Academic Program Proposal  
Provost Summary  
University of Kansas - Lawrence

Date: September 17, 2015  
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School: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Department: Environmental Studies Program  
Type of Program: Graduate Certificate in Environmental Justice  
Degree Abbreviation: GCEJ  
Total Required Credit Hours: 12  
CIP Code:  
Primary Location of Instruction: Lawrence and Edwards Campus

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| 1. Program Description and Purpose | This 12 unit certificate will provide graduate students with additional certified specialization in Environmental Justice to add to their existing graduate diplomas.  
Broadly defined, “Environmental Justice” is an interdisciplinary field of study that includes (but is not limited to) theories of the environment, theories of justice, environmental law and governance, environmental policy and planning, philosophy, development, sustainability, and political ecology. More narrowly, the United States Environmental Protection Agency defines environmental justice as "the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies."  
Environmental justice emerged from an increased awareness of the disproportionately high impacts of environmental change and degradation on economically and politically disadvantaged communities. It addresses issues such as social, economic and political marginalization of minorities and low income populations.  
The Graduate Certificate in Environmental Justice emphasizes the causes and consequences of the distribution of environmental problems. Students focus on why some poor and minority communities are more likely to experience a host of environmental burdens, as well as exploring the impact of that disproportionate environmental exposure. Understanding why some neighborhoods, communities, regions and countries benefit from environmental protection, while others do not, provides students with a concrete skill set and a critical perspective on environmental problems, community organizing and public participation, good governance, and research methods. Students who pursue this certificate will be well situated for careers in public policy, international relations, environmental advocacy, and environmental research. |
2. **Comparable programs in the state/region**

None. While the University of Missouri-Kansas City and the University of Missouri-Columbia offer master’s degrees in environmental science, they do not offer a graduate certificate.

3. **Source(s) of articulated demand / need for this program**

(Provide specific information / data)

Environmental justice involves such diverse academic fields as sociology, political science, environmental science, global and international studies, Indigenous Studies, economics, geography, law, philosophy, and public policy. We envision a Graduate Certificate in Environmental Justice appealing to graduate students from such departments. Other graduate and professional programs such as Architecture and Urban Planning, Public Administration, and Law may find this a valuable addition to their primary degree.

4. **Proposed Curriculum**

**12 credit hours:**

**Required:**

EVRN 528 Environmental Justice and Public Policy (3.0)
EVRN 721 Environmental Regulation and Policy (3.0)

**Electives** (two courses selected in cooperation with advisor):

- **Some Possible electives:**
  - EVRN 562: US Environmental History in the 20th Century
  - EVRN 620: Environmental Politics and Policy
  - EVRN 628: The Politics of Public Health
  - SOC 521: Wealth, Power, and Inequality

With advisor permission, elective courses offered in other departments and schools (e.g., Philosophy, the School of Engineering, and the School of Journalism) may be substituted for the electives listed above. These may include:

- CE 875: Solid and Hazardous Waste Management
- JOUR 580: Environmental Journalism
- JOUR 630: Public Affairs Reporting-Advanced Media
- JOUR 636: Documentary-Advanced Media
- JOUR 650: Magazine Journalism-Advanced Media
- PHIL 380 Environmental Ethics
- PHIL 555 Justice in Economic Systems
- PHIL 666 Rational Choice Theory
- PHIL 668 Political Philosophy
- PHIL 670 Contemporary Ethical Theory
- PHIL 674 Philosophy of Law

Courses required for this proposed graduate certificate in environmental justice are already being taught as required and elective courses EVRN and related departments/programs.
5. Faculty required for this program (Names, FTE for this proposed program)

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<td>Year 3</td>
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No additional faculty are required.

Contributing Faculty:
- Paul Stock, Sociology and Environmental Studies
- Sara Gregg, History and Environmental Studies
- Joseph Brewer, Environmental Studies
- Byron Caminero-Santangelo, English
- Dorothy Daley, SPAA and Environmental Studies
- Dietrich Earnhart, Economics
- Joane Nagel, Sociology
- Jay T Johnson, Geography
- Ray Pierotti, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
- Stacey White, Urban Planning
- John Symons, Philosophy

6. Anticipated student enrollment

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7. Anticipated number of program graduates after 5 years; after 7 years

Five years: 25
Seven years: 35

8. Additional facilities / equipment required

None

9. Program Review, Assessment, Accreditation aspects of the program

The College and Graduate Studies will evaluate the certificate program every 7 years as part of the mandatory review and renewal process for all graduate certificates.

10. Financing: New funding required for this program.

Identify only incremental funding in years 2 and 3

None

This program requires no additional funds.

When completed, this form is to be e-mailed by the College/School Dean to the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Lawrence Campus. A copy of the submitted form is to be e-mailed to Abby Coffin, Assistant to the Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Office of the Provost.