledge through actions that promote a sustainable and balanced system between humans and the environment.

- b. Methods by which the learning outcomes will be assessed and used to improve curriculum and instruction.

As with all academic programs in the university, student learning outcomes will be annually assessed. The evidence will be aggregated and reported consistently to facilitate continuous improvement. The assessment work will be managed by the faculty in the Geography and Sustainability Department.

- c. Nature and level of research and/or scholarly work expected of program faculty; indicators of success in those areas.

This minor will be served mostly by tenured and tenure-track faculty, whose scholarly work is reviewed on a regular basis as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

6. Program Integration and Collaboration

- a. Closely related programs in this or other Oregon colleges and universities.
- b. Ways in which the program complements other similar programs in other Oregon institutions and other related programs at this institution. Proposal should identify the potential for collaboration.

This academic minor draws on courses offered by other academic departments. Further, the 100-level foundational courses required in the minor could also be completed at other institutions, especially community colleges, which will make it relatively straightforward for students transferring in from other colleges and universities.

- c. If applicable, proposal should state why this program may not be collaborating with existing similar programs.

Not applicable.

- d. Potential impacts on other programs.

If any, this minor will introduce students to other disciplines in which they may not have taken courses. The flexibility provided in this minor means that no program will be unduly burdened with serving students.

7. External Review

If the proposed program is a graduate level program, follow the guidelines provided in *External Review of New Graduate Level Academic Programs* in addition to completing all of the above information.

Not applicable.

Revised May 2016

Instructions on Budget Outline form

1. Whose viewpoint?

The Budget Outline is intended to show the budgetary impact resulting from offering the new program. This table should be completed from the viewpoint of the budgetary unit that will be responsible for the program. Determine what the budgetary unit will be doing (in terms of new or additional activities) that it is not now doing and show what these activities will cost — whether financed and staffed by shifting of assignments within the budgetary unit; reallocation of resources within the institution; special appropriation of the legislature; or gift, grant, or other funds.

There are no new budget items.

2. No additional resources needed?

If the program is simply a rearrangement of courses already being offered, relying on access to library resources available for other programs, with no requirements for new or additional specialized facilities, equipment, or technology, and with no increase or decrease in students served by the budgetary unit responsible for the program, the budgetary impact would be near zero and should be so reported in the table.

As stated earlier, no additional resources are needed for this new minor. Correspondingly, the tables reflect zero budgetary impact.

3. Additional resources needed?

If FTE faculty or support staff assigned to the budgetary unit must be increased to handle an increased workload as a result of the new program (or to provide added competencies), indicate the total resources required to handle the new activities and workload (e.g., additional sections of existing courses) by specifying: (1) how much of this total figure is from reassignment within the budgetary unit (Column A), and (2) how much is from resources new to the budgetary unit (Columns B-E). Please provide line item totals in Column F.

As stated earlier, no additional resources are needed for this new minor. Correspondingly, the tables reflect zero budgetary impact.

Budget Outline Form: Year 1

Estimated Costs and Sources of Funds for Proposed Program

Total new resources required to handle the increased workload, if any. If no new resources are required, the budgetary impact should be reported as zero

Institution: Western Oregon University

Academic Year: 2016-2017

Program:

	Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F
	From Current Budgetary Unit	Institutional Reallocation from Other Budgetary Unit	From Special State Appropriation Request	From Federal Funds and Other Grants	From Fees, Sales and Other Income	LINE ITEM TOTAL
Personnel						
Faculty (Include FTE)						
Graduate Assistants (Include FTE)						
Support Staff (Include FTE)						
Fellowships/Scholarships						
OPE						
Nonrecurring						
Personnel Subtotal						
Other Resources						
Library/Printed						
Library/Electronic						
Supplies and Services						
Equipment						
Other Expenses						
Other Resources Subtotal						
Physical Facilities						
Construction						
Major Renovation						
Other Expenses						
Physical Facilities Subtotal						
GRAND TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

Budget Outline Form: Year 2

Estimated Costs and Sources of Funds for Proposed Program

Total new resources required to handle the increased workload, if any. If no new resources are required, the budgetary impact should be reported as zero

	Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F
	From Current Budgetary Unit	Institutional Reallocation from Other Budgetary Unit	From Special State Appropriation Request	From Federal Funds and Other Grants	From Fees, Sales and Other Income	LINE ITEM TOTAL
Personnel						
Faculty (Include FTE)						
Graduate Assistants (Include FTE)						
Support Staff (Include FTE)						
Fellowships/Scholarships						
OPE						
Nonrecurring						
Personnel Subtotal						
Other Resources						
Library/Printed						
Library/Electronic						
Supplies and Services						
Equipment						
Other Expenses						
Other Resources Subtotal						
Physical Facilities						
Construction						
Major Renovation						
Other Expenses						
Physical Facilities Subtotal						
GRAND TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

Budget Outline Form: Year 3

Estimated Costs and Sources of Funds for Proposed Program

Total new resources required to handle the increased workload, if any. If no new resources are required, the budgetary impact should be reported as zero

	Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F
	From Current Budgetary Unit	Institutional Reallocation from Other Budgetary Unit	From Special State Appropriation Request	From Federal Funds and Other Grants	From Fees, Sales and Other Income	LINE ITEM TOTAL
Personnel						
Faculty (Include FTE)						
Graduate Assistants (Include FTE)						
Support Staff (Include FTE)						
Fellowships/Scholarships						
OPE						
Nonrecurring						
Personnel Subtotal						
Other Resources						
Library/Printed						
Library/Electronic						
Supplies and Services						
Equipment						
Other Expenses						
Other Resources Subtotal						
Physical Facilities						
Construction						
Major Renovation						
Other Expenses						
Physical Facilities Subtotal						
GRAND TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

Budget Outline Form: Year 4

Estimated Costs and Sources of Funds for Proposed Program

Total new resources required to handle the increased workload, if any. If no new resources are required, the budgetary impact should be reported as zero

	Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F
	From Current Budgetary Unit	Institutional Reallocation from Other Budgetary Unit	From Special State Appropriation Request	From Federal Funds and Other Grants	From Fees, Sales and Other Income	LINE ITEM TOTAL
Personnel						
Faculty (Include FTE)						
Graduate Assistants (Include FTE)						
Support Staff (Include FTE)						
Fellowships/Scholarships						
OPE						
Nonrecurring						
Personnel Subtotal						
Other Resources						
Library/Printed						
Library/Electronic						
Supplies and Services						
Equipment						
Other Expenses						
Other Resources Subtotal						
Physical Facilities						
Construction						
Major Renovation						
Other Expenses						
Physical Facilities Subtotal						
GRAND TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

