

4-6-2009

Revision of the MS Program in Environmental Science & Ecology

The College at Brockport, College Senate

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The College at
BROCKPORT
 STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
 College Senate
 350 New Campus Drive
 Brockport, NY 14420-2925

RECEIVED
 APR 10 2009
 The College at Brockport
 Office of the President

Resolution # 18
 2008-2009
 College Senate

New Resolution:
 Supersedes Res #:

TO: Dr. John R. Halstead, College President

FROM: The College Senate: *April 6, 2009*

RE: \rightarrow I. Formal Resolution (*Act of Determination*)
 II. Recommendation (*Urging the Fitness of*)
 III. Other, For Your Information (*Notice, Request, Report, etc.*)

COLLEGE SENATE
 SUNY College at Brockport
 APR 29 2009
 350 New Campus Drive
 Brockport, NY 14420-2925

SUBJ: **Revision of the MS Program in Environmental Science and Biology**
 (*routing #20 08-09 GC*)

Signed: *T. M. Rao* Date: *4/9/09*
 (*Thambrahalli M. Rao, 2008-09 College Senate President*)

Please fill out the bottom portion and follow the distribution instructions at the end of this page.

TO: T.M. Rao, The College Senate President

FROM: John R. Halstead, College President

RE: \rightarrow I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution (circle choice)
 a. Accepted - Implementation Effective Date: *Jul 2009*
 b. Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate on ___/___/___
 c. Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation

II, III. Response to Recommendation or Other/FYI
 a. Received and acknowledged ___/___/___

b. Comment: _____

Signed: *JRH* Date: *4/24/09*
 (*Dr. John R. Halstead, President, SUNY College at Brockport*)

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DEAN(S) COPY: Department Chair(s), Other: _____

COLLEGE SENATE COPIES: Originator, College Senate Website, Other: _____

**COLLEGE SENATE OFFICE
RESOLUTION PROPOSAL COVER PAGE**

Routing Number <i>Routing # assigned by Senate Office</i>	#20 08-09 GC <i>Use routing number and title in all reference to this proposal.</i>
Replaces Resolution	#43 2003-2004

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: FEBRUARY 28

Incomplete proposals or proposals received after the deadline may not be reviewed until next semester.

INSTRUCTIONS – please, no multiple attachments – each proposal must be submitted electronically as one document.

- Submit only complete proposals. Include support letters from department chair and dean.
- Proposals must be prepared individually in Word format using committee guidelines available at brockport.edu/collegesenate/proposal.html.
- Fill out this cover page for each proposal and insert it electronically as the front page of your document. (collegesenate/proposal.html)
- Email whole proposal with cover page as one attachment to senate@brockport.edu and facprez@brockport.edu.
- All updates must be resubmitted to the Senate office with the original cover page including routing number.
- Questions? Call the Senate office at 395-2586 or the appropriate committee chairperson.

1. **PROPOSAL TITLE:** Please be somewhat descriptive, ie. *Graduate Probation/Dismissal Proposal* rather than *Graduate Proposal*.

Revision of the MS Program in Environmental Science and Biology

2. **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:**

Change the number of credits required for ENV 705, Research Seminar, from 4 to 2. Change the number of credits required for ENV 704, Research Thesis, from 6 to 1-6. Change the number of required 600/700 credits from 17 to 15.

3. **HOW WILL THIS EFFECT TRANSFER STUDENTS:**

4. **ANTICIPATED EFFECTIVE DATE:**

Fall 2009

4. **SUBMISSION & REVISION DATES:** PLEASE PUT A DATE ON ALL UPDATED DOCUMENTS TO AVOID CONFUSION.

<i>First Submission</i>	<i>Updated on</i>	<i>Updated on</i>	<i>Updated on</i>
November 19, 2008			

5. **SUBMITTED BY: (contact person)**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email</i>
James M. Haynes	Env. Sci. & Biology	x-5783	jhaynes@brockport.edu

6. **COMMITTEES TO COPY: (Senate office use only)**

Standing Committee	Forwarded For Approval To	Dates
<input type="checkbox"/> Enrollment Planning & Policies	Committee for approval	11/19/08, 3/2/09
<input type="checkbox"/> Faculty & Professional Staff Policies	Executive Committee	2/23/09, 3/9/09
<input type="checkbox"/> General Education & Curriculum Policies *	GED to Vice Provost	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Graduate Curriculum & Policies	Senate	3/2/09 – returned to committee 3/23/09 back to Senate
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Policies	College President	4/9/09
<input type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate Curriculum & Policies	OTHER	
* follow special Gen Ed procedures for submission of General Education proposals at "How to Submit Proposals" on our Website.		

NOTES: 3/2/09 returned to committee with the recommendation for J. M. Haynes to confer with the UC chair.

2. Side by side comparison of the old and new 600/700-level course and credit requirements in the MS program in Environmental Science and Biology.

Change	Old Program Course	Credits	New Program Course	Credits
No	ENV 614, Exprmntl. Design	3	ENV 614, Exprmntl. Design	3
Yes	ENV 704, Research Thesis	6	ENV 704, Research Thesis	1-6
Yes	ENV 705, Research Seminar	4	ENV 705, Research Seminar	2
	Total Credits	13		6-11
Yes	600/700-level courses	17	600/700-level courses	15

3. Brief rationale for changes.

The MS program in Environmental Science and Biology began in the fall of 2008 and requires a minimum of 30 graduate credits with a minimum of 17 credits at the 600- or 700-level, including four credits of Research Seminar (ENV 704: one credit in each of the first four semesters after matriculation) and six credits of Research Thesis (ENV 705: two credits in each of the second, third and fourth semesters after matriculation). Now that nine students have developed Programs of Study, it is apparent to students and faculty that requiring so many credits of Thesis and Seminar leaves too few credits for 500- and 600-level content courses needed by students to prepare for their thesis research. Most students believe they need to take about 40 credits to adequately prepare for their research and professional goals. This is very expensive for the students and is too many credits for a MS degree; consequently, necessary or desired content courses cannot be taken.

After three semesters of operating the MS in ESB program, the faculty and graduate students have determined that we are achieving all of the objectives for ENV 705, Research Seminar, in the first two semesters after matriculation. These objectives include: how to do science, how to critically evaluate journal articles and research proposals, and technical scientific writing. Requiring two more semesters of ENV 704 is redundant for students, so we are proposing to change the ENV 705 requirement from four to two credits.

The MS program in ESB was modeled on the MS program in Biological Sciences which requires 1-6 thesis credits. We cannot remember if we intended to require six thesis credits in our program or if an error was introduced into our original proposal. In any event, to give students more flexibility re: course selection (depending on their backgrounds, some need more content courses than others), we are proposing to go back to the original model of a variable 1-6 thesis credits vs. a fixed six thesis credits in our students' Programs of Study.

Finally, with fewer required 700-level credits, it will be harder for students to reach the current requirement of 17 600- or 700-level credits in their 30 credit MS program. Therefore, we are proposing to change this requirement to the standard SUNY requirement of 15 credits.

We believe the proposed changes are minor and that they will greatly improve student success in our program and beyond.

4. Description of new courses. **(None)**

5. Staffing Issues. **(None)**

6. Resources and facilities that may be needed to implement the program. **(None)**

7. Academic administration commentary.

a. Letter of recommendation from the chair—on behalf of the ESB Department, the chairman of ESB drafted this document. Therefore, he approves its contents, and a separate letter is not needed.

b. See approval from Dean Appelle, School of Letters and Sciences.

I approve the attached proposed changes to the M.S. in ENV.

Stuart Appelle, Dean

School of Letters and Sciences