

 <b>FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>NEW/CHANGE PROGRAM REQUEST</b> <b>Graduate Programs</b>	UGPC Approval _____ UFS Approval _____ Banner Posted _____ Catalog _____
	Department Teaching and Learning  College Education	
<b>Program Name</b> Graduate Certificate in Environmental Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>New Program</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Change Program</b>	<b>Effective Date</b> (TERM & YEAR)  Fall 2019
<b>Please explain the requested change(s) and offer rationale below or on an attachment</b>  Please see the attached proposal.		
<b>Faculty Contact/Email/Phone</b> Bryan Nichols / nicholsb@fau.edu / 561-799-8558	<b>Consult and list departments that may be affected by the change(s) and attach documentation</b>  NA	
<b>Approved by</b> Department Chair <u>Barkana Ridener</u> College Curriculum Chair <u>Fal R. P. P.</u> College Dean <u>Halley J. Buster</u> UGPC Chair <u>[Signature]</u> UGC Chair <u>Fal R. P. P.</u> Graduate College Dean <u>Khabel Sobhan</u> UFS President _____ Provost _____	<b>Date</b> 1/30/19 2/6/19 2/6/19 2/27/19 2/27/19 3/1/19	

Email this form and attachments to [UGPC@fau.edu](mailto:UGPC@fau.edu) one week before the UGPC meeting so that materials may be viewed on the UGPC website prior to the meeting.

GRADUATE COLLEGE

FEB 12 2019

Received

# Graduate Certificate Proposal: Environmental Education

A professional certificate for formal and informal educators

Bryan Nichols 2018

## Program Justification

The Graduate Certificate in Environmental Education will appeal to natural scientists, communications students and professionals, and classroom and informal educators who don't have the time, finances, or initial inclination to pursue a 36 credit Master's Degree in Environmental Education. It would attract professionals from a range of disciplines who are passionate about the environment, help to improve their content knowledge and pedagogy, and introduce them to the exciting new possibilities of environmental education (EE) in our increasingly challenging world.

The certificate would complement the existing Master's in Environmental Education and the upcoming Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with an Honors in Environmental Education (EEHEE) programs, so no additional departmental support will be required. Three of the courses are already available annually as part of the Master's in Environmental Education; the fourth will be a special section of an existing course (SCE 6151). Initial coursework and experiences would be centered around Palm Beach and Martin counties, with their impressive range of high-quality natural sites and community expertise.

Research suggests that time spent outdoors may have an outsize impact on qualities that communities and individuals are increasingly interested in, including self-efficacy, perseverance, and resilience, so this certificate could help generate research, expertise, and leadership here at FAU.

## Required Courses (12 credits)

Number	Name	Location	Offered
SCE 6345	Perspectives of EE	FAU Jupiter	fall evenings
SCE 6344	Advanced Methods of EE	various	8 spring Saturdays
SCE 6151	Science: Elementary & Middle School	FAU Jupiter*	spring evenings
SCE 6644	Trends and Issues in EE	online	fall evenings

\* SCE 6151 will be taught as a special section focusing on environmental education, in conjunction with an upcoming Honors in the Major undergraduate course (SCE 4350). It may be taken concurrently with other courses. It is grounded in 7 Qualities of Great Science and Environmental Educators and the importance of linking formal and informal education; the pedagogies it covers are readily adaptable to students of all ages. However, at the discretion of the Coordinator of Environmental Education, students with specific audiences in mind may substitute courses such as Effective Practices in Early Childhood Environmental Education (EEC 6327), or a course in secondary or adult science education.

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Core coursework incorporates the North American Association for Environmental Education's *Professional Development of Environmental Educators: Guidelines for Excellence* (NAAEE, 2017b), a set of recommendations for the preparation and continuing education of teachers and other environmental educators. The program is currently being submitted for accreditation by NAAEE to help it achieve international recognition. A primary goal, which speaks to FAU's community engagement platform, is to build and integrate a diverse network of educators who are passionate about environmental education, science, and justice. Certificates can offer an important stepping stone to graduate-level learning for underserved groups. Using the *Community Engagement: Guidelines for Excellence* (NAAEE, 2017a) as a guide, this network would include undergraduates, environmental education masters students, school district personnel, scientists, and a growing web of formal and informal educators. The three in-person courses will offer participants a chance to work with like-minded and inspiring peers and professionals. Earning an internationally accredited graduate certificate will help them improve their career arc and can serve as a pathway for further graduate education.

### Course Changes

To help make both the certificate and the courses themselves accessible to a wider range of students, and to update them in order to achieve NAAEE accreditation, minor changes have been made to the three core environmental education course descriptions, and any legacy pre or co-requisites have been removed.

### Certificate Catalog Copy

The FAU Graduate Certificate in Environmental Education will appeal to education, science, and communications professionals interested in teaching in, about, and for the environment. To accommodate working professionals courses are held in the evening and online. Advanced Methods in Environmental Education (SCE 6344) meets on select spring Saturdays and visits a range of sub-tropical environmental education sites in Palm Beach and Martin Counties, including parks, beaches, nature centers, and one or more wildlife rehabilitators. Each of the four courses (total 12 credits) can count toward a Master's degree in Environmental Education; the rest of the degree may be completed online or in-person. To help build your network, certificate classes provide an opportunity to meet and interact with a passionate and inspiring group of environmental education professionals.

### Key References

NAAEE. (2017a). *Community engagement: Guidelines for excellence*. Washington, DC: North American Association for Environmental Education.

NAAEE. (2017b). *Professional development of environmental educators: Guidelines for excellence*. Washington, DC: North American Association for Environmental Education.

## Course Changes Summary

### **SCE 6345 Perspective of Environmental Education (old)**

Provides an overview of the historical and conceptual frameworks that define the field of environmental education. Requirements: readings, discussions, reflection journals, service learning, presentations, possible field trip and final project linking course content to career goals.

### **SCE 6345 New**

Provides an overview of the historical and conceptual frameworks that define the field of environmental education, with a focus on future growth and possibilities. Includes readings, discussions, service learning, presentations, field trips and a project linking course content to career goals.

### **SCE 6344 Advanced Methods of Environmental Education (old)**

Focuses on strong collaboration among formal and non-formal educators by integrating environmental education into other content areas. Requirements: readings, discussions, outdoor education field trip, service learning and final project linking course content to lesson/unit plans.

### **SCE 6344 New**

Examines multiple contexts for modern environmental education by visiting community providers including parks, nature centers, and wildlife rehabilitators. Requirements: readings, discussions, field trips, interviews, final project.

### **SCE 6644 Trends & Issues in Environmental Education (old)**

Analyzes trends and issues impacting the field of environmental education. Requirements: Readings, discussions, possible field trip, selection and set-up of the capstone project and full research preparation for the capstone study.

### **SCE 6644 New**

This course analyzes trends, issues, and new research impacting the field of environmental education, including effective program design and assessment. Requirements include readings, discussions, papers, curriculum design, and critical review.

## Barbara Ridener

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**From:** Michael Whitehurst  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 17, 2018 2:06 PM  
**To:** Barbara Ridener  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Curriculum Change Request - INFO

Barb,

No conflicts with ESHP.

Mike

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**From:** Barbara Ridener  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 17, 2018 11:42 AM  
**To:** Michael Whitehurst; Dilys Schoorman; Robert Shockley; Deena Wener; Paul Peluso; Michael Brady  
**Cc:** Susanne Lapp; Bryan Nichols  
**Subject:** FW: FW: Curriculum Change Request - INFO

Hi Everyone,

Attached you will find some changes that we are submitting for courses that are currently in our Master's degree in Environmental Education as well as a request for the approval of a certificate program in Environmental Education. The course changes would remove the prerequisites and degree restriction to allow more students to register for these courses. The certificate would be attractive to classroom teachers because of the increased focus on the environment and would provide a feeder to the master's degree.

Please let me know if you have any conflicts with these changes.

Thank you and best wishes,

Barbara

## Barbara Ridener

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**From:** Robert Shockley  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 18, 2018 12:11 PM  
**To:** Barbara Ridener; Michael Whitehurst; Dilys Schoorman; Deena Wener; Paul Peluso; Michael Brady  
**Cc:** Susanne Lapp; Bryan Nichols  
**Subject:** RE: FW: Curriculum Change Request - INFO

No conflict with EDLRM. RS

-----Original Message-----