Washington State University
MAJOR CHANGE FORM -- REQUIREMENTS
(Submit original signed form and TEN copies to the Registrar's Office, zip 1035.)
See https://www.ronet.wsu.edu/ROPubs/Apps/HomePage.ASP for this form.

*Submit an additional copy to the Faculty Senate Office, French Administration 338, zip 1038.

Department Name: School of the Environment

1. CHECK PROPOSED CHANGES.
   * □ Change department/program name from ______________________ to ______________________
   * □ New degree or program in ______________________
   * □ Change name of degree from ______________________ to ______________________
   * □ Drop degree or program in ______________________
   * □ Extend existing degree or program to ______________________ campus

   □ New Major in ______________________
   □ Change name of Major from ______________________ to ______________________
   □ Revise Major requirements in Ph.D. in Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences
   □ Drop Major in ______________________
   □ Revise certification requirements for the Major in ______________________

   □ New Option in ______________________
   □ Revise requirements for the Option in ______________________
   □ Drop Option in ______________________

   □ New Minor in ______________________
   □ Revise Minor requirements in ______________________
   □ Drop Minor in ______________________

   □ New Undergraduate Certificate in ______________________
   □ Revise Undergraduate Certificate requirements in ______________________
   □ Drop Undergraduate Certificate in ______________________
   □ Other ______________________

Effective term/year: Fall 2012

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<tr>
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2. GIVE REASONS FOR EACH REQUEST MARKED ABOVE. (Attach additional paper if necessary; see reverse side.)

4. SIGN AND DATE APPROVALS.

[Signatures and dates]

Chair Signature/Date: 3/12/12
Dean Signature/Date: 4/2/12
General Education Com/Date: ____________________
Catalog Subcom/Date: ____________________
Academic Affairs Com/Date: ____________________
Graduate Studies Com/Date: ____________________
Senate/Date: ____________________
Major Curricular Change Request

PhD in Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences

The School of the Environment requests a reduction of the minimum of graded-course credits required for the Ph.D. in Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences, effective Fall 2012, policy also to be applied to current students who have not filed a program of study by Fall 2012. We request that the minimum number of graded credits be reduced from the current 34 to 15 for incoming students who possess a M.S. degree, and from 34 to 27 credits for students without a M.S. degree. The justification for these changes is as follows:

- Consistency with Graduate School policy and increasing numbers of schools and departments across WSU.

- Environmental and natural resource science is interdisciplinary by its very nature and this is reflected in Ph.D. research topics. Adoption of the 15 credit minimum will give us the flexibility to tune each Ph.D. student’s training to their needs and interests, and to maintain and grow the increasingly interdisciplinary flavor of our research endeavors.

- Most of our incoming Ph.D. students already have a M.S. degree in environmental sciences or an allied field, and can demonstrate competency in one or more of the areas listed in the curriculum (below). Our Ph.D. degree is primarily a research degree, in which research experience, and mentoring by the advisor and committee, are paramount. Reduction of the minimum graded-credit requirement will eliminate repetition of course content from students’ experience, and hence increase the time that students can devote to research and positively impact time-to-graduation.

- Exceptionally able students can be admitted directly to the Ph.D. program with a B.S. degree. We anticipate that they will have received little or no formal course instruction at the 500-level, hence the differential (27 credits vs. 15 credits) between these students and those who have gained a M.S. degree.

- School of the Environment faculty discussed this issue during a meeting on March 19, 2012 and voted to adopt these requirements by a large majority.
Details of requested changes
The following text is our current requirements edited to show the requested changes. Old wording to be discarded is struck through; new wording is in italics.

Doctor of Philosophy
Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences
The Ph.D. in Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences is an interdepartmental degree program at WSU sponsored by the department and the Environmental Science and Regional Planning program. It was established in 1994 with faculty from both departments serving on the Graduate Coordinating Committee.

Environmental and natural resource sciences comprise an association of several areas of study at WSU. These sciences focus on factors related to the understanding and management of the environment and therefore have a commonality of interest. The Ph.D. program provides opportunities for doctoral study that involve integration and interaction among these various fields of science. The cooperation of WSU’s faculties in environmental and natural resource sciences in this program fosters important exchanges of knowledge that greatly enhance interdisciplinary education.

Doctoral Program Specifics
Requirements
∞ Dissertation
∞ Minimum of 34 hours 15 hours of graded course work for students possessing a Master’s degree, otherwise 27 hours of graded course work (beyond Bachelor’s degree); to include approved course work in five areas of competency in a core curriculum:
  o Ecosystems (6 hours)
  o Research methods (6 hours)
  o Issues/ethics (3 hours – NATRS 594)
  o Interdisciplinary knowledge (3 hours of graduate seminar)
  o Subject area of student specialization (variable hours)
∞ At least 25 hours 15 hours at 500 level or 27 hours at 500 level for students lacking the Master’s degree
∞ Up to 6 hours of supporting course work below 500 level and outside the major area
∞ 20-38 hours of NATRS 800 or ESRP 800 (Dissertation Research)
∞ A minimum of 72 total credit hours beyond the bachelor’s degree

Curriculum
Each student will develop a program of study in cooperation with a Supervisory Committee that includes his/her faculty advisor as chair. As preparation for a preliminary examination, a core curriculum must be completed through preceding and/or new course work that will yield competencies in five broad areas list below:

1. Advanced knowledge of ecosystems, including both biophysical structure and function, and roles of humans.
2. Advanced knowledge in research methods.
3. Advanced knowledge in environmental and natural resource issues and ethics. To be met by completion of NATRS/ESRP 595.
5. A specialized subject area to be defined by the student and the student's Supervisory Committee.

Program Committee and Advisor
Each student will be assigned an advisor who will recommend a Dissertation Committee. The committee will consist of at least three members that must be Graduate Faculty. At least one member must be from outside the department. At the doctoral level, the committee also has the responsibility for the Ph.D. preliminary examination and the qualifying examination for the Doctor of Philosophy degree.

Preliminary Examination
Each student is required to pass a preliminary examination in order to become a candidate for the Ph.D. degree. This examination will be taken after most of the required course work has been completed, as determined by the thesis committee, and upon submission of a dissertation research proposal. It will consist of written and oral parts which will focus on the student's major area of competency, courses taken, and the subject matter of the proposed research.

Dissertation and Final Examination
The final examination will be mainly a defense of the dissertation. All students are required to present a seminar to the faculty and public on their dissertation research.

Students can choose whether the final copy of the thesis is provided to the Graduate School in paper format or digital format. The candidate for degree will continue to submit two paper copies of the title page, two paper copies of the abstract, and two original signature pages—one on 100% bond. Signatures should be in black ink.

If the candidate selects to utilize the paper format, two unbound copies of the final dissertation must be provided to the Graduate School within five working days of passing your scheduled final examination:

- One copy on 100% cotton rag paper with original signature page
- One copy with original signature page (it is not necessary to have this second copy on 100% cotton paper)

Graduate students should be aware of the Departmental rules and requirements regarding distribution of thesis drafts. Because a student only has five working days after defending their thesis to turn in the final version to the Graduate School, substantially all changes must be addressed prior to defending their thesis in the final exam. Consequently, your committee members need to have read your thesis prior to scheduling a thesis defense date. This means committee members should receive copies of your thesis at least 14 days before scheduling the final exam. Depending on your advisor and your
writing ability, you should generally allow for three to four weeks prior to this for addressing the rough draft comments.