

LSC Use Only No:	LSC Action-Date:	UWUCC USE Only No.	UWUCC Action-Date:	Senate Action Date:
		08-31e	AP-11/11/08	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) ☐ New Course ☐ Course Prefix Change ☐ Course Deletion ☐ Course Revision ☐ Course Number and/or Title Change ☐ Catalog Description Change	
<u>Current</u> Course prefix, number and full title	<u>Proposed</u> course prefix, number and full title, if changing
2. Additional Course Designations: check if appropriate ☐ This course is also proposed as a Liberal Studies Course. ☐ Other: (e.g., Women's Studies, Pan-African) ☐ This course is also proposed as an Honors College Course.	
3. Program Proposals ☐ New Degree Program ☐ Program Title Change ☒ Program Revision ☐ New Minor Program ☐ New Track ☐ Other	
Bachelor of Arts – Geography/ General Geography Track <u>Current</u> program name	<u>Proposed</u> program name, if changing
4. Approvals	
Department Curriculum Committee Chair(s)	Gail S Sechrest 9/15/08
Department Chair(s)	John Benhart Jr. 9/15/08
College Curriculum Committee Chair	Jim Ryan 10/1/08
College Dean	Ann 10/27/08
Director of Liberal Studies *	Thye Sader 10/10/08
Director of Honors College *	
Provost *	Gerald Ingham 10/20/08
Additional signatures as appropriate: (include title)	
UWUCC Co-Chairs	Gail S Sechrest 11/11/08

* where applicable

Received
NOV 03 2008
Liberal Studies

Received
OCT 24 2008
Liberal Studies

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OCT 03 2008

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/General Geography Track

Liberal Studies: As outlined in Liberal Studies section 53-56
with the following specifications:

Mathematics: MATH 217 or 6 credits of MATH courses

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

College: 0-6
Foreign Language Intermediate Level (1)

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
GEOG 411	History of Geography	3cr
GEOG 412	Research Seminar	3cr
RGPL 350	Introduction to Planning	3cr

Controlled Elective:

One course from GEOG 251-257 3cr

Five courses (15cr) from any GEOG courses
(only one GEOG 100-level course permitted) 15cr

Free Electives: 16-25

GEOG 493 Internship (strongly 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/
General Geography Track**

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

College:
Foreign Language Intermediate Level (1)

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
Five courses (15cr) from any GEOG courses
(only one GEOG 100-level course permitted)

Free Electives:

Total Degree Requirements:

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

Proposed Program:
**Bachelor of Arts—Geography/
General Geography Track**

53 Liberal Studies: As outlined in Liberal Studies with the following specifications: **53-56**
Mathematics: MATH 217 or 6cr of MATH courses
Liberal Studies Electives: : 9cr, BTED/COSC/IFMG 101 recommended; no courses with GEOG prefix

0-6 College:
Foreign Language Intermediate Level (1) **0-6**

Major:

Required Courses:

36	GEOG 213	Cartography I	42
3cr	GEOG 230	Cultural Geography	3cr
3cr	GEOG 231	Economic Geography	3cr
3cr	GEOG 341	Climatology	3cr
3cr	GEOG 342	Physiography	3cr
3cr	GEOG 411	History of Geography	3cr
	GEOG 412	Research Seminar	3cr
3cr	RGPL 350	Introduction to Planning	3cr

Controlled Electives:

15cr	One course from GEOG 251-257	3cr
25-31	Five courses (15cr) from any GEOG courses (only one GEOG 100-level course permitted)	15cr

Free Electives:

120	GEOG 493	Internship (strongly recommended)	16-25
			3cr

Total Degree Requirements:

(1) Intermediate-level Foreign Language may be included in Liberal Studies electives. **120**

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. 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

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 change number 2, 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 4, 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.

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.

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 actually 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