



University Council

February 9, 2024

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2023-2024

Susan Sanchez, Chair

Agricultural and Environmental Sciences – Kylee Duberstein

Arts and Sciences – Jonathan Haddad (Arts)

Paula Lemons (Sciences)

Business – Karen Aguar

Ecology – Amanda Rugenski

Education – Amy Murphy

Engineering – Kun Yao

Environment and Design – Katherine Melcher

Family and Consumer Sciences – Sheri Worthy

Forestry and Natural Resources – Richard Chandler

Journalism and Mass Communication – Yan Jin

Law – Joe Miller

Pharmacy – Michelle McElhannon

Public and International Affairs – Rongbin Han

Public Health – Tamora Callands

Social Work – Harold Briggs

Veterinary Medicine – Shannon Hostetter

Graduate School – Rodney Mauricio

Ex-Officio – Provost S. Jack Hu

Undergraduate Student Representative – Gabriella Lewis

Graduate Student Representative – Kelsey Wohlford

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the Odum School of Ecology for a new Area of Emphasis in Integrative Conservation and Sustainability under the major in Ecology (M.S.) will be an agenda item for the February 16, 2024, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Susan Sanchez, Chair

cc: Provost S. Jack Hu

Dr. Marisa Pagnattaro

## PROPOSAL FOR AN AREA OF EMPHASIS

**Date:** September 21, 2023

**School/College:** Odum School of Ecology

**Department/Division:** Odum School of Ecology

**Program:** Ecology (M.S., M.S. Non-Thesis)

**Area of Emphasis Title:** Integrative Conservation and Sustainability (ICAS)

**CIP:** 03010110

**Which campus(es) will offer this program?** Athens

**Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2024

- 1. Area of Emphasis Description:** The core courses of the Integrative Conservation and Sustainability (ICAS) program adopt an interdisciplinary, knowledge-to-action approach to conservation and sustainability. ICAS students conduct applied research projects that are developed and carried out in collaboration with non-academic partners while gaining essential knowledge and practical skills through classroom-based and experiential coursework. By integrating scientific training into real-world, multi-stakeholder contexts, the program prepares graduates for influential positions in conservation organizations, international non-profits, governmental agencies, and the private sector, or for pursuing Ph.D. degrees in ecology, conservation, and sustainability-related fields.

Students in this Area of Emphasis are required to take the following courses for a total of 9-10 hours:

- a) ECOL 6080, Principles of Integrative Conservation and Sustainability (4 hours)
- b) ECOL(ICON) 8400, Perspectives on Integrative Conservation and Sustainability (1-2 hours)
- c) ECOL 8710, Environmental Law Practicum (4 hours) or ECOL(WILD) 8750, Endangered Species Practicum (4 hours)

This area of emphasis is intended to replace the current Integrative Conservation and Sustainability (M.S.). By combining the ICAS program with the Ecology (M.S.) degree, the streamlined programs can better utilize resources within the School of Ecology.

### 2. Major Requirements:

#### a) For students in the thesis-based M.S. Ecology program:

- $\geq 30$  hours (which collectively fulfill the major and area of emphasis requirements). This includes the area of emphasis requirements above, plus:
- ECOL 7000, Master's Research (taken for 6 hours)
- ECOL 7300, Master's Thesis (taken for 3 hours), which must include a deliverable

product created for (and in consultation with) a non-academic partner.

- GRSC 7001, GradFIRST: First-year Research and Scholarship Training Seminar (1 hour)
- The remaining credit hours of electives will be decided upon by the student and advisory committee, based upon student's background and professional aspirations.

**b) For students in the nonthesis M.S. Ecology program:**

- $\geq 30$  hours (which collectively fulfill the major and area of emphasis requirements). This includes the area of emphasis requirements above, plus:
- ECOL 7000, Master's Research (taken for 3 hours), intended to provide a research experience or internship with a non-academic partner
- GRSC 7001, GradFIRST: First-year Research and Scholarship Training Seminar (1 hour)
- In lieu of a thesis (ECOL 7300 and more extensive research) the student must fulfill the non-thesis options in the M.S. Ecology program:
  - Statistics (>3 hours, at the 6000 level or above)
  - Ecological concepts (2 courses selected from ECOL 8000, 8100, 8310, and 8322)
- The remaining credit hours will be decided upon by the student and advisory committee, based upon student's background and professional aspirations.
- The student must also pass an exit exam, administered by the advisory committee and based upon the Program of Study.

## Documentation of Approval and Notification

**Proposal:** Deactivate the major in Integrative Conservation and Sustainability (M.S.)

Create an Area of Emphasis in Integrative Conservation and Sustainability under Ecology (M.S.)

**College:** Odum School of Ecology

**Department:** N/A

**Proposed Effective Term:** Fall 2024

School/College:

- Odum School of Ecology Dean, Dr. Mark Hunter, 9/8/2023
- Odum School of Ecology Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Dr. Pejman Rohani, 9/8/2023
- Graduate School Associate Dean, Dr. Anne Shaffer, 11/9/2023