

# Action Plan: Environmental Studies/Interdisciplinary Studies

**Date Self-Study was submitted to AQA: May 24, 2021**

**Date of External Review: October 29, 2021**

The Action Plan, which follows the Self-Study and External Review, guides programs and departments as they:

- Follow-up on recommendations from the Self-Study and External Review;
- Develop realistic goals (broad, general statements of intended outcomes or results) for improving or maintaining program quality;
- Determine the steps and resources required to reach those goals;
- Determine the people/groups responsible for each action;
- Establish a timeline (before the next program review cycle) within which these steps will occur.

The Action Plan, like all other aspects of a Langara Program Review, is faculty driven and Dean led. Faculty develop the Action Plan in close collaboration with the Division Chair and Dean. Once the Action Plan is ready for review, the Chair/Coordinator, Division Chair and Dean should schedule a meeting with the Provost.

## Institutional Response

Congratulations to the faculty members in Environmental Studies for completing their Self Study and Action Plan. There is an ambitious number and range of actions for the next seven years. In our meeting to review the Action Plan, we honed in on the foundational work to position the program for success in the future. To recap, work to identify and focus on the strengths of the program and the unique offerings compared to other institutions. The more flexible framework of the Diploma, compared to the Associate Degrees, will provide more options to implement your vision of this future state of the program. This will be formalized through the creation of program learning outcomes, to be completed with TCDC's support.

The Dean and VP Academic & Provost are committed to supporting Environmental Studies in achieving their goals through ongoing guidance and regular progress reviews.

Signed



July 2, 2024

Dean

Date

Signed



July 9, 2024

Provost and Vice-President

Date

**Recommendations from the Self-Study and External Review this Action Plan does NOT Address.**

*Provide a brief rationale for why each Recommendation cannot be addressed. Add or remove rows as necessary.*

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Self-Study or External Review (include p.#)</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Increase purchases of technical equipment and supplies essential to achieving applied learning outcomes	ER - 5	Capital and budgets are evaluated annually against the needs of the program. Increased capital expenditures and budgetary requirements are to be addressed by financial need and not through the Program Review process.
Examine opportunities to offer hybrid and mixed-mode courses in the post-pandemic period	SS - 37	The environmental studies program requires hands-on experience from the students and the idea does not seem a priority at this time.

## Goal 1: Program Restructuring: The Revamp

List the Recommendation(s) this Goal addresses. Check the appropriate column to indicate if the Recommendation is from the Self-Study or External Review. Add or remove rows as needed.

Recommendation	Self-Study (specify page #)	External Review (specify page #)
Create Program Learning Outcomes	17	
Create and establish a first year introduction to sustainability course		3
A thorough review of required and elective courses should be performed in order to help make student's choices easier and provide more flexibility. The revamp should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Improve students' ability to plan their courses and academic career.</li> <li>b. Make suggestions / recommendations on the order students should take courses / electives.</li> </ul> Provide unfettered elective options so students can meet their individual needs in terms of academic flexibility.	4	
Incorporate Indigenous perspectives and knowledge into curriculum	37	
Increase amount of release time to ENVS faculty to implement program proposals.		3

Academic Plan 2025 Lens or Lenses this Goal supports. See the end of this document for the Academic Plan. Add or remove rows as needed,

Academic Plan 2025 Lens (only include the title of the lens)
<b><i>Lens Two: Holistic Student Engagement and Support</i></b>
<b><i>Lens Three: Transformational Learning Experiences</i></b>
<b><i>Lens Four: Social Responsibility/ Community Relationships</i></b>

Planned Actions the program/department will complete to achieve this goal. Add or remove rows as needed.

Planned Actions	Led by	Begin on	Anticipated Completion	Notes
Create Program learning outcomes for revamped programs	ENVS Coordinator, TCDC	Nov 2023	Dec 2024	

Planned Actions	Led by	Begin on	Anticipated Completion	Notes
Create curriculum for first year ENVS course focused on sustainability, support course for other programs	ENVS Coordinator and faculty	Jan 2022	April 2025	
Examine the current electives and consider expanding/reducing/ or revamping the elective choices for the two associate degrees and the diploma program	ENVS Coordinator and faculty, TCDC	May 2022	Dec 2024	
Liaise with Langara's Indigenous Education and Services to expand opportunities to incorporate Indigenous knowledge, practices, and learning opportunities	ENVS Coordinator, Indigenous Education, TCDC	Jan 2025	Dec 2028	
Complete the EdCo forms and Curriculum Review Process	ENVS Coordinator, faculty, TCDC, RES	Jan 2023	April 2025	

*Resources required to achieve this goal.*

Resources Required
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scheduled meeting with Dean of Arts and Indigenous Education and Services to provide oversight and an indication of the needs and scheduling of increased Indigenous programming</li> <li>Dedicated time from TCDC for the creation and revamping of Program and Learning outcomes</li> </ol>

## Goal 2: Student Success

List the Recommendation(s) this Goal addresses. Check the appropriate column to indicate if the Recommendation is from the Self-Study or External Review. Add or remove rows as needed.

Recommendation	Self-Study (specify page #)	External Review (specify page #)
Create a targeted marketing campaign.	12/13	
Improve student program knowledge and course planning tools with curriculum maps	13	
Expand opportunities for direct transfer of ENV5 courses		4
Consider more options for supported teamwork, project and presentations to build transferable skills that students need in environmental professions.	38	4
Maintain and increase where possible the career-focused materials and information provided to ENV5 students.	38	

Academic Plan 2025 Lens or Lenses this Goal supports. See the end of this document for the Academic Plan. Add or remove rows as needed,

Academic Plan 2025 Lens (only include the title of the lens)
<b><i>Lens One: Curiosity, Creativity, and Innovation: Create the Future Together</i></b>
<b><i>Lens Two: Holistic Student Engagement and Support</i></b>
<b><i>Lens Three: Transformational Learning Experiences</i></b>
<b><i>Lens Four: Social Responsibility/ Community Relationships</i></b>

Planned Actions the program/department will complete to achieve this goal. Add or remove rows as needed.

Planned Actions	Led by	Begin on	Anticipated Completion	Notes
Examine new pathways and opportunities for direct transfer through attending articulation meetings and creating curriculum maps	ENV5 Coordinator	May 2022	April 2026	

Planned Actions	Led by	Begin on	Anticipated Completion	Notes
Create curriculum maps and FAQ sheets for various ENVS programs – Langara and RhumbI	ENVS Coordinator and TCDC, C&M	Jan 2022	Sept 2024	
Develop best-practices for classroom presentations, speaking, and teamwork (groupwork) assignments, highlight trnasferable skills	ENVS Coordinator, faculty, TCDC	May 2022	ongoing	
Diversify career presentations in fall ENVS 1105 and new 1xxx ENVS sustainability courses	ENVS Coordinator	Sept 2021	ongoing	This began in 201930
Coordinate environmental career-talk with Langara Co-op and Career Services in spring semester	ENVS Coordinator	Jan 2021	ongoing	

*Resources required to achieve this goal.*

Resources Required
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dedicated time and direction from C&amp;M devoted toward the creation of marketing campaign and materials</li> <li>2. Dedicated time from TCDC devoted toward the development and testing of curriculum maps</li> <li>3. Dedicated time from IT for the implementation of curriculum maps into the Langara ENVS website</li> </ol>

### Goal 3: Faculty and External Relations

List the Recommendation(s) this Goal addresses. Check the appropriate column to indicate if the Recommendation is from the Self-Study or External Review. Add or remove rows as needed.

Recommendation	Self-Study (specify page #)	External Review (specify page #)
Create a set schedule for ENVIS meeting to discuss program-related topics and issues.	43	
Coordinate with faculty through annual meetings or individual one-on-one sessions to address faculty concerns, ensuring improvements are discussed/implemented.		4
Conduct an exploratory discussion-involving co-op and work integrated learning with Langara's Co-op and Career Development Dept.	46	
Collaboration should be made with other departments to ensure the first-year sustainability course developed by ENVIS (noted above) benefits the needs of any departments using the course as an elective or required course.		5
Create a succession plan to maintain existing relationships (Studio City / Field School & Trips / Government Agencies / Private Companies) document knowledge and practices to ease the demands on successive ENVIS coordinators.		5
Arrange meetings with Langara's Counseling Department to improve sectoral knowledge when advising students on future employment or academic opportunities.		4
Investigate new opportunities for student employment through Langara's Work on Campus (WOC) and Student Work Assistance Program (SWAP).	38	

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*Planned Actions the program/department will complete to achieve this goal. Add or remove rows as needed.*

<b>Planned Actions</b>	<b>Led by</b>	<b>Begin on</b>	<b>Anticipated Completion</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Post program revamp, evaluate the merits of having ENVIS credentials evaluated and accredited by external organizations	ENVIS Coordinator	Jan 2025	Dec 2028	Report results to Dean of Arts
Establish connections with departments when creating the curriculum for the proposed first-year sustainability course.	ENVIS Coordinator	Jan 2022	April 2025	
Continue cataloguing relationships and create succession plan for the ENVIS Coordinator position. One option may be a document that cataloguing the information	ENVIS Coordinator	March 2022	ongoing	
Examine and maintain WOC and SWAP opportunities through ENVIS and associated departments through the expansion of applied research opportunities	ENVIS Coordinator, faculty, associated Dept. chairs,, ARC	May 2022	Dec 2028	
Entice ENVIS faculty to allocate NID toward the ENVIS program	ENVIS Coordinator	May 2022	Dec 2028	
Examine and create applied research opportunities for faculty and students through grant applications	ENVIS Coordinator, faculty, ARC	Jan 2022	Dec 2028	
Examine opportunities for expanding student scholarships	ENVIS Coordinator, Langara Foundation, Financial Aid	Jan 2022	Dec 2028	

*Resources required to achieve this goal.*

<b>Resources Required</b>
1. Dedicated time from Co-op and Career services to discuss the merits of Co-op or Internships



## Resources Required

2. One section of release to expand and develop Co-op and Internship placements, conduct Applied research, maintain grants and increase scholarship funds

## Academic Plan Lenses

### ***Lens One: Curiosity, Creativity, and Innovation: Create the Future Together***

A community animated by inquisitiveness, imagination, and the intentional seeking of the unknown, Langara College offers opportunities to explore, ideate, and challenge through original, innovative programming, evolving and intrepid pedagogy, and meaningful technology integration. Together we create opportunities for intellectual discovery, work, and play through applied research, interdisciplinary approaches, and honest reflective practice.

### ***Lens Two: Holistic Student Engagement and Support***

At Langara College we nurture a culture of student engagement through work-integrated learning, experiential learning, service learning, co-curricular learning, undergraduate student applied research, and community service. We support the whole student across their entire learning journey by ensuring a sense of belonging, and by embracing justice, equity, diversity and inclusion in curricular and cocurricular offerings and through service delivery and support.

### ***Lens Three: Transformational Learning Experiences***

Langara College acknowledges, supports, and celebrates the transformational learning experiences of instructors and students. Building on our extensive student-centred teaching experience, we interweave principles of universal design, open education, digital literacy, and continual learning on our pathway to academic success. We support students, faculty, and staff through their academic journeys with opportunities to learn and the tools, resources, and services to facilitate their work.

### ***Lens Four: Social Responsibility/ Community Relationships***

We, at Langara College, celebrate our vital role in inspiring and nurturing the growth of students, one another, and our society. We commit to serving our communities by teaching and modeling our social duty to focus on social justice, to provide equity of access and opportunity, to embrace diversity and to intentionally foster inclusion. We commit to caring for our environment in all we do, from pedagogy to infrastructure, and to looking for sustainable solutions in all contexts.

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