



Major Concentration Proposal Form B.A. in Environmental Studies (Effective Fall 2023)

Overview

The major concentration is a self-designed area of focus, or specific field of study, within the broader span of the Environmental Studies major as a whole. Concentration areas at Sterling College have a minimum of 20 credits that are unified by a common theme developed by the student and relevant to the Environmental Studies major. They are typically proposed during a student's Junior year, with the proposal process supported by a student's advisor.

Examples of concentration areas within Environmental Studies that can be supported by Sterling include, but are not limited to:

- Environmental Humanities
- Ecology
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Sustainable Food Systems
- Outdoor Education
- Education Studies
- Agroecology
- Agricultural Education

Concentration areas can be made up of any combination of Bridging Curriculum intensive courses, Experiential Endeavors, internships, and scaffolding seminars. Courses taken prior to Sterling, or during a semester away, can also be included in a concentration area. A SYRP can be included as long as it clearly aligns with the rationale and learning outcomes of the concentration. At least 8 credits of a concentration area must be upper level courses (300- or 400-level).

Process and Timeline

1. Planning

Start conversations with your advisor as early as your first or second year, as your plans for a concentration will have an impact on the courses you choose to enroll in.

2. Development

Work with your advisor to develop your concentration proposal, using this form. The advisor must approve and sign the form before it is submitted.

3. Submission & Review

Once completed and approved by the advisor, the student should submit their concentration area proposal to the Dean of Academics. The Dean will bring the proposal to the **Curriculum Committee** for review.

4. Curriculum Committee Review

Final approval of concentrations is granted by the Curriculum Committee, and the committee reserves the right to request major or minor revisions to proposals, or to reject a proposal. Such requests for revisions or rejections will typically be accompanied with the key points of reasoning that led to the committee's decision.

5. Approval

Once the proposal has been approved, a copy will be held on record in the student file.

6. Changes to Approved Concentrations

Any changes to an approved concentration must be discussed with and approved by your advisor, and then submitted to the Dean of Academics for approval. This request must include an updated version of the concentration proposal, and an accompanying statement that explains what courses were changed and why.

7. Publication

Once the concentration courses listed in the approved proposal have been successfully completed, the concentration will be listed on the student's transcript.

Major Concentration Proposal Form B. A. in Environmental Studies

YOUR NAME:

INTENDED DATE OF GRADUATION (SEMESTER & YEAR):

TITLE of proposed major concentration. This title will appear on your transcript.

BRIEF RATIONALE of proposed concentration (2-3 sentences):

LEARNING OUTCOMES associated with the concentration area. List 4-5 areas of skill and/or knowledge that you will gain through completing this concentration.

Through completing this concentration area, I will be able to:

FACULTY AND OTHER RESOURCES: List supporting resources, with brief annotations, including particular Sterling faculty and their areas expertise and interests, as well as off-campus resources (for example individuals and organizations).

DOCUMENTATION & JUSTIFICATION of courses comprising the concentration. Include the course number and title, the semester and year (either already taken or planned), and the number of credits. This list can include courses you have already completed (at Sterling or transferred from elsewhere), are currently enrolled in, and are to be completed in the future. Include a brief justification of the relevance of that particular component of the concentration area and how it contributes to one or more of the learning outcomes.

The number of self-designed major credits must total at least 20 credits, of which at least 8 credits must be upper level courses (300- or 400-level).

If transfer credits are used, the transfer substitutions need to be submitted to the Registrar's Office before submission of the checklist.

CONCENTRATION COURSE LIST

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE (& institution, if other than Sterling)	SEMESTER & YEAR	CREDITS
	<i>Brief discussion of relevance</i>		
	<i>Brief discussion of relevance</i>		
	<i>Brief discussion of relevance</i>		
	<i>Brief discussion of relevance</i>		
	<i>Brief discussion of relevance</i>		
	<i>Brief discussion of relevance</i>		
Total Credits:			