Wisconsin Ecology Group
April 5, 2011

Proposal to establish an Ecology Certificate at UW

Objectives: To (1) give students an opportunity to build a sense of cohort / shared ecology experience on campus, (2) expand breadth of student experiences with ecology on campus. Additional benefits include (3) increase profile of (Wisconsin) Ecology on campus, (4) improve recruitment, (5) increase interactions among students and faculty.

Potential design & structure

Target total # credits: 9 # cr

A. Shared core experiences: (3-5 cr) – each must be taken at least once

2cr Introduction to Contemporary Ecology (seminar modeled after current Carpenter offering) – every Fall, with rotating staff

1cr EcoLunch (seminar, currently labeled Agron / Ent / FWE 875) – Mondays – every Spring, rotating staff

0cr Weekend Retreat at beginning of semester – volunteer staff

B. Graduate Seminars and/or regular colloquia (2-4 credits)

1cr Attend outside colloquia / seminars regularly – go to 15+ seminars over 1-2 semesters write up short summary + reaction – 1-2 paragraphs

1-2cr. Graduate seminar(s)
   e.g., Bot 950, 951, Zoo 950, Entomology 903, Geography 920 (2-3 cr)

C. Graduate level ecology courses (to reach 9+ credits) – outside of home department or field of specialization.

Issues / Notes:

Where to “house” the certificate?
   Faculty Point person
   Administrative support

Other “cohort/building experiences”? 
   Short-course / field course

Admission criteria / cap?