

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

**Institution Submitting Request:**

University of Utah

**Program Title:**

*Current*                      *Proposed (if applicable)*

Environmental and Sustainability

**Sponsoring School, College, or Division:**

College of Social & Behavioral

**Sponsoring Academic Department(s) or Unit(s):**

Environmental and Sustainability

**Classification of Instruction Program Code<sup>1</sup>:**

07880

6 - Digit CIP

**Min/Max Credit Hours for Full Program Required:**

56 / 56

Min Cr Hr / Max Cr Hr

**Proposed Effective Term for Program Change<sup>2</sup>:**

Fall 2020

**Institutional Board of Trustees' Approval Date:**

**Program Change Type (check all that apply):**

<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/>	Name Change of Existing Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Consolidation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Restructure
<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.

Please type your first and last name \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I understand that checking this box constitutes my legal signature.

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

<sup>2</sup> "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

University of Utah requests approval to change name from Environmental and Sustainability Studies to null effective Fall 2020. 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.*

#### Change Proposal: Undergraduate Emphases in Environmental and Sustainability Studies Program

**Institution:** University of Utah

**College:** College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

**Proposal Name:** *ENVST Emphases Changes*

#### Summary of Proposed Changes:

1. Simplify the names of three existing emphases (one name will remain the same).
2. Change the existing fifth emphasis area to “Sustainability Initiatives” and tailor the list of potential elective courses to those delivered online.
3. Add two additional options for policy course requirement.
  - a. POLS 3390
  - b. POLS 5510

#### Rationale:

After piloting existing emphases for five semesters, we have determined that the names need to be modified, as some students have found them confusing. We have simplified them to be shorter and more descriptive.

Given the importance that all of our students understand climate and energy issues, and that we address these issues in all of our emphases, the existing Climate and Energy emphasis is unnecessary. Thus, we have reframed this emphasis as a means to best support the U’s desire to increase enrollment and to better serve a population of students who are unable to attend classes on campus, by making it an online emphasis titled Sustainability Initiatives. We have met with Cory Stokes, Associate Dean (who oversees UOnline Programs), and he is in support of this change.

Given the increase in ENVST majors, two additional policy-focused courses are needed as options to meet our policy requirement. As these courses have the necessary content, this change will create needed flexibility without compromising curriculum quality.

We have the continued support of Geography and Political Science in requiring a course from each department in our core degree requirements. We will grandfather in requirements of students in the Climate and Energy Emphasis so as to not impact their degree completion. Students in the other four emphases will be moved to the new names on approval of this proposal. We have attached the layout of the emphases with changes in red.

### **Faculty Consultation:**

The ENVST faculty have been a part of the planning process for these changes and have all agreed that they will improve the student experience. The Chairs of Geography and Political Science have been consulted and are supportive of the proposed changes.

### **66% by 2020**

Offering an online degree will provide the opportunity for an additional population of students to earn a degree at the University of Utah in Environmental and Sustainability Studies.

### **Learning Outcomes**

- Demonstrate an understanding of comprehensive systemic analysis across both physical and behavioral dimensions involving society, the environment, and the economy.
- Define sustainability and assess the ways that sustainability topics are approached by a diversity of academic disciplines.
- Identify how globalized processes impact socioecological systems.
- Analyze the role of environmental sustainability in the promotion of comprehensive justice and equity.
- Apply critical thinking skills to provide sustainable solutions and build resilient communities.
- Utilize the appropriate methodological tools to analyze and address specific research questions.
- Articulate a comprehensive world view that integrates diverse approaches to sustainability.
- Understand the basic theoretical concepts and methodologies of both the physical and social sciences.
- Learn how to solve large-scale problems using a multitude of tools and approaches.
- Understand the basic sustainability concepts of homeostasis, carrying-capacity, cradle-to-grave recycling, evolutionary processes, inter-generational debt, socio-political adaptation, climate change, ecosystem services, and environmental justice—and understand the relationships between them.

## Emphasis Pathways:

*See Additional Document*

### 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/policy312/](http://higheredutah.org/policies/policy312/) . Indicate if the program will be delivered outside of designated service area; provide justification. Service areas are defined in [higheredutah.org/policies/policy315/](http://higheredutah.org/policies/policy315/) . Will faculty or staff structures be impacted by the proposed change?*

The Environmental and Sustainability Studies program serves the stated goals of the University of Utah, which “is to serve the people of Utah and the world through the discovery, creation, and application of knowledge; through the dissemination of knowledge by teaching, publication, artistic presentation and technology transfer; and through community engagement.” Furthermore, the university promotes “diversity and equal opportunity” while advancing “interdisciplinary inquiry, international involvement, and social responsibility.” We are one of only a couple of interdisciplinary programs within the university. We are the only undergraduate, interdisciplinary program focused on the study of environmental and sustainability issues. We have classes specifically focused on environmental justice and the global dimensions of ecological issues. Our students examine the social, economic, and ecological dimensions of sustainability. Our program is organized around teaching, outreach, and research. Our students participate in conducting original research and regularly receive university scholarships, fellowships, and grants to support this work. Our students are required to do internships, which increases the relationships between the university and the larger community, and translates into job placement. Through classes, students participate in community engaged learning, which helps develop a stronger sense of citizenship and addresses community concerns. Other than simplifying the names of four emphases and adding a few more choices in one area, this proposal requests the approval of the fifth emphasis being modified to offer an all online degree. This is in alignment with the University of Utah’s goal of reaching more students.

### Suspension, Discontinuance, or Reinstatements **ONLY**

*If suspending a program, indicate the statewide impact of this change. Explain the reason for suspension and the anticipated length of time for the suspension.*

*If discontinuing the program, indicate the statewide impact of this change. Explain how currently admitted students may complete the program within a reasonable period of time compatible with accreditation standards either through either (1) enrollment of students at other institutions of higher education; or (2) courses being taught for a maximum of two years after discontinuation of the program or until no admitted students remain who are entitled to complete the program, whichever comes first.*

*If reinstating a program, indicate the statewide impact of this change. Explain the reason for reestablishing the program and explain any changes being made to original program.*

### **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.*

There is an MOU between CSBS, UOnline, Geography, and ENVST that compensates for the development of the few needed online courses.