

Office of the Provost and
Vice President for Academic Affairs

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**EXTENSION OF AN EXISTING PROGRAM NOTIFICATION OF INTENT
(LOCATION NOI)**

Program Information

Program Name: Environmental Studies

Institution Name: Western Washington University

Degree Granting Unit: Huxley College of the Environment

Degrees: B.A. Planning and Environmental Policy; B.S. Environmental Science

Level: Bachelor

Major: Environmental Studies

CIP Code: 03.0102

Proposed Start Date: Fall 2009

Projected Enrollment (FTE) in Year One: 5 – 10

At Full Enrollment: 16 – 24 by 2011

Proposed New Funding: Partnership agreement with Everett Community College compensates work provided by WWU in accordance with the Terms of Agreement established under the terms of RCW 39.34.130

Funding Source: State FTE

Mode of Delivery / Locations

University Center of North Puget Sound at Everett Community College

ITV conferencing and traditional classroom

Scheduling

Evening and weekend classes

Attendance Options

Full-time and Part-time

Substantive Statement of Need

Attached

Contact Information (Academic Department Representative)

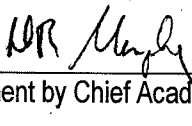
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Endorsement by Chief Academic Officer

Date

Notification of Intent

Existing Programs at New Off-Campus Location

Name of institution: Western Washington University
Huxley College of the Environment

Degree Title: B.A. Planning and Environmental Policy
B.S. Environmental Science

Delivery Mechanism: ITV conferencing
Traditional classroom

Location: University Center of North Puget Sound@Everett Community College
(UC)

Implementation Date: Fall 2009

Statement of Need

Western Washington University has actively served citizens on the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas for over 14 years. Western's Huxley College of the Environment is interested in offering two upper-division, [two-year] bachelor's degree programs to the citizens of Snohomish County through the Everett Community College University Center's Partnership Program. The demands on natural resources and the environmental impact of increased population growth require trained professionals that have the understanding and skills in assessing the nature and magnitude of the economic, political, and social changes associated with environmental problems.

Huxley's B.A. in Planning and Environmental Policy prepares students to enter professional fields concerned with the sustainability of the human and natural environment. Program graduates will gain knowledge and skills necessary to promote positive change by solving problems and implementing shared visions in both natural settings and urban communities.

The B.S. in Environmental Science draws on basic knowledge of the physical, chemical, biological and quantitative aspects of natural systems. Program graduates will gain knowledge of how natural systems work and the skills required solving problems largely created by human activities.

These programs have been offered in Port Angeles (Peninsula College) and Bremerton (Olympic College) since fall 2005 as self-support. Previous to 2005 these programs were offered in Port Angeles (1992-2002) and Bremerton (1997-2002), at which time they no longer accepted new students due to loss of state funding. The proposed program at UC will not be a new or a stand-alone program; program students will share curriculum and instructors with the existing program at Peninsula College / Olympic College.

Everett Community College (EvCC) has expressed overwhelming support for these programs. EvCC has committed staff, facility resources and FTE to assist with startup and ongoing costs. Information and advising sessions held at EvCC over the past two months have created a current pool of interested and qualified candidates. Additional community support has been expressed by both private and public institutions including national and state park and forest agencies and local planning and environmental agencies that seek graduates in environmental science and policy.

The proposed program is appealing to prospective students in the Everett and Snohomish north area because it is affordable and offered at a convenient time and location. Offering the programs locally and in the evening and weekends will enable students to keep their daytime jobs and fulfill family

responsibilities while pursuing educational goals. Approval of the proposed program offerings will enable the University to increase educational access for place-bound citizens in these communities.

Source of Funding

The Environmental Studies programs are planned as state-support programs; students will pay WWU state-support tuition. The partnership agreement with EvCC runs through 2011 at which time the programs are projected to be firmly established. Further state funding may or may not be available to carry this program. If it is not, the program will carry on in a self-support model.

Compensation paid to WWU by EvCC for the work provided in accordance with the Terms of Agreement has been established under the terms of RCW 39.34.130. The parties have determined that the cost of accomplishing the work and paying all expenses incurred in the delivery and administration of these proposed programs will be the following:

- i) September 1, 2008, through May 1, 2009, \$5,000 for program development, outreach and recruitment if WWU designates a coordinator to provide part-time or full-time services at the University Center site during the 2008-09 academic year.
- ii) Fall, Winter Spring, 2009-10: \$ 80,325
- iii) Fall, Winter, Spring 2010-11: \$ 107,100

Year 1 & Full Enrollment Targets:

No. of students	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3*	Year 4	Year 5
headcount	7 - 12	14 - 20	20 - 30	20 - 30	20 - 30
FTE	5 - 10	11 - 16	16 - 24	16 - 24	16 - 24

*Reach full enrollment

It is the intention of WWU, EvCC and the University Center to develop strong environmental sciences and planning and policy programs in Snohomish County under this contract, and to determine future potential for expansion that will serve the residents of Skagit and Island counties.

Given the mutual benefits to be realized for students and staff of the two institutions, the underlying principles of this Agreement emphasize collaboration. Among these shared benefits are the following:

- To expand and coordinate the delivery of undergraduate level programs to students in the Snohomish County area and surrounding northern region.
- Interaction among EvCC and WWU faculty regarding research, educational program design, and other matters of mutual interest.
- Enhanced student recruitment, focusing on educational opportunities offered through the collaboration.
- Shared resource acquisition, where possible and if applicable.

Demand for Program

Demand for environmentally-related science and arts degrees has been on the rise for the past 15 years. Huxley College of the Environment at WWU has, as one of the oldest environmental colleges in the nation, been in a position to directly witness the surge of interest on the part of undergraduate students seeking admission to its two-year bachelor degree program and master's degree program.

The Office of Admissions at WWU has also tracked the increasing number of incoming freshmen who identify environmentally-related degrees as their area of primary interest. For example, in a ten year

period between 1994 and 2003, the average number of students admitted to Huxley College in spring and fall quarters was 47 and 65 respectively. During 2008 the admissions were 52 and 82 respectively.

Although Huxley College has always had a slightly higher percentage of students from out of state than has been the norm at WWU, the vast majority of students attending Huxley College have come from western Washington, especially from King, Snohomish and Pierce counties, demonstrating that the College is clearly serving the interests of this region.

In addition to these "traditional" student populations, Huxley College has been serving an increasing number of older students. These individuals are returning to school to pursue a degree in a field related to their current career or are returning to find the skills necessary to pursue a new career in a shifting economy. This changing demographic has been observed both at WWU and especially at the Huxley College on the Peninsula programs at Peninsula College and Olympic College where, since 1993 Huxley College has been effectively and efficiently serving students who can't or don't want to attend WWU main campus.

Nearly 100% of students attending the Huxley College on the Peninsulas program have gone on to immediate employment, serving the environmental science and policy needs of their communities. The expansion of this program to Everett Community College is a natural response to increasing demand and a logical extension of this successful program.

Cost Effectiveness

For place-based students seeking degrees relevant to a changing economy, the provision of a nationally acclaimed environmental bachelor degree program in one of the most densely populated areas of the state represents an outstanding opportunity to educate citizens who might not otherwise strengthen their job skills and thus increase their earning and tax-paying capacity. The fact that this program can be provided without program or capital development expense makes it an especially wise investment of scarce public resources. Investments in higher education are essential to the long-term economic health of the community and this investment will place degrees within reach of thousands of people without a costly expansion of infrastructure.

Professional Applications for Program Graduates

Environmental education is important not only for our graduates, but for our society. As we face significant challenges, from cleaning up Puget Sound to combating global warming, Huxley College graduates will be at the forefront of an expanding industry, prepared to provide the environmental expertise and leadership essential to our future.

Examples of how these graduates will help our region become a leader in the emerging green economy can be extrapolated from the types of roles alumni have had in the development of scientific knowledge and public policy for nearly 40 years. Since its establishment in 1969, approximately 4,000 students have graduated from WWU with an environment-related degree from Huxley College. The vast majority of them have pursued careers related to their degree and many have risen to positions of leadership in our region, the nation and the world.

Future alumni will play essential roles in urban, rural and long-range planning and will likely guide the development of local and national public policy. Alumni will serve as environmental scientists, toxicologists, risk and mediation assessors, chemists and engineers. Their expertise will include climate change (science and policy), energy (alternative, renewable and clean fossil), transportation systems and design, air and water quality, toxics cleanup, wildlife and fisheries habitat, biology and productivity, marine science, wetlands and wildfire management, watershed management, waste management, recycling and reuse, the development of improved metrics for the measurement of carbon emissions and energy conservation, global information systems (design and application of technology), and a wide range of conservation science and policy.