

# ENVIRONMENTAL AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

## ÉPREUVE SYNTHÈSE

March 2007

In order to graduate students must pass the Comprehensive Assessment (*Épreuve synthèse de programme*).

Students will, under the supervision of the faculty, develop a public presentation that outlines the place of environmental technology in modern society in general, and the relevance of the Environmental and Wildlife Management Program at Vanier College in particular. Each third year student will be responsible for setting up an individual display on a topic of his/her choice, reflecting their training within the program. Students choose their topics in early September (start of 6<sup>th</sup> semester) for the Open House at the Field Station, normally held in late September. Students consult among themselves to determine topics related to their studies so as to prevent overlap and duplication of the material. After four to five days, students finalize their topics. This information may be forwarded to high school teachers bringing classes, as some schools require that their secondary level students record the information being presented. The third year students must also present a brief outline to the third year teachers of the information they will be presenting and the visual aids they will require.

Open house is usually given on a Friday afternoon. Third year students are given three free afternoons to prepare their material. On the fourth afternoon, they set up their displays and are evaluated by field station faculty and staff. The open house occurs on the following day. Students will have program brochures available at each display and will explain their exhibition of equipment or techniques to elementary and high school students, parents, and environmental professionals who may visit the field station. Our *Épreuve Synthèse* has been designed to allow students to integrate information and skills learned in the program to the needs of modern society and to generate interest in younger students in the Environmental and Wildlife Management Program and Vanier College (i.e.: recruitment). While displays may focus on an individual technique or piece of equipment, third year students should be prepared to answer a series of questions from the general public. This includes the following scope:

- 1) Review the role of environmental sciences in modern society
- 2) Review the many possible functions of an ecological technologist in modern society
- 3) Show the relevance of the Environmental and Wildlife Management Program at Vanier to 1) and 2) above.
- 4) Answer questions regarding entrance requirements, job opportunities, salary scales, course requirements to make up for university entrance, and other factors. The faculty will provide an information package to assist in this final objective, but in many cases, the individual who is interested in applying to the program will have to do some of the “leg work” to answer these questions as universities vary in the credits which they are willing to provide to students who have gone through the Environmental and Wildlife Management Program. If students do not know the answer, you should feel free to refer

the question back to the faculty. The faculty themselves may not know precise answers to these questions but they can refer it back to the administration for further information.

### **Criteria for Displays and for the Oral Communication Skills of Display Organizers:**

- 1) **Communication and information value of display** - *what* is it, *how* does it work, *why* is it used? Displays must not only have a brief text (no more than 10 - 15 seconds of reading material), but must stand on their own in terms of conveying information. Not all visitors will ask questions.
- 2) Information presentation must be designed to appeal to a wide range of visitors with different levels of technical understanding, including elementary school children, high school students, lay persons and science teachers. Keep the presentation simple and be prepared to explain the display in more detail when necessary.
- 3) **Visual appearance** - appropriate diagrams, photos, text relating to the subject matter. Must be clear but not overly complicated or lengthy; can be expanded upon through verbal discussion. Appropriateness of gear/technique that is displayed; ability to demonstrate it and knowledgeably discuss it.
- 4) **Oral preparation and presentation**. The student must be prepared to explain how the technique/equipment fit into a given course and how does that course fit into overall natural resource and environmental management (i.e. the big picture).
- 5) Students must have the ability to answer questions and converse with the public in both English and French.
- 6) Students must be prepared to talk about the courses they've taken to date and the program in general, how the program fits in with their career aspirations as well as to explain why they chose this program and their perception of career opportunities.
- 7) Display organizers should show a demonstrated understanding of their topic and enthusiasm for the material that they are presenting.
- 8) Display organizers should have PR materials handy (i.e. brochures)

### **Preparation and Evaluation:**

The third year displays will have both an oral and a written component which will be evaluated by the field station faculty and staff. Active participation in developing display material is essential and displays must cover a broad range of the techniques and courses given in order to inform the general public.

The third year faculty and staff will visit each display to grade the quality of the written text and visual aids and to ask questions of the display coordinators (in English and in French) prior to the visit of high schools and other interested parties for the Open House. The overall ESP grade requires a pass mark of 60%; the Épreuve is a Government requirement which cannot be ignored if the student wishes to receive a DEC upon graduation from the Environmental and Wildlife Management Program. The general evaluation is given on the following sheets.

Display organizers are responsible for the following:

- S efficient and timely organization in planning and assembling needed gear, information, visual aids
- S requesting needed supplies if we don't currently have them in stock
- S have reviewed EnviroCareers (or equivalent) CD, video and web site, so as to be prepared to discuss their interests and career aspirations with the visiting students

### **In case of non-completion or failure of the Épreuve Synthèse**

The Épreuve Synthèse is based on the student presentation at the Vanier Field Station Open House, which occurs once each year. If a student does not meet the requirements, the presentation may be repeated at the Vanier Open House at the main campus. If this is not possible, alternative arrangements will be made for the student.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AT THE THIRD YEAR ENVIRONMENTAL AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT OPEN HOUSE**

**(Note that this material is updated as needed)**

### Job Opportunities:

The typical job for an Environmental and Wildlife Management graduate is contract work in one of a variety of fields in the province of Québec and throughout Canada. Some students get jobs in environmental education (e.g. the Ecomuseum or Biosphere). Others get jobs in private industry (e.g. The Pulp & Paper Research Institute). Still others find work in Government or university research institutions (Centre St-Laurent for aquatic studies; the NRC for biochemistry, ecotoxicology, and bioremediation; McGill/Concordia Universities as research assistants). Field positions may include technicians in fisheries, spatial analysis, mammal studies and bird studies.

Opportunities for field work are also good in the United States under the terms of the NAFTA agreement. Several students have worked in ornithological studies, environmental education, and other fields. Radiotelemetry, mammal management, vegetation sampling, fisheries, and spatial analysis are some of the positions which students have taken. The student should bear in mind that they have to apply as a professional under the heading of Scientific Technician/Technologist. Positions in the United States are for up to one year for non citizens, but contracts may be renewed allowing a longer stay.

A number of graduates who have been in the work force return to university after a few years of work since they often have focussed on a particular field of interest. Feedback from graduates indicates that they felt the Environmental and Wildlife Management program provided them with a broad overview of skills and techniques (hands-on training) which allowed

them to accept different positions in the job market and to develop their enthusiasm in a more specialized area of the environmental sciences.

Students should consult with the Field station faculty and the Vanier College Employment Office as to web sites which give more information on job opportunities.

Modified April 23, 2007 (addition of graduation requirement on page 1)