

# Truman amends environmental studies minor requirements

The environmental studies department hopes fewer students will be overwhelmed by the complex requirements for the minor by implementing changes.

BY MADDIE KAMP  
Staff Writer

This fall, the environmental studies minor will undergo several changes to make it easier for students to fulfill course requirements.

The biggest changes to the minor were not having to submit a learning plan, not having to complete a capstone project and changing the double counting rule.

Interdisciplinary studies Director Scott Alberts said the changes taking place mostly concern the minor's structure.

graduating, students will have to complete two credits of service learning. This requires students to complete service that involves doing research, writing a reflection on the experience and integrating it with previous coursework. He said two student-facilitated courses, Grassroots Environmentalism and Expanding Environmental Consciousness, already complete service learning projects.

Alberts said the environmental science department is in the process of implementing a practicum so students can get credit for working on the projects. He said there is also the possibility of having a bigger environmental studies internship involving service learning in the future.

Alberts said double counting rules also have become more clear following this change. Alberts said the rules previously were vague, and it was hard for students to put together the minor, but now students can double-count two courses with another major, minor or even LSP requirements. However, there is a limit on how many credits from any discipline students can use with this rule. There also are several environmental studies JINS courses that count for the minor that will be available to students this fall.

The Intro to Environmental Studies course no longer will be a requirement for the minor. Alberts said there are very few teachers who can teach the introductory course because it is such a broad class and there is a big demand for enrollment in the course.

Alberts said instead, there will be several 200-level courses. "Environmental Science," "Environmental Policy" and "Animals in the Ancient World" are a few of the classes that will count as entry level courses for the Environmental Studies Program. Any of those classes will help to get students started on this minor, he said.

"It's a pretty big change, although in the sense of what courses you actually take I think most students will probably take most of the same courses they took before," Alberts said.

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"We sort of rebooted the whole minor, but we didn't actually change most of the courses," Alberts said.

Alberts said students no longer have to submit an approved learning plan with all the courses they are planning to take or a proposal about what they plan to do at the end of the minor. Students now simply can declare the environmental studies minor online through TruView. Alberts said there weren't many people with this minor, and he said he thinks the learning plan may have scared a few people away. He said without having to do that it should be much easier for people to add this minor.

Alberts said instead of having a capstone project before



## THE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PROGRAM

CURRENT REQUIREMENTS	CHANGES
INTRO CLASSES	
Have to take: -ENVS 200 - "Introduction to Environmental Studies." Credits: 3 -ENVS 480 - "Seminar in Environmental Studies." Credits: 1	ENVS 200 no longer a requirement. Will instead have "Environmental Science," "Environmental Politics" and "Animals in the Ancient World" among other entry level classes students can choose from
REQUIRED CLASSES	
12 credits in three out of the four categories of classes: -Science: agriculture, biology, chemistry -Social Science: economics, health, political science -Humanities: English, philosophy and religion -Interdisciplinary: most JINS	More clearly states which courses follow "double-counting rule" or can count toward Liberal Studies Program requirements
FINAL PROJECT	
Capstone project	Two credits of classes with service learning instead of capstone
DECLARING MINOR	
Learning plan needs to be submitted before declaring an environment studies minor	Can declare the minor on TruView

According to: interdisciplinary studies Director Scott Alberts

### Ground Breaking | A project to build an accessible park for disabled members of the Kirksville community

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Construction on the playground began last week and, weather-dependent, is projected to end in early June.

Kirksville Kiwanis club member Becky Pike said the playground project came about after the club received a grant to put accessible swings at the Kirksville Primary School playground. Pike said YMCA Executive Director Sarah Riffer, and Deb Wohlers, Adair County Family Senate Bill 40 Developmental Disability Board executive director, thought an inclusive playground would be good for the community and visited with her about their idea.

Pike said she and several members of the disability community established the Northeast Missouri Inclusion Project to raise

money for the playground. Pike said she and her colleagues Nan Davis and Terri Miller travelled to St. Louis to look at other inclusive playgrounds and choose what pieces of equipment to include in the NEMO playground. Pike said the playground will include spinning pieces, slides, an anti-static ground, accessible picnic tables and more. She said there will be a wall surrounding the playground that will make the playground wheelchair accessible.

"[The playground] is designed so anyone can find a place to play," Pike said.

Pike said the playground is named Kiwanis Playground in honor of Shag Grossnickle and Harvey Young. Pike said Grossnickle and Young have been members of Kiwanis for more than 70 years. For Grossnick-

le's 100th birthday, the club hosted the naming ceremony for the playground.

Former Kiwanis President Carolyn Chrisman said when community members came up with this project, the Kirksville Kiwanis club set out to raise \$100,000 for naming rights. Chrisman said because of Kiwanis members' donations, several fundraisers and applying for grants, they were able to achieve the goal.

"Our motto is 'serving the children of the world,' and we thought this [playground] was one of the best ways to do it," Chrisman said.

Melissa Cline, Learning Independent Friendship Employment Ability Center program specialist, said SB40, which funds programs for people

with disabilities, including the LIFE Ability Center, donated \$100,000 to help start the playground project. Cline said they are nearing the \$450,000 cost for the playground project. Cline said the playground is designed so all levels can be reached by everybody, regardless of ability. She said the playground will be accessible to all ages, so parents or grandparents with disabilities can play with their children.

Cline said this playground is the only inclusive playground in the Northeast Missouri region. She said the playground is located near the city's bike trail and public transportation makes a stop nearby, making the playground accessible to people from all parts of Kirksville.

"[The playground project] has drawn the community out and together and caused a lot of excitement, not just for one area of Kirksville," Cline said. "As a whole, this has been one of the biggest things for our area in quite a long time."

Kim Baker, LIFE Ability Center activity coordinator, said the playground also will benefit those who travel to Kirksville. Baker said Kirksville is one of the bigger towns in the northeast region of the state, and many people come to town for medical appointments or shopping. Baker said the playground will serve as something else to do, allowing people to spend a full day in Kirksville and have fun.

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