

**Ferris State University**  
Preliminary Curriculum Approval Form

**Directions:** This form should be completed using 11-point font or larger, and should be no longer than six pages (excluding the signature/comment pages). For purposes of expediting the preliminary approval process, forms may be forwarded electronically by the initiator and from one administrative level to another.

Name(s) of proposal initiator(s):	Strasser, Lipar
Department(s)/College(s):	Biological Sciences

Type of curriculum change (check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	New degree/major
<input type="checkbox"/>	New minor requiring new courses/resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	New concentration in existing degree program
<input type="checkbox"/>	Curricular customization of existing program for off-campus cohort group
<input type="checkbox"/>	New certificate requiring 3 or more new courses and/or new resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Existing program redirection or shift in emphasis if 3 or more new courses and/or new resources are required

- 1. Name of degree, major, concentration, certificate, or minor. Briefly describe the curriculum plan/template.**  
 We are proposing to change the way we offer organismal biology courses in the Department by replacing use of 3 field –based summer courses (BIOL 341,342,351) with 2 new courses (BIOL 330 Zoology and Biology 350 Plants and Fungi) that will be offered in a larger format during the regular academic year. We plan to delete 341 and 342 but retain BIOL 351 to later build our offerings in Botany. One additional course, Ornithology (BIOL 343) will serve as an upper-level elective for students in Biology programs.
- 2. Target date for implementation.** Fall 2011
- 3. Briefly explain the rationale for this initiative. If the initiative involves customization of an existing program for delivery to an off-campus cohort group, also explain the nature of the proposed curricular customization.**  
 The new courses proposed stem for the reorganization of the organismal course offerings in the department. The course changes should make it easier for students in Environmental Biology or Biology Education to access these classes, will allow other biology majors additional upper level biology options, and provide a starting foundation for further curriculum development in Botany.
- 4. Are there similar programs at other Michigan universities? If so, where? What is the enrollment in the other programs?**  
 We are not proposing a new program. There are BS Biology degrees at many other Michigan colleges and Universities.
- 5. Briefly explain any similarities of the proposed initiative (program objectives and/or curriculum) with already established FSU or KCAD programs:**  
 N/A we are making minor program changes
- 6. Briefly describe indicators of the employment market for students completing this initiative, including sources used for employment information/data.**  
 N/A we are making minor program changes

7. Briefly describe indicators of potential student interest/demand for the new initiative, including sources used for student market information/data.  
N/A we are making minor program changes
8. To what extent will this initiative draw new students to FSU or KCAD? To what extent will it draw students from existing programs?  
N/A we are making minor program changes
9. Approximately how many students are expected to enroll?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ in the first year?                      \_\_\_\_\_ after three years?

Each class has a cap of 24 per section, above the cap of 15 on BIOL 341 and 342 that are being replaced. We expect to offer one section of BIOL 343 Ornithology in Odd Fall semesters (alternating with an existing course Entomology in even SP semesters)

In Spring 2012 we expect to offer 1 section of BIOL 330 (Zoology) and 1 section of 350 (Plants and Fungi). A second lab section could be added (to the existing lecture) in SP2013 if demand increases.

10. At which FSU campuses/regional centers or other sites will the initiative be offered?  
Big Rapids only
11. Will Internet or other distance learning technology be used for course/program delivery? Describe.  
The classes will likely be web enhanced

**Complete questions 12, 13, 14 in consultation with department head/chair and/or dean.**

12. Provide a rough estimate of the resources needed to implement the initiative:

We will reallocate existing Department resources for this initiative

	Start-up	After Three Years
Supply and expense	\$	\$
Equipment	\$	\$
Full-time faculty	\$	\$
Overload/adjunct faculty	\$	\$
Other		

Estimate of Library Resources	Adequate	Some new resources needed	Significant number of resources needed
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13. Project the resources that could come from reallocation within the department or college and the new resources that would be required.  
All

14. Are there new space needs? If so, how much? How would the space be used? Has existing space been identified? If so, where? Is renovation/remodeling necessary?  
No additional space needs have been identified or requested

15. Is there professional accreditation for the program? Is it required or voluntary? Will accreditation be sought, and when? What will be the one-time and ongoing costs of accreditation?  
No

16. Has there been preliminary discussion with other departments/colleges that will be involved in course/program delivery? If yes, what was the feedback?

Yes- we have discussed the changes with the College of Education and Human Services which utilizes the courses for their Biology Education program.

Department Head/Chair's signature: [Signature] Date 2/21/11  
If this is an interdepartmental initiative, include additional Department Head/Chair signatures

Comments: We believe the courses will increase access for students and facilitate students finishing their programs in a reasonable period of time. The change from small field only experiences to larger lab based classes(with field components) could have a positive impact on productivity.

Dean's or KCAD President's signature: [Signature] Date 2/21/11

- For cross-college initiatives, include additional signature(s) of Dean(s)
- For KCAD initiatives, include KCAD President's signature
- For existing FSU-Big Rapids programs customized for off-campus delivery to a cohort group, include College and UCEL Deans' signatures

Comments:

Vice President for Academic Affairs' signature: [Signature] Date 2-21-11  
or Chancellor/VP of FSU/GR's signature

Approved Approval indicates permission to develop the full proposal. It does not assure final approval.

Comments and/or suggestions:

Not approved

**Explanation:**

**c. Initiator(s)**

**Department Head/Chair(s)**

**Deans' Council and KCAD President**

**FSU University Curriculum Council**

**FSU Academic Senate and KCAD Senate**

**VPAA or Chancellor/VP of FSU/GR**

**FSU Intranet**