A minor open to ALL undergraduate students

Energy Studies Minor

Program Overview
Meeting the world’s energy demands in an environmentally responsible fashion is arguably the greatest challenge of the 21st century. In order to prepare a new generation of leaders to address this challenge, a new energy studies minor is being offered to all undergraduates at the University of Notre Dame beginning in fall 2011. This minor will prepare students from all disciplines to become successful leaders who understand the complexity of the energy challenge and can offer meaningful solutions.

There are three components to the minor:
1) two required courses, 2) three elective courses, and 3) a capstone project. The minor is administered through the Sustainable Energy Initiative (SEI).

Learning Objectives:
1) Quantify energy resources and usage and recognize the fundamental laws of thermodynamics that govern energy conversion.
2) Develop a functional knowledge of the historical and economic frameworks that guide decision-making in industry.
3) Develop skills to convey critical information about energy to the non-expert.
4) Understand the environmental consequences of today’s energy technologies.
5) Understand the linkages between ethics and energy utilization.
6) Critically assess the prospective impact of alternative energy technologies.

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