INTRODUCING A NEW MAJOR!
Environmental Studies and Sustainability (ESS)

Frequently Asked Questions for Current ESA Students

Do I have to change my major?
No. If you started in the Environmental Studies and Agriscience (ESA) major you can continue in that major. However, the new major may better fit your career goals based on both its name and course offerings. The new sustainability courses (CSUS 200, CSUS 300 and CSUS 301) are open to students in any major and can be taken as electives in the ESA major or as a requirement in the new ESS major. The choice is yours. Talk to CSUS academic advisor Frances Kaneene about your options.

How long do I have to finish my degree under the ESA program?
You will have until the fall of 2019 (five years from the start of the ESS major) to finish the ESA major if you stay in that program. However, ACR 202, ACR 205 and ACR 492, which were required for the ESA major, will no longer be offered. Check with Frances Kaneene for substitutions for these courses.

What will my diploma say?
If you choose to stay in the ESA major, your degree will say Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Studies and Agriscience and your concentration area will be noted on your official MSU transcript. If you switch to the new major it will say Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Studies and Sustainability.

If I change to the new major, will I have to make up courses?
This is something to discuss with student advisor Frances Kaneene. CSUS and the university are committed not to disadvantage students due to changes in an academic program. Many courses from the previous ESA major are still part of the new ESS major, but all have a new course abbreviation (CSUS) and many have a new course number. See the chart below that shows the former and new course numbers and titles.
**Will there be concentrations in the new ESS major?**
No. Instead of choosing a concentration, you have access to an array of courses within CSUS as well as outside in departments as diverse as animal science, forestry, soil science, fisheries and wildlife, geographic information systems, and others.

**Can I take the new sustainability courses and still graduate in the ESA major?**
Yes. There are three new sustainability courses, CSUS 200, CSUS 300 and CSUS 301. If you have already completed ESA 200 you do not need to take CSUS 200. Otherwise, all other requirements for the ESA major can be met by the coursework for the ESS major.

**Do I need to take an internship or do Study Abroad?**
Yes. The professional internship or study abroad are important broadening experiences for both ESS and ESA programs. The internship can be linked directly to your career goals. It provides for a rich learning experience and a strong resume, critical to a successful job search. Study Abroad in an area related to your career or professional interests provides a global perspective that is different from any experience you can have on the East Lansing campus.