



University Council

August 20, 2021

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2021-2022

Susan Sanchez, Chair

Agricultural and Environmental Sciences – Nicholas Fuhrman

Arts and Sciences – Jonathan Haddad (Arts)

Rodney Mauricio (Sciences)

Business – Jim Carson

Ecology – Amanda Rugenski

Education – David Jackson

Engineering – Kun Yao

Environment and Design – Ashley Steffens

Family and Consumer Sciences – Sheri Worthy

Forestry and Natural Resources – Joseph Dahlen

Journalism and Mass Communication – Dodie Cantrell-Bickley

Law – Randy Beck

Pharmacy – Michelle McElhannon

Public and International Affairs – Leah Carmichael

Public Health – Allan Tate

Social Work – Harold Briggs

Veterinary Medicine – Shannon Hostetter

Graduate School – Wendy Ruona

Ex-Officio –Provost S. Jack Hu

Undergraduate Student Representative – Matthew Jue

Graduate Student Representative – TBD

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the Odum School of Ecology to change the name of the major in Conservation Ecology and Sustainable Development (M.S.) to Integrative Conservation and Sustainability (M.S.) will be an agenda item for the August 27, 2021, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Susan Sanchez, Chair

University Curriculum Committee

cc: Provost S. Jack Hu  
Dr. Rahul Shrivastav

## ACADEMIC PROGRAM NAME CHANGE JUSTIFICATION FORM

**Date:** March 11, 2021

**School/College/Unit:** Odum School of Ecology

**Proposed Effective Date:** Spring 2022

### PROGRAM NAME CHANGES:

**Current Program Name:**

Master of Science in Conservation Ecology and Sustainable Development (CESD)

**Proposed Program Name:**

Master of Science in Integrative Conservation and Sustainability (ICAS)

### JUSTIFICATION:

The second half of the *Conservation Ecology and Sustainable Development* program's name does not align well with the disciplinary scope and nature of the M.S. program, given today's meaning of the term *Sustainable Development*. Sustainable Development refers to the pursuit of *social and economic betterment* without depleting natural resources, which is not part of the defining focus of this program.

The program focuses on Conservation Ecology and *Sustainability*. Sustainability is a broader principle that refers to the capacity of processes and entities -- ecological, social, economic, or otherwise -- to continue in the future.

The School of Ecology proposes the major name Integrative Conservation and Sustainability (ICAS) because it more accurately reflects the broad goal of the work that students undertake. It maintains the original intent of the M.S. program to encourage interdisciplinary study. It more aptly reflects the core founding philosophy of the program: that ecological conservation is an essential consideration in creating sustainable systems, whether they be neighborhoods, natural areas, educational systems, economies, or anything in between. The new name removes the inaccurate suggestion or expectation that training will cover the field of *Sustainable Development*, though it would not preclude interdisciplinary study in that area.

The faculty believes that this name change will boost the effectiveness and attractiveness of the program to external entities. Indeed, the new name more clearly represents the program to non-academic partners (state agencies, local governments, NGOs, consulting firms, etc.) with whom M.S. students often engage as they conduct applied research. This improved identification will be crucial as connections with outside organizations continue to increase. The name change will also better represent the training scope of degree holders who pursue careers in the rapidly-growing and wide-ranging sustainability sector.

Additionally, by its similarity, the name leverages the Integrative Conservation (ICON) Ph.D. program's reputation, and it is expected this will facilitate referrals of numerous prospective students who inquire whether the ICON program offers a master's degree (the ICON program does not). Two of the Odum School's faculty who worked on the CESD/ICAS name change application, Drs. Wenger and King, also serve on the ICON Curriculum Committee. They shared this proposal with the ICON committee; all were supportive and expressed no concerns with the name change.

Also, other departments at UGA have expressed interest in developing similar master's programs -- geared toward sustainability research from different disciplinary perspectives, and engagement with non-academic partners. Other future programs could be named "Integrative <Field> and Sustainability." The CESD/ICAS ad-hoc committee is currently exploring this potential further, and if promising, intends to develop an NSF training grant proposal to support the development of related master's programs. Such a suite of programs would build institutional recognition for UGA and strengthen interdisciplinary research and training, similarly to the momentum that has built around the ICON Ph.D. program.

Currently, the required courses for the major have, and will continue to use, the ECOL prefix.

#### **FACULTY SUPPORT:**

The six faculty members of the CESD Program ad-hoc committee voted unanimously in support of the name change proposal (Ron Carroll, Laurie Fowler, Elizabeth King, Cathy Pringle, Amanda Rugenski, and Seth Wenger).

The Odum School Graduate Program Committee comprised of six faculty members and two graduate students unanimously support this name change (Sonia Altizer, Elizabeth King, Craig Osenberg, Ben Parrott, Takao Sasaki, John Wares, Rebecca Atkins, and Cali Wilson).

The graduate program faculty of the Odum School voted in support of this name change during the November 2020 faculty meeting (vote: 21 yes, 0 no, 3 abstain).



UNIVERSITY OF  
**GEORGIA**

Odum School of Ecology

March 11, 2021

Dear Dean Walcott,

Please find attached our proposal to change the name of the MS in Conservation Ecology and Sustainable Development (CESD) to an MS in Integrative Conservation and Sustainability (ICAS.)

Our faculty unanimously support this proposed name change as does the CESD ad hoc committee and the Odum School Graduate Program Committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Drake  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

## Documentation of Approval and Notification

**Proposal:** Change the name of the major in Conservation Ecology and Sustainable Development (M.S.) to Integrative Conservation and Sustainability (M.S.)

**College:** Odom School of Ecology

**Proposed Effective Term:** Spring 2022

School/College:

- Odom School of Ecology Associate Dean, Dr. John Drake, 3/11/21

Graduate School:

- Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Graduate School Dean, Dr. Ron Walcott, 4/14/21