

# Assessment Plan

## Western Michigan University

### Environmental Studies

#### Outcome: Content knowledge: environmental systems and cycles

Demonstrate knowledge and comprehension of environmental systems and cycles

**Outcome Status:** Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
A pre-test/post-test evaluation will be administered annually in ENVS 2150 (Environmental Systems and Cycles). Multiple choice questions will be asked at the beginning of the term and again in the final exam. <b>Assessment Method Category:</b> Course-Embedded Measure	The average score on the questions will be significantly greater in the post-test.		Yes

#### Related Courses

- \* ENVS 1100 - Nature and Society
- \* ENVS 2150 - Environmental Systems and Cycles

#### Outcome: Content knowledge: ecological principles

Demonstrate knowledge and comprehension of ecological principles and their application to environmental problems.

**Outcome Status:** Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
A pre-test/post-test evaluation will be administered annually in ENVS 2250 (Environmental Ecology). Multiple choice questions will be asked at the beginning of the term and again in the final exam. <b>Assessment Method Category:</b> Course-Embedded Measure	The average score on the questions will be significantly greater in the post-test.		Yes

#### Related Courses

- \* ENVS 1100 - Nature and Society
- \* ENVS 2250 - Environmental Ecology
- \* ENVS 2260 - Field Environmental Ecology

#### Outcome: Content knowledge: environmental policy

Demonstrate knowledge and comprehension of environmental policy and economics.

**Outcome Status:** Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
The students in ENVS 3400 (Environmental Policy) will rate how well the course met stated objectives on a Likert scale. <b>Assessment Method Category:</b> Course-Embedded Measure	The majority of students will agree or strongly agree that the course satisfied its stated objectives.		Yes

#### Related Courses

- \* ENVS 1100 - Nature and Society

\* ENVS 3400 - Environmental Policy

**Outcome: Content knowledge: environmental history and literature**

Demonstrate knowledge and comprehension of environmental history and literature.

**Outcome Status:** Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
The students in American Environmental History (HIST 3180) will rate how well the course met stated objectives on a Likert scale.	The majority of students will agree or strongly agree that the course met its stated objectives.		Yes
<b>Assessment Method Category:</b> Course-Embedded Measure			

**Related Courses**

- \* ENVS 1100 - Nature and Society
- \* ENVS 3200 - Major Environmental Writings

**Outcome: Content knowledge: culture and values**

Demonstrate knowledge and comprehension of human cultural experiences and values pertaining to the environment.

**Outcome Status:** Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
The students in ENVS 3600 (Culture and Values) will rate how well the course met stated objectives on a Likert scale.	The majority of students will strongly agree or agree that the course met its stated objectives.		Yes
<b>Assessment Method Category:</b> Course-Embedded Measure			

**Related Courses**

- \* ENVS 1100 - Nature and Society
- \* ENVS 3600 - Environment and Culture

**Outcome: Critical analysis and communication: critical thinking skills**

Demonstrate the ability to assimilate and determine the veracity and value of multiple kinds of information.

**Outcome Status:** Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Two faculty members from the program will attend the students' oral presentations of term projects and read their written reports. Each student will be rated by each faculty member relative to this learning objective on a 1-5 scale, where 1 = excellent demonstrated ability and 5 = poor demonstrated ability.	Eighty percent of the students will receive a rating of 1 or 2.		Yes
<b>Assessment Method Category:</b> Capstone			

**Related Courses**

- \* ENVS 1100 - Nature and Society
- \* ENVS 2150 - Environmental Systems and Cycles
- \* ENVS 2250 - Environmental Ecology

- \* ENVS 3200 - Major Environmental Writings
- \* ENVS 3400 - Environmental Policy
- \* ENVS 3600 - Environment and Culture
- \* ENVS 4010 - Selected Environmental Topics
- \* ENVS 4100 - Appropriate Technologies & Sustainability
- \* ENVS 4500 - Senior Seminar in Environmental Studies

**Outcome: Critical analysis and communication: interdisciplinary approaches**

Demonstrate the ability to think across and beyond individual disciplines and demonstrate this ability by efforts to propose solutions to complex, conflict-laden problems.

**Outcome Status:** Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Two faculty members from the program will attend the students' oral presentations of term projects and read their written reports . Each student will be rated by each faculty member relative to this learning objective on a 1-5 scale, where 1 = excellent demonstrated ability and 5 = poor demonstrated ability.  <b>Assessment Method Category:</b> Capstone	Eighty percent of the students will receive a score of 1 or 2.		Yes

**Related Courses**

- \* ENVS 1100 - Nature and Society
- \* ENVS 2150 - Environmental Systems and Cycles
- \* ENVS 2250 - Environmental Ecology
- \* ENVS 3200 - Major Environmental Writings
- \* ENVS 3400 - Environmental Policy
- \* ENVS 3600 - Environment and Culture
- \* ENVS 4100 - Appropriate Technologies & Sustainability
- \* ENVS 4500 - Senior Seminar in Environmental Studies

**Outcome: Critical analysis and communication: communication skills**

Demonstrate written and oral communication skills.

**Outcome Status:** Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Two faculty members from the program will attend the students' oral presentations of term projects and read their written reports . Each student will be rated by each faculty member relative to this learning objective on a 1-5 scale, where 1 = excellent demonstrated ability and 5 = poor demonstrated ability.  <b>Assessment Method Category:</b> Capstone	Eighty percent of the students will receive a score of 1 or 2.		Yes
Two faculty members from the program (other than the course instructor) will attend the oral and poster presentations of team projects performed for one portion of the course in ENVS 1100 (Nature and Society). Each team was rated by each faculty member relative to this learning objective on a 1-5 scale, where 1 = excellent demonstrated ability and 5 = poor demonstrated ability.  <b>Assessment Method Category:</b>	Two-thirds of the teams will receive a score of 3 or better.		Yes

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Course-Embedded Measure			

### Related Courses

- \* ENVS 1100 - Nature and Society
- \* ENVS 3200 - Major Environmental Writings
- \* ENVS 3400 - Environmental Policy
- \* ENVS 3600 - Environment and Culture
- \* ENVS 4100 - Appropriate Technologies & Sustainability
- \* ENVS 4500 - Senior Seminar in Environmental Studies

### Outcome: Career preparation: employment

Obtain employment in an environmentally-related career

**Track:** Environmental Studies Major

**Outcome Status:** Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Students enrolled in the capstone course (ENVS 4500) will be surveyed to determine how well the ENVS curriculum has prepared them to meet their career goals. The survey will include questions asking the students to identify courses they perceived to be most and least valuable, in order to probe perceived curricular redundancies. <b>Assessment Method Category:</b> Survey-Student			Yes
An alumni survey will be developed and distributed via our annual program newsletter . The survey will also be available on our website. The survey will be used to determine the career paths chosen by our alumni and to query them about their perceived strengths and weaknesses of the program. <b>Assessment Method Category:</b> Survey-Alumni			Yes

### Outcome: Career preparation: graduate study

Obtain entry into a graduate program of study

**Track:** Environmental Studies Major

**Outcome Status:** Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
An alumni survey will be developed and distributed via our annual program newsletter . The survey will also be available on our website. The survey will be used to determine the career paths chosen by our alumni and to query them about their perceived strengths and weaknesses of the program. <b>Assessment Method Category:</b> Survey-Alumni			Yes