Form E-1-A for Boston College Undergraduate Programs

Program: ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (interdisciplinary BA major)

1) Have formal learning outcomes been developed? What are they? (What specific sets of skills and knowledge does the department expect its majors to have acquired before they graduate?)

The goals of the ENVS major are to provide students with:

- the knowledge and perspective to cultivate rewarding lives as responsible citizens of the planet;
- a deep understanding of the scientific, political, and cultural aspects of the world's environmental challenges;
- the tools and creativity necessary to envision and implement paths to sustainable solutions; and
- a solid background for environmentally related graduate programs and/or careers in business, education, law, policy, planning, government, or research.

2) Where are these learning outcomes published? Be specific. (Where are the department's learning expectations accessible to potential majors: on the web or in the catalog or in your department's major handouts?)

These goals are included in the description of the undergraduate curriculum on the program website (http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/envstudies/learning-outcomes.html) in the BC catalog, and in handouts available in the program's main office (Devlin 213) for students expressing interest majoring in ENVS.

3) Other than GPA, what data/evidence is used to determine whether graduates have achieved the stated outcomes for the degree? (What evidence and analytical approaches do you use to assess which of the student learning outcomes are being achieved more or less well?)

The ENVS major began in 2014; the class of 2017 are the first students to participate in this major. As part of their introductory seminar (ENVS1100), they each had to fill out a GoogleDoc course plan and statement of goals for their major curriculum. When these students are seniors (Fall 2016), we will be using the senior research seminar (ENVS4941-4942) as a means to have students reflect on their goals and path through the major, assess student learning, and track progress after graduation.

4) Who interprets the evidence? What is the process? (Who in the department is responsible for interpreting the data and making recommendations for curriculum or assignment changes if appropriate? When does this occur?)

The ENVS Steering Committee meets once or twice per year to review all aspects of the program, and to make recommendations. In addition, program core faculty meet with advisees a minimum of two times a
year to advise students on their major requirements, as well as to gain feedback about how well the major is meeting their academic goals. Program core faculty meet several times during the year to discuss progress of students through the major curriculum.