Out Standing in Left Field:
Disciplinary Boundaries in Undergraduate Forestry and Natural Resources Education

Sarah Vonhof

SUNY-College of Environmental Science & Forestry
Syracuse, New York

slvonhof@esf.edu

University Education in Natural Resources Conference, March 13-15, 2008
SAF Accredited Forestry Programs
- 118 curricula
- 44 institutions
- 98% have upper division requirements in social sciences
- Most require two courses
  - Policy, economics

Number of Required Upper Division Social Science Courses in Forestry Curricula

- 2 courses, 44, 37%
- 3 courses, 20, 17%
- 4 courses, 13, 11%
- 5 courses, 7, 6%
- More than 5 courses, 4, 3%
- 0 courses, 2, 2%
- 1 course, 28, 24%
SAF Accredited Forestry Programs

Most do not have requirements in the humanities
  - 11 institutions (25%) require one or two courses
    - Ethics, law

Number of Required Upper Division Humanities Courses in Forestry Curricula

- 2 courses
  - 2 curricula (2%)
- 1 course
  - 29 curricula (25%)
- 0 courses
  - 87 curricula (73%)
A Closer Look

- What are the upper division requirements in the disciplines?
  - Biophysical sciences, social sciences

- Do forestry degree program requirements differ from natural resources management program requirements?
Methods and Data

- Analyzed upper division requirements in six areas
  - Biophysical Sciences
  - Social Sciences
  - Humanities
  - Quantitative
  - Management
  - Communications
Methods and Data

- Forestry programs
  - Identified through SAF accreditation list
  - 93 curricula at 44 institutions
  - Coded average 16 courses / 51 credits
    - 38% of degree
Methods and Data

Natural Resource / Environmental Management programs

- Identified over 300 institutions through Peterson’s and CollegeBoard.Com
- 74 degree curricula at 38 institutions
- Coded average 10 courses / 32 credits
  - 25% of degree
### Comparing Upper Division Curricular Requirements

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The Differences

- Explanations
  - Departments offering programs
  - Differences in degree options/concentrations
  - Number of curricula with requirements & maximum

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<tr>
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<th>Humanities % of total</th>
<th>% having requirement</th>
<th>Communications % of total</th>
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<td>1.4 %</td>
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<td>NREM</td>
<td>3.9 %</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>3.9 %</td>
<td>28%</td>
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Indications and Next Questions

- Social sciences & humanities
  - small part of forestry / natural resource education
- Interesting differences in allocation
  - Forestry has an accreditation process
- Next questions?
  - Look at particular courses
    - Human dimensions, conflict, public participation
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Acknowledgement: Maggie Saia, research assistant

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