

The University Senate of Michigan Technological University

Proposal 35-19

(Voting Units: Academic)

Proposal to Change Degree Title from “BS in Wildlife Ecology and Management” to “BS in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation”.

School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science

Contact: Matthew Kelly, Curriculum Committee Chair mackelly@mtu.edu
Andrew J. Storer, Dean storer@mtu.edu

1. General description and characteristics: This is a modification of the title to reflect the program’s alignment with emerging trends of the discipline.
2. Related program in Michigan: Michigan State and LSSU both have Fisheries and wildlife related BS programs. In addition, LSSU has a BS in Conservation Biology. Other institutions do not have wildlife or conservation programs.
3. Rationale: The BS in Wildlife Ecology and Management has been in place since 2004. It was developed as the first wildlife related program in Upper Michigan. Changing the name will make this program appealing to a broader range of students with interests in conservation. In recent years, management of wildlife populations has been increasingly viewed as a conservation activity as management promotes the habitat needs of specific wildlife species to conserve them in the landscape.

During the recent program review of non-SAF accredited programs in SFRES, members of the external review committee recommended a name change to BS in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation as the number one way to increase both enrollment numbers and diversity in the program. This proposal is therefore a response to the external review team recommendation.

4. Curriculum design: As a result of the external review team report and to student feedback, we have added the following classes to the curriculum. These have been through the curriculum update process in 2018 (whitebook).

FW 3112 Human Dimensions of Wildlife Conservation

FW 3601 Wildlife Research Techniques

In addition, we have added FW4128 Conservation Genetics as an alternative to FW 3320 Fundamentals of Forest Genetics and Genomics.

5. New course descriptions:

FW 3112 Human Dimensions of Wildlife Conservation: Integration of competing stakeholder objectives affects wildlife conservation and management outcomes. Federal law including the Endangered Species Act (ESA), domestic and international treaties, and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) are introduced.

FW 3601 Wildlife Research Techniques: Techniques used by managers and researchers when working with wildlife. Scientific method, scientific writing, and principles of study design are introduced.

6. Additional resources: Requires no additional resources.
7. Accreditation requirements. No additional accreditation requirements.
8. Planned implementation date: The proposed change will be implemented in the 2019-2020 academic year.

Approved by vote of faculty in SFRES: October 4, 2018

Approved by dean of SFRES: October 4, 2018

Approved by the University Senate:

Approved by Provost