

# Learning and Connecting 360

## Adding Student and Alumni Voices to Program Assessment

Environment, Sustainability, and Policy (ESP) ILM  
Dept. Geography and the Environment; Jane Read, Director



### BACKGROUND & PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The **ESP ILM** is an interdisciplinary program drawing students from all colleges at Syracuse University, supported by a faculty advisory board of **15 members** across academic departments.

Established in 2018, the program has grown rapidly.

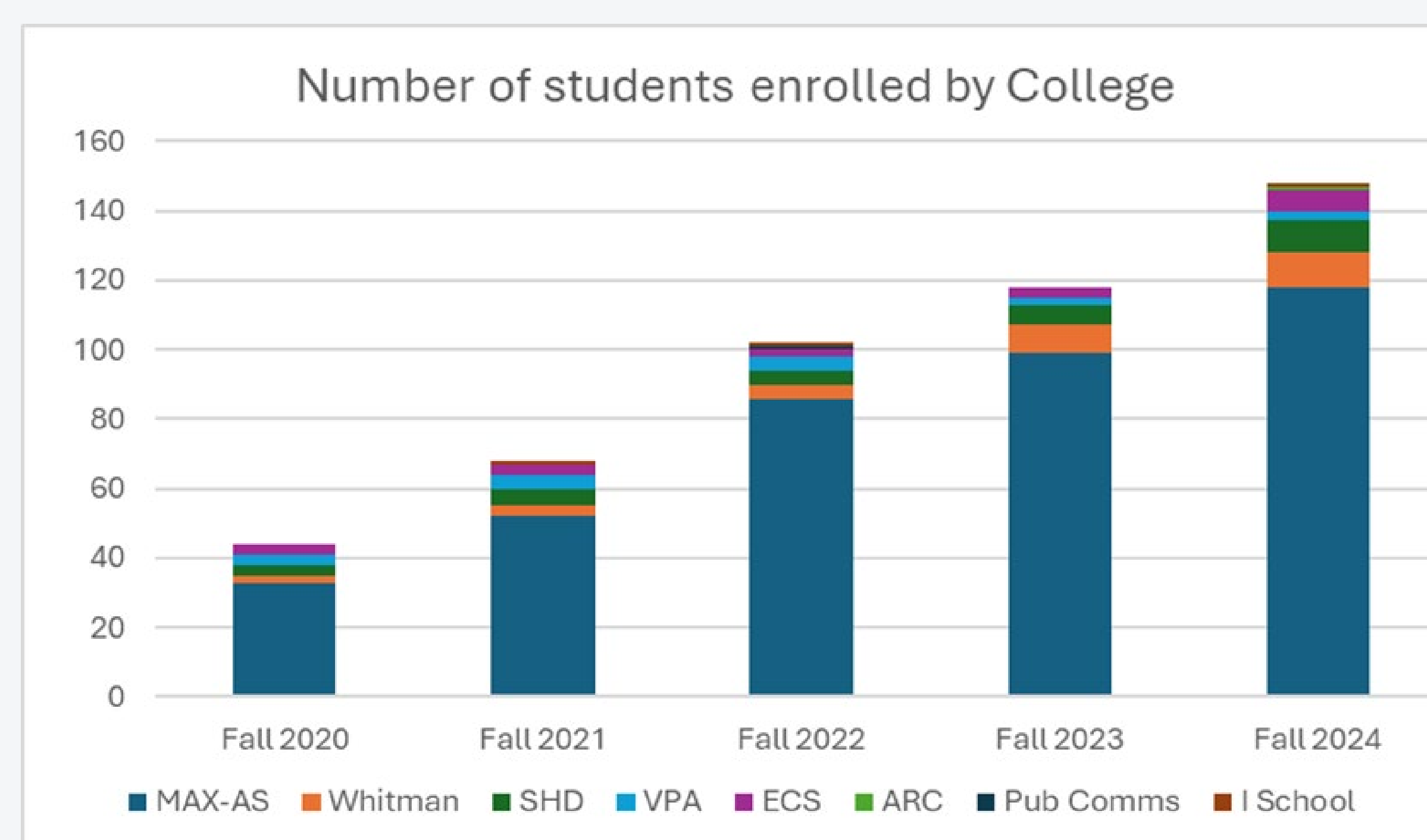
**140–150**

majors enrolled

**25+**

base majors represented

### ENROLLMENT GROWTH (2020–2025)



### ASSESSMENT TO DATE

**5 of 6** student learning outcomes have been formally assessed, with actions implemented after each cycle.

#### Key finding from exit surveys:

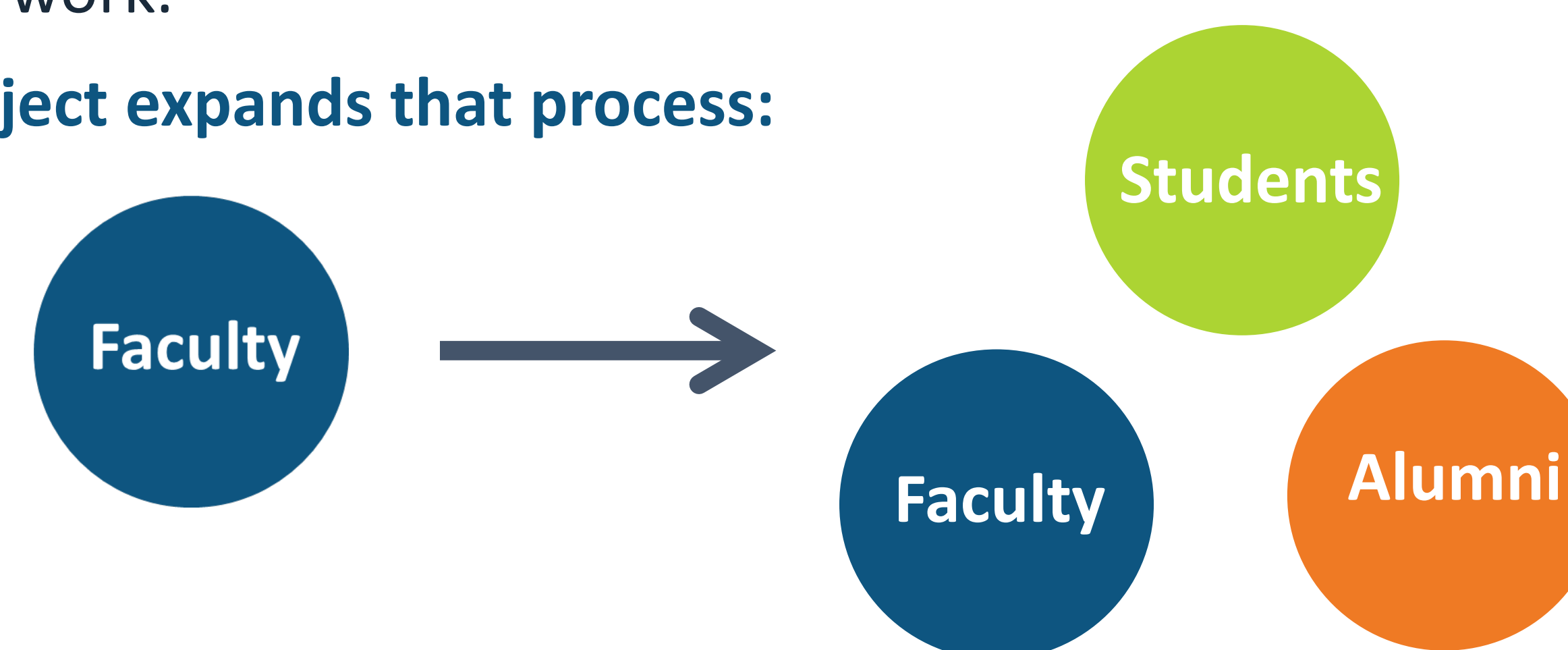
Students want a stronger sense of belonging and greater emphasis on career readiness.

This year, the sixth outcome will be assessed alongside a **meta-analysis of the full program** — making this an ideal moment to broaden who has a voice in that process.

### ASSESSMENT 360: OUR APPROACH

Traditional program assessment relied solely on faculty perspectives through discussion, observation, and analysis of student work.

This project expands that process:



*Incorporating all three perspectives supports a richer, more complete picture of program effectiveness.*

### THE ESP STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

To bring student voices into assessment, we launched the **ESP Student Ambassador Program**, engaging **18 students** across four working groups:

- Events & Programming
- Marketing & Communications
- Advocacy & Outreach

#### Program Assessment & Development ★

**Students in the Assessment & Development group contributed directly:**

- Learning the why, what, and how of ESP program assessment
- Reviewing program learning outcomes and course offerings relative to program requirements
- Reviewing senior exit survey results
- Designing and implementing an alumni feedback instrument
- Educating fellow ESP majors about assessment

### BENEFITS

#### For the Program

Student and alumni findings will be incorporated into this year's meta-analysis alongside faculty input, strengthening the evidence base for program decisions.

#### For Students

Ambassadors gained knowledge of assessment practice, experience working in small collaborative teams, and insight into how academic programs are evaluated and improved.

They also gained a deeper connection and greater sense of belonging to the major to the major.

### NEXT STEPS

- Continued ambassador engagement
- Implementation and analysis of alumni and senior exit surveys
- Continued discussion of findings and action planning
- Evaluation of student attitudes toward the ambassador program

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

#### Student Engagement in Assessment Mini-Grant

Spring 2026 ESP Student Ambassadors  
Kelly Montague (ESP Program Coordinator)