STEP 1: INITIAL QUESTIONS FOR A PROPOSED STUDY IN A SELF-DESIGNED MAJOR

Answer each of the questions on this form. When you have finished, contact the Associate Dean’s office and schedule a meeting. Bring this completed form with you to that session.

1. Describe your proposed study – what are you interested in investigating?

Environmental issues are always something that I have been deeply concerned about. As I have grown, I have begun to realize that many of the environmental concerns of today stem from human use and abuse of our natural resources. As a student and environmentalist, I am interested in learning about the complex relationship that humans have developed with their environment.

The major I am proposing is designed to explore the relationship that humans have with the environment so that an effective way to involve people in the conservation of nature can be achieved.

2. What is interdisciplinary about your proposed study?

Environmental issues cannot be categorized into one division or sector of the educational world. Issues such as global warming and destruction of rainforests effect ecosystems and people in ways that most people are unaware. For this reason, a more inclusive approach to understanding and solving these problems must be employed. By blending the ecological principles of Biology with an understanding of human identity through Sociology/Anthropology, this major would create a holistic understanding of the environmental issues facing our world today.

3. Why can’t the existing major offerings at the college serve to fulfill your curricular interests?

The existing majors at Centre College are too departmentalized to cater to a truly integrated system of learning. The problems facing our environment today cannot be categorized into one aspect of life—resource use impacts almost every aspect of our daily lives whether or not we realize it. Because of the multidisciplinary reality of environmental issues, an equally diverse approach must be undertaken to understand and create solutions for the many environmental problems facing our world. With a self-design major, I will be able to gain a more complete knowledge of the complex relationship humans have with the environment. Science alone cannot solve all the problems facing our world today; however, through blending science and elements of humanity, a more comprehensive and lasting approach to conservation can be achieved.

4. If you were to select a faculty mentor to serve as chair of your program committee, who would that person most likely be?

Dr. Anne Lubbers
STEP 2: STATEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL GOALS AND LIBERAL ARTS NATURE OF THE MAJOR

Name: __ Bethany Pratt ______________ Date: __ _____________________
Title of Proposed Major Program: __Environmental Studies: Sustainable Resource Use

Now that you’ve moved beyond the initial ideas for your self-designed major, please describe the primary educational objectives that you have for it and how it will fit into the broad goals of a liberal arts education. When you have finished, please return to the Associate Dean’s office with this completed form.

Upon completing of my tenure at Centre College, I plan on entering the Peace Corps to work with their Sustainable Agriculture Program. In order to prepare for this cultural experience and undertaking, I will need a comprehensive understanding of both human cultures as well as the environment. Designing my own major gives me the freedom to create a more complete liberal arts curriculum by connecting science, social science and the humanities with a common theme—sustainable resource use. The proposed Environmental Science major would provide the best possible mode to explore all of these issues while preparing for life outside of Centre.

The Environmental Studies major is an interdisciplinary approach to learning and understanding the complex issues facing the world we live in. The objective of this major is to combine the traditional Biology and Anthropology/Sociology majors to create a more comprehensive approach to understanding human use of natural resources and its impact on the environment.

This objective would be achieved by focusing on a broader range of classes in multiple disciplines that all connect to the central theme of human relationships with the environment. Using the Environmental Studies Minor curriculum as a basis for the Environmental Studies major, I plan on creating a comprehensive major that focuses primarily on Biology and Sociology/Anthropology while pulling from diverse disciplines. The Economics and English program both offer classes that will add different perspectives to the idea of human land use. The Environmental Economics course will help place the feasibility of sustainable resource use in monetary terms. From the English department, the course “Getting Back to Nature” will provide a more aesthetic and philosophical perspective to humans using natural resources. Being familiar with different philosophies on sustainable resource use will provide a more complete knowledge base for working with others in implementing sustainable use practices in the future.

Integrating the knowledge of several disciplines of study is the basis for any liberal arts curriculum and is basis for the creation of this major. Blending multiple disciplines around the common theme of sustainable resource use, I will be able to create a meaningful major that directly contributes to my future goals and aspirations.
STEP 3: COURSE LISTINGS FOR THE SELF-DESIGNED MAJOR

Name: Bethany Pratt  Date:

Meet with the faculty member whom you have chosen as the chair of your self-designed major program. Together, fill out this form. Your chair may wish to include the other members of the program in this planning step. Once your major is approved, you are bound to complete all the courses listed under "Junior-Senior Requirements," "Lower Division Preparation That Supports the Proposed Program," and "Senior Requirement." Any changes must be approved by your program committee and the Academic Standards Committee. Consequently, you should work closely with your program committee and list courses that are likely to be offered. If there is some uncertainty, give yourself some flexibility. For example, you might list something like "two of the following three government courses," or "three of the following six courses that deal with the theme of...." Also, do not list all the courses you plan to take as requirements; leave room for electives. Most majors have 6-10 junior-senior requirements, so you should follow that model.

1. Title of Proposed Major Program: Environmental Studies: Sustainable Resource Use

2. Proposed Major Program Chair:
I have worked with this student in preparing this request. I believe that this program is academically sound, and that it constitutes a coherent whole with its own integrity.

Signature _________________________ (will act as advisor)

3. Likely Program Committee: _________________________ (to assist the student and advisor)

__________________________
__________________________

4. Junior – Senior Requirements: Normally, transfer credits may not be used to meet major course requirements. In addition, internship credit may not be used. It is strongly suggested that an independent study be created for each year that reflects the interdisciplinary goals of this proposed major.

BIO: 370 Principles of Ecology
375 Conservation Biology
ECO: 335 Environmental Economics

HIS 361 American Environmental History
Senior Capstone Experience

ENG 386 Getting Back to Nature
ANT 360 GIS and the Environment
350 Ecological Anthropology
5. Lower Division Preparation That Supports the Proposed Program:

BIO: 110 Introduction to Biology
  210 Evolutionary Genetics
  235 Marine Ecology

NSC 140: Environmental Geology

ENS 210: Intro to Environmental Studies

CHE: 135 Accelerated General Chemistry

ECO 110: Introduction to Economics

6. Senior Requirement (please indicate which type of Senior Requirement, described in the “Guidelines for Self-Designed Major Programs,” you will choose).

Interdisciplinary Senior Seminar

7. In the space below, construct a proposed schedule of the courses you listed above as Junior-Senior requirements and Lower Division preparation:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOPHOMORE YEAR</th>
<th>Centre Term</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHE 135</td>
<td>ANT 360</td>
<td>BIO 235</td>
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<td>BIO 210</td>
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<tr>
<th>JUNIOR YEAR</th>
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<td>HIS 361</td>
<td>ARS 240</td>
<td>MEXICO</td>
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<td>ARS 110 or 210</td>
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<td>BIO 370</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gen. Ed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Audit a Spanish Class</td>
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<th>SENIOR YEAR</th>
<th>CentreTerm</th>
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<td>Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECO 335 or Gen. Ed.</td>
<td>Australia?</td>
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<td>Capstone Project?</td>
<td>Art class?</td>
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<td>SPA 230</td>
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Step 4: SUMMARY STATEMENT FOR SELF-DESIGNED MAJOR PROGRAM

Use your answers from Step 1 and Step 2 to answer the summary statement below. You may wish to ask for help from the Associate Dean or the members of your major program committee. When you are finished, you are ready to put your results from Steps 3 and 4 together on the “Request for a Self-designed Major” form (found on the Registrar’s Home Page), obtain required signatures, and submit it to the Associate Dean, who will take it to the Academic Standards Committee on your behalf.

Name: __ Bethany Pratt __________________ Date: ______________________

Title of Proposed Major Program: __ Environmental Studies: Sustainable Resource Use

Write a description of the proposed program, including relationships between or among the disciplines involved, reasons for proposing such a program, and a discussion as to why your goals can be better accomplished by this program than by one or more of the regular major programs offered by the College. Make sure this statement includes a description of how your proposed major fits appropriately into a liberal arts curriculum.

Upon completing of my tenure at Centre College, I plan on entering the Peace Corps to work with their Sustainable Agriculture Program. In order to prepare for this cultural experience and undertaking, I will need a comprehensive understanding of both human cultures as well as the environment. Designing my own major gives me the freedom to create a more complete liberal arts curriculum by connecting science, social science and the humanities with a common theme—sustainable resource use. The proposed Environmental Science major would provide the best possible mode to explore all of these issues while preparing for life outside of Centre.

The Environmental Studies major is an interdisciplinary approach to learning and understanding the complex issues facing the world we live in. The objective of this major is to combine the traditional Biology and Anthropology/Sociology majors to create a more comprehensive approach to understanding human use of natural resources and its impact on the environment.

Biology and Anthropology/Sociology are natural compliments to each other due to their respective outlooks on the world. Biology is a necessary part of understanding the various natural phenomena that are occurring today such as the processes of desertification and changing ocean currents—both manifest of global warming. A science background will provide insights into various problems as well as allow a better understanding of what can feasibly be done to alleviate issues within scientific parameters.

Anthropology/Sociology compliment the scientific framework of these environmental issues because this discipline deals directly with the human factors that both cause and are affected by current environmental issues. Human-beings are both the cause and the solution to the various environmental problems facing our world today. Learning about different cultures and their relationship with the environment will allow for the incorporation of more environmentally savvy practices into already established customs. In addition to these two programs of major emphasis, today’s problems with destructive resource use extend into other fields as well. In order to leave Centre College with a well-rounded liberal arts education a basic understanding of economics and public policy will
help to navigate the incredibly political aspects of human use of natural resources. Money and networking are what our foster change in our society, and obtaining a basic understanding of the political and financial system will provide excellent benefits for future career goals.

Though this proposed program will have courses coming primarily from the disciplines of Biology and Anthropology, many of the supplementary and equally valuable courses will come from outside these two divisions. The Economics and English program both offer classes that will add different perspectives to the idea of human land use. The Environmental Economics course will help place the feasibility of sustainable resource use in monetary terms. From the English department, the course “Getting Back to Nature” will provide a more aesthetic and philosophical perspective to humans using natural resources. Being familiar with different philosophies on sustainable resource use will provide a more complete knowledge base for working with others in implementing sustainable use practices in the future. In addition to these two courses, the class American Environmental History in the history department will help place my goals and ideas in a historical framework. Learning about past environmental policy and ideas is one of the best ways to discover how to approach the future. Though these courses come from different disciplines, they all reinforce one another. Capturing the interplay of all of these subjects is primary goal of this proposed major.

Creating an Environmental Studies major is more fitting than using preexisting major because it more thoroughly explores the multi-dimensionality of environmental issues while allowing me to pursue my passion for seeking creative solutions to natural resource degradation. Designing my own major provides the framework for creating a more complete liberal arts curriculum by connecting science, social science and the humanities with a common theme—sustainable resource use.