

**Cover Sheet for Proposal to the Undergraduate Curriculum and Catalog Review Committee**

**Date: April 14, 2020**

**Department: Criminal Justice**

**Current Course or Program ID: NA**

**Proposal Number:**

(Assigned by the Registrar)

**Contact Person: Dr. Egan Green**  
**(ekgreen@radford.edu)**

**Proposal Category:** (✓ all that apply). A cover sheet must be submitted for each proposal.

\_\_\_\_\_ Course Prerequisite Change

\_\_\_\_\_ Course Credit Hour Change

\_\_\_\_\_ Course Title Change

\_\_\_\_\_ New Course

\_\_\_\_\_ Course Deletion

\_\_\_\_\_ Change to Official Detailed Course Description (formerly referred to as Official Course Syllabus)

\_\_\_\_\_ Course Number Change

\_\_\_\_\_ Change to Catalog Description

\_\_\_\_\_ Program Revision

\_\_\_\_\_ Minor Change to Course

**New Program**  
(Major, minor, or certificate)

**Other Proposal Requirements:** (✓ as applies and attach form)

\_\_\_\_\_ For New Course Proposals, attach the New Course Proposal with appropriate signatures.

**Proposal Description with Rationale:** (State current status, proposed change, and why the change is desired. Attach additional sheets if necessary).

The Department of Criminal Justice proposes to add an interdisciplinary minor in Conservation Law Enforcement. The minor will be housed in the Department of Criminal Justice with course options from the Department of Biology, the Department of Geospatial Science, the Department of Recreation, Parks and Tourism, and the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies. Complete information is available on the attached new program proposal form.

**Effective Date:** Fall 2021

Reason for requesting an alternative effective date: This program and its courses may receive REAL course assignments, so the effective date can wait until the REAL curriculum takes effect.

<b>Signature</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Egan Green	Department Curriculum Committee Chair	04/27/2020
/S/Isaac Van Patten	Department Chair	4/27/20
Jeff Willner	College Curriculum Committee Chair	4/30/20
	College Dean	
If this proposal in any way affects a professional education program, it must be submitted to and approved by the Professional Education Committee and the Faculty Senate:		
	Professional Education Committee Chair	
	Core Curriculum Advisory Committee Chair	
	Faculty Senate President	
	UG Curriculum & Catalog Review Committee	
	Provost and VP for Academic Affairs	

## Proposal for a New Program

### Proposed Program:

#### Conservation Law Enforcement Interdisciplinary Minor

The interdisciplinary minor in Conservation Law Enforcement will give Radford University a unique program that prepares students to work as conservation law enforcement officers. This program will be unlike any other program in the state.

The work of conservation law enforcement officers is often misunderstood. Some see them as law enforcement officers, while others see them as wildlife specialists who also have law enforcement powers. Academia has even explored this confused role. Additionally, the job duties for these jobs vary by state. Some states have their officers perform law enforcement duties exclusively. Other states have their officers perform a number of natural science based activities as part of the wildlife management tasks, along with their law enforcement duties. The qualifications for employment in state wildlife management agencies reflect this diversity. Some states require applicants to have completed a four-year degree in a natural science such as biology or forestry. Other states prefer their applicants to have degrees in a social science such as criminal justice. Additionally, some states require no college degree for their applicants.

The Conservation Law Enforcement minor proposed here addresses this diversity of qualifications through a multi-disciplinary approach. It provides options for students who are majoring in biology to complete a minor that provides them with a background in criminal justice issues. Those students who wish to work in a state requiring a degree in the natural sciences can complete the required degree, but still learn criminal justice related material that will help them with the law enforcement aspects of their jobs. Students who aspire to work in a state that is more law enforcement based will be able to take criminal justice classes and other social science classes, or natural science based classes if they would like. Additionally, this minor offers an opportunity for students who hope to work in a non-law enforcement capacity for conservation agencies. Having some background knowledge in conservation law enforcement can also benefit students who plan to work as biologists for a state wildlife agency and students who aspire to work in an interpretive capacity for a state or national park. Therefore, this minor offers opportunities for a wide variety of students.

This minor would therefore benefit students who hope to work as state conservation law enforcement officers in any state, or as federal conservation law enforcement officers, including working for the National Park Service or U.S. Forest Service. The flexible curriculum allows students to acquire a base of knowledge about wildlife law enforcement and crime issues, and select their remaining course work from a list of options relevant to their career goals.

This interdisciplinary minor would require students to complete three courses from the Department of Criminal Justice (CRJU 380 - Rural Crime and Law Enforcement, CRJU 382 - North American Wildlife Crime, and CRJU 384 – International Wildlife Crime), and select three other courses from four other disciplines. This allows students in other majors to use some classes from other programs as part of the minor requirements.

The wording for the program description in the Course Catalog should read as follows:

**The interdisciplinary minor in Conservation Law Enforcement requires students to complete the following three required courses, and any three courses from the options below.**

**Required Courses (9 hours)**

**CRJU 380 – Rural Crime and Law Enforcement (3 hours)**  
**CRJU 382 – North American Wildlife Crime (3 hours)**  
**CRJU 384 – International Wildlife Crime (3 hours)**

**Required Electives (9-12 hours)**

**BIOL 103 Environmental Biology (4 hours)**  
**BIOL 131 Ecology and Adaption (4 hours)**  
**BIOL 351 Comparative Animal Behavior (4 hours)**  
**BIOL 390 Conservation Biology (4 hours)**  
**BIOL 464 Vertebrate Biology (4 hours)**  
**BIOL 476 Forest and Wetland Ecology (4 hours)**  
**CRJU 490 Approved Special Topics (3 hours)**  
**GEOS 125 Introduction to Geospatial Data (3 hours)**  
**GEOG 140 Introduction to Environmental Studies (3 hours)**  
**GEOS 241 Environmental Regulation (3 hours)**  
**GEOS 250 Introduction to GIS (4 hours)**  
**PHIL 219 Environmental Ethics (3 hours)**  
**RCPT 260 Intro to Outdoor Recreation and Leadership (3 hours)**  
**RCPT 331 Outdoor Living Skills (3 hours)**  
**RCPT 460 Wilderness First Responder (3 hours)**  
**RCPT 417 Approved Special Topics (3 hours)**