

LSC Use Only No:	LSC Action-Date:	UWUCC USE Only No.	UWUCC Action-Date:	Senate Action Date:
		08-31c	App 2/10/09	App 2/24/09

Curriculum Proposal Cover Sheet - University-Wide Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

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Proposing Department/Unit Geography & Regional Planning	Phone 724.357.7652

Check all appropriate lines and complete information as requested. Use a separate cover sheet for each course proposal and for each program proposal.

1. Course Proposals (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> New Course	<input type="checkbox"/> Course Prefix Change	<input type="checkbox"/> Course Deletion
<input type="checkbox"/> Course Revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Course Number and/or Title Change	<input type="checkbox"/> Catalog Description Change

<i>Current Course prefix, number and full title</i>	<i>Proposed course prefix, number and full title, if changing</i>
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2. Additional Course Designations: check if appropriate

<input type="checkbox"/> This course is also proposed as a Liberal Studies Course.	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: (e.g., Women's Studies, Pan-African)
<input type="checkbox"/> This course is also proposed as an Honors College Course.	

3. Program Proposals

<input type="checkbox"/> New Degree Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Title Change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Program Revision
<input type="checkbox"/> New Minor Program	<input type="checkbox"/> New Track	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Bachelor of Arts – Geography/ Environmental Track	
<i>Current program name</i>	<i>Proposed program name, if changing</i>

4. Approvals		Date
Department Curriculum Committee Chair(s)	Gail S Sechrist	9/15/08
Department Chair(s)	John Benhart Jr.	9/15/08
College Curriculum Committee Chair	[Signature]	10/1/08
College Dean	[Signature]	10/27/08
Director of Liberal Studies *	[Signature]	10/10/08
Director of Honors College *		
Provost *	[Signature]	10/28/08
Additional signatures as appropriate: (include title)		
UWUCC Co-Chairs	Gail S Sechrist	

* where applicable

Received
OCT 2 2008
Liberal Studies

Received
OCT 03 2008
Liberal Studies

Part II. Description of Curricular Change

1. Catalog Description for Revised Program

There are no changes being made to the program description paragraph.

Bachelor of Arts—Geography/Environmental Track

Liberal Studies: As outlined in Liberal Studies section

with the following specifications:

53-56

Mathematics: MATH 217 or 6 credits of MATH courses

Natural Science: BIOL 103-104 or GEOS 101/102 and GEOS 103/104 recommended

Liberal Studies Electives: 9cr, BTED/COSC/IFMG 101 recommended; no courses with GEOG prefix

College:

Foreign Language Intermediate Level (1)

0-6

Major:

42

Required Courses:

GEOG 213 Cartography I 3cr

GEOG 230 Cultural Geography 3cr

GEOG 231 Economic Geography 3cr

GEOG 341 Climatology 3cr

GEOG 342 Physiography 3cr

RGPL 350 Introduction to Planning 3cr

GEOG 411 History of Geography 3cr

GEOG 412 Research Seminar 3cr

Controlled Elective:

One course from GEOG 251-257 3cr

Track Courses: Five Courses from the following:

GEOG 314 Map and Photograph Interpretation 3cr

GEOG 316 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems 3cr

GEOG 335 Geography of Energy 3cr

GEOG 343 Geography of Fresh Water Resources 3cr

GEOG 345 Biogeography for Environmental Managers 3cr

GEOG 415 Remote Sensing 3cr

GEOG 425 GPS Concepts and Techniques 3cr

GEOG 440 Conservation: Environmental Analysis 3cr

Free Electives:

16-25

BIOL 210 Botany (recommended) 3cr

BIOL 362 Ecology (recommended) 3cr

GEOG 493 Internship (strongly recommended) 3cr

GEOS 201 Foundations of Geology (recommended) 3cr

GEOS 202 Quantitative Methods in the Geosciences (recommended) 2cr

RGPL 458 Land Use Law (recommended) 3cr

RGPL 464 Land Use Policy (recommended) 3cr

Total Degree Requirements:

120

(1) Intermediate-level Foreign Language may be included in Liberal Studies electives.

2. Summary of changes:

a. Table Comparing old and new programs.

Current Program: Bachelor of Arts—Geography/ Environmental		Proposed Program: Bachelor of Arts—Geography/ Environmental	
Liberal Studies: As outlined in Liberal Studies section with the following specifications: Mathematics: MATH 121 or 217 Liberal Studies Electives: 9cr, BTED/COSC/IFMG 101 recommended; no courses with GEOG prefix	53	Liberal Studies: As outlined in Liberal Studies with the following specifications: Mathematics: MATH 217 or 6cr of MATH courses Natural Science: BIOL 103-104 or GEOS 101-102 and GEOS 103-104 recommended Liberal Studies Electives: 9cr, BTED/COSC/IFMG 101 recommended; no courses with GEOG prefix	53-56
College: Foreign Language Intermediate Level (1)	0-6	College: Foreign Language Intermediate Level (1)	0-6
Major: Required Courses: GEOG 213 Cartography I GEOG 230 Cultural Geography GEOG 231 Economic Geography GEOG 411 History of Geography GEOG 412 Research Seminar Controlled Electives: One course from GEOG 251-257 One course from GEOG 341-342 Track Courses: Five courses from the following: GEOG 314 Map and Photograph Interpretation GEOG 316 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems GEOG 335 Geography of Energy GEOG 341 Climatology GEOG 342 Physiography GEOG 343 Geography of Fresh Water Resources GEOG 345 Biogeography for Environmental Managers GEOG 415 Remote Sensing GEOG 440 Conservation: Environmental Analysis	36	Major: Required Courses: GEOG 213 Cartography I GEOG 230 Cultural Geography GEOG 231 Economic Geography GEOG 341 Climatology GEOG 342 Physiography GEOG 411 History of Geography GEOG 412 Research Seminar RGPL 350 Introduction to Planning Controlled Elective: One course from GEOG 251-257 Track Courses: Five courses from the following: GEOG 314 Map and Photograph Interpretation GEOG 316 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems GEOG 335 Geography of Energy GEOG 343 Geography of Fresh Water Resources GEOG 345 Biogeography for Environmental Managers GEOG 415 Remote Sensing GEOG 425 GPS Concepts and Techniques GEOG 440 Conservation: Environmental Analysis	42
Free Electives:	25-31	Free Electives: BIOL 210 Botany (recommended) BIOL 362 Ecology (recommended) GEOG 493 Internship (strongly recommended) GEOS 201 Foundations of Geology (recommended) GEOS 202 Quantitative Methods in the Geosciences (recommended) RGPL 458 Land Use Law (recommended) RGPL 464 Land Use Policy (recommended)	16-25
Total Degree Requirements:	120	Total Degree Requirements:	120
(1) Intermediate-level Foreign Language may be included in Liberal Studies electives.		(1) Intermediate-level Foreign Language may be included in Liberal Studies electives.	

b. List of all associated changes:

1. Moving GEOG 341 Climatology and 342 Physiography from Controlled Electives where students took one or the other to the required courses list where students take both.
2. Addition of RGPL 350 Introduction to Planning as a required course.
3. Addition of GEOG 493 Internship as a strongly recommended Free Elective option.
4. Addition of RGPL 458 Land Use Law and RGPL 454 Land Use Policy as recommended electives under Free Electives
5. Addition of GEOG 425 GPS Concepts and Techniques as a track course for the Environmental track.

6. Addition of BIOL 210 Botany, BIOL 362 Ecology, GEOS 201 Foundations of Geology and GEOS 202 Quantitative Methods in the Geosciences as recommended electives under Free Electives.
7. Changing of the Math requirement from MATH 121 Calculus or MATH 217 Probability and Statistics required to MATH 217 Probability and Statistics or 6 credits of MATH required
8. Addition of BIOL 103 and BIOL 104 (General Biology I and II); or GEOS 101/102 (Dynamic Earth with lab) and GEOS 103/104 (Oceans and Atmospheres with lab) recommended for the Liberal Studies Natural Science requirement

3. Rationale for Changes

1. With respect to change number 1, the faculty determined during a recent retreat that it is beneficial and necessary that geography students be exposed to both curriculum regarding weather and climate patterns (Climatology) and landforms (Physiography). Presently, geography majors are only required to take one of these courses.
2. With respect to changes number 2 and 4, the Department as a result of feedback from an external consultant (Paul Rollinson of Missouri State University) determined that there should be more “cross pollination” between the Department’s Geography and Regional Planning majors, in particular more planning courses as requirements and recommended electives for geography majors. Dr. Rollinson suggested that exposure to planning courses by geography majors would be beneficial, as many geography students will go on to careers in the field of planning or at the very least where knowledge of planning regimes will be useful. In addition, our senior exit surveys have revealed that many students wish they had been exposed to the field of planning sooner in their academic careers, as they found it interesting but as juniors or seniors felt it was too late to change their program emphasis. A review of geography curriculum at universities where departments offer both the geography and planning majors (such as Appalachian State University, California State University – Chico, University of Toronto and Wayne State University) indicates that it is common for planning courses to be part of the geography major core and recommended course requirements.
3. With respect to change number 3, our regional planning major has internship listed as a requirement, therefore to achieve some uniformity and emphasize the importance of the internship experience we would like to add it to the catalog program description for geography.
4. With respect to change number 5, the Department developed GEOG 425 GPS Concepts and Techniques as new course in the geospatial curriculum, and would like to add it to the Environmental Track since global positioning systems (GPS) is an important technology in the environmental job market for collecting data regarding natural phenomena.
5. With respect to change number 6, for students who declare the environmental geography major early enough in their academic careers, it could be advantageous to take the specified Biology (Botany and Ecology) and Geoscience (Environmental Geology and Hydrology) courses as electives. These courses, in addition to the Department’s environmental offerings, would provide a student with a particularly strong environmental science background upon graduation.
6. With respect to change number 7, the Department has determined that the previous requirement was confusing for students, and that MATH 217 Probability and Statistics is the math course that provides the most benefit for geography majors. By making the course the preferred requirement, we hope to advise a vast majority of students into MATH 217 while allowing for flexibility for the small number of students who cannot pass the course and will need to pass six credits of math courses.
7. With respect to change number 8, the specified recommended courses for Natural Science (BIOL 103 /104; and GEOS 101/102 and GEOS 103/104) are prerequisites for the recommended electives described in number 5 (BIOL 210, BIOL 362 and GEOS 201, GEOS 202) above. If students take either sequence of courses to meet their laboratory science requirement, they should be able to take the recommended electives without any further prerequisites in Biology. In Geosciences GEOS 201 and 202 are two of the foundational courses that are prerequisites for most other Geoscience courses.

Part III. Implementation

- 1. Students already in the program or entering this year will be given the option of finishing under the present requirements and with the present tracks. All new students new to the program in 2009-10 will be expected to follow the new curriculum.**
- 2. Faculty resources are adequate, no new courses are being added to the program.**
- 3. No new physical resources will be required.**
- 4. There should be a small increase in the number of students enrolling in GEOG 341 Climatology and GEOG 342 Physiography, but not enough to necessitate additional sections, as many of our students presently take both of these courses of their own accord. We expect that the number of students who will need to take RGPL 350 Introduction to Planning will increase, as all geography majors will be required to take the class. We also believe that there may be an increase in the number of students who will become double majors in geography and regional planning, with the exposure of geography students to the field of planning. Even if both of these come to fruition, adding one additional section of RGPL 350 per academic year with a maximum enrollment of 30 should meet student demand. To offer this additional section, a departmental faculty member will teach one less 100-level geography course per academic year. The addition of BIOL 210, BIOL 362, GEOS 201, GEOS 202, RGPL 458 and RGPL 464 as recommended electives is not expected to cause a need for additional sections of those courses, or any prerequisite courses.**

III. Periodic Assessment

- 1. There is no accrediting body for Geography so the only evaluation is the university's five year review, which will include student outcomes of the program. The proposed changes come partly as a result of student feedback from exit surveys that the Department implemented after its last Five Year review. In terms of assessing impacts of the proposed curriculum revision, in the short term we would expect to see our students perform significantly better on an exit exam that the Department plans on administering in GEOG 412 Research Seminar, as well as higher quality research papers and portfolio products in this capstone course.**
- 2. Every five years or whenever the next IUP five year review is called for.**
- 3. Department and outside reviewer, if recommended**