

Environmental Education and Communication Graduate Certificate

Environmental Education and Communication research and practice spans a number of disciplines represented by several units at the University of Florida. Students wishing to work in formal education are likely to be enrolled in the College of Education as part of a teacher certification program. Those who plan to work in nonformal environmental education, developing community-based youth programs or conducting adult information and outreach programs for agencies and organizations, may be enrolled in Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences; Family Youth and Community Sciences nonprofit track; Forest Resources and Conservation; Religion and Nature program; Political Science; or Soil and Water Sciences, for example. A number of environmental education and communication professionals may be seeking additional coursework to improve their skills who would find the Environmental Education and Communication Certificate essential to their work. All environmental educators and communicators need a background in environmental science content, especially ecological processes and natural resource management, as well as skills in effective program design and delivery.

The Environmental Education and Communication certificate is available to enrolled graduate students in any program at the University of Florida and non-degree seeking students. It will be awarded to those successfully taking 15 credits in four categories from the following list of [graduate courses](#), completing the [assessment essay](#), and submitting a [short application form](#) with your transcript. Students must receive a B or better in each course. The list is updated every five years and students may petition for new courses to be approved and added. Because this is an interdisciplinary certificate, we expect that courses counted toward the certificate will also satisfy course requirements in a student's major or an approved minor.

Students must complete 15 credits (five courses) in the following distribution.

Take 6 credits from Group 1 and 3 credits from each of Group 2, 3 and 4. Students must earn a minimum grade of "B" in all courses used toward this certificate. A maximum of one substitute course may be considered upon petition.

Group 1: Environmental Education and Communication Theory and Practice

- AEC6540 Agricultural and Natural Resources Communications Theory and Strategies - 3 credits, letter-graded
- FNR5072C Environmental Education Program Development - 3 credits, letter-graded
- FOR6005 Conservation Behavior - 3 credits, letter-graded
- LAS6291 Conservation and Development Skills - 3 credits, letter-graded
- SCE6045 Environmental Education Methods and Materials - 3 credits, letter-graded
- SCE6246 Science Instruction in Informal Settings - 3 credits, letter-graded
- SCE6647 Global Studies Methods in Science Education - 3 credits, letter-graded
- WIS6525 Environmental Interpretation - 3 credits, letter-graded

Group 2: Ecological Science

- BOT5695C Ecosystems of Florida - 3 credits, letter-graded
- EES6308C Wetland Ecology - 3 credits, letter-graded
- FAS6392 Special Topics in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences (Marine Ecological Processes) (UCC1 in progress) - 3 credits, letter-graded (UCC1 in progress for a permanent course number)
- PCB5356 Tropical Ecology - 3 credits, letter-graded
- SWS5235 South Florida Ecosystems - 3 credits, letter-graded
- WIS5555C Conservation Biology - 3 credits, letter-graded

WIS6468 Pattern and Process in Landscape Ecology

Group 3: Social Dimensions of Human-Environment Interactions

AEB7453 Natural Resource and Environmental Economics - 3 credits, letter-graded
AEC5541 Communication and Instructional Technologies in Agricultural and Life Sciences - 3 credits, letter-graded
AEC6552 Evaluating Programs in Extension Education - 3 credits, letter-graded
ARC6391 Architecture, Energy, and Ecology - 3 credits, letter-graded
CPO6795 Environmental Politics - 3 credits, letter-graded
EES6009 Ecological Economics - 3 credits, letter-graded
ENV5075 Environmental Policy - 3 credits, letter-graded
FOR5615 Natural Resource Policy and Economics - 3 credits, letter-graded
GLY6075 Global Climate Change: Past, Present, and Future - 3 credits, letter-graded
MMC6660 Mass Communication and Society – 3 credit, letter-graded
REL6183 Religion and Environmental Ethics - 3 credits, letter-graded
WIS6578 Human Dimensions of Biological Conservation - 3 credits, letter-graded

Group 4: Sustainable Resource Management

EVR6320 Sustainable Natural Resource Management - 3 credits, letter-graded
FAS6355C Fisheries Management - 3 credits, letter-graded
FOR5157 Ecology Restoration Principles and Practice - 3 credits, letter-graded
FOR6665 Landscape Planning for Ecotourism - 3 credits, letter-graded
FOR6628 Community Forest Management - 3 credits, letter-graded
FYC6302 Sustainable Community Development - 3 credits, letter-graded
LAS6290 Tropical Conservation and Development - 3 credits, letter-graded
LEI6325 Ecotourism - 3 credits, letter-graded
WIS6543 Wildlife and Agriculture - 3 credits, letter-graded

EE&C Graduate Certificate Assessment

In addition to completing a total of 5 courses representing the required categories on the approved course list, the EE&C Certificate requires a summative assessment of your mastery of environmental education and communication knowledge and skills. A written essay should be submitted to Dr. Martha Monroe (mcmonroe@ufl.edu) by **mid-semester** of the semester you intend to apply for the EEC Certificate.

The essay should be approximately 750 words and should describe how you would use the EE&C strategies you learned in your coursework to achieve a particular education or communication goal of your choosing. You may use an actual or hypothetical situation to respond to the items below. Include the following components in your essay:

- a. A description of an environmental, problem, issue, or situation that requires a targeted education or communication program. Please explain why EE&C is an appropriate strategy for addressing this problem, issue, or situation. Describe two theories that you would use to help guide your education or communication effort as you developed your program or activity.
- b. A description of the target audience for your education or communication effort. Please include the age range targeted and other relevant demographic characteristics of your target audience as well as a description of the specific context in which your education or communication

program would be delivered (classroom, visitors to a particular informal setting, residents, training, etc.)

- c. A description of how your education or communication program would be delivered (e.g., a face-to-face audiovisual presentation, a regional mass media campaign, a district-wide school-based program, an interactive website, a podcast or webinar).
- d. A description of three desired learning outcomes for your target audience (objectives) that clearly identify specific knowledge, attitudes, skills, and/or behavioral outcomes of your program.
- e. A description of two evaluation methods you would use to assess the success of your program.

Students should complete the [application](#) when they have completed their coursework and essay. Applications and essay should be submitted to Dr. Martha Monroe, School of Forest Resources and Conservation, University of Florida, PO Box 110410, Gainesville FL 32611-0410 mcmmonroe@ufl.edu. Additional questions may be directed to Certificate Co-directors Dr. Linda Jones (COE) lcjones@coe.ufl.edu or Dr. Susan Jacobson (WEC) Jacobson@ufl.edu.