

BA--Geography/Human Geography Track-NewPrg-2018-02-18

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Form Information

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First Step: ONLY change the text in the [brackets] so it looks like this: **CRIM 101 Intro to Criminology-CrsRvs-2015-08-10**

- If DUAL LISTED list BOTH courses in the page title*

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**Indicates a required field*

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Proposing Department/Unit*	Geography and Regional Planning	Contact Phone*	724-357-7508

Program Level:*	undergraduate-level
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Rationale for Program Creation	
(A) Why is the program being proposed?*	<p>The department is reducing the number of tracks for the BA in Geography from five to three. The enrollment in the Energy Concentration has fallen as have the enrollments in the General Geography and Economic Geographer Concentrations. The Economic and General Geography Concentrations are being combined into a Human Geography Track. Human Geography and Physical Geography are the two main branches of the discipline. If students wish to create an economic geography emphasis, this could still be accomplished in the new broader Human Geography Track.</p> <p>Additionally the department has decided to shift GEOG 316 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems into the core for all majors. The relevance of GIS has increased and the improvements in the software have made this important tool more accessible to all of our students. The outcomes for the BA in Geography have been updated and revised to better reflect the new track configuration for the major. The number of credits for foreign language has been shifted to 0-8 because the courses are now four credits each. Two courses GEOG 336 Social Geography and GEOG 337 Historical Geography have become inactive and course revision proposals have been submitted. New titles have been added for GEOG 213, 232 (was 332) and RGPL 350. The name concentrations will be shifted back to tracks because there was no advantage to being labeled a concentration. Lastly the Liberal Studies credits have been reduced because of the new System maximum for Liberal Studies of 48 credits and the program catalog description has been updated to reflect the new tracks.</p>

<p>(B) Identify ALL Program Level Student</p> <p>Learning Outcomes (PLSLO). *</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcomes must be measurable • 4-6 outcomes recommended for degree programs • Tracks, concentrations, certificates must have at least one outcome that is unique from a related degree program • Minors and majors may share outcomes • PLSLOs will be evaluated as part of the program's assessment plan 	<p>Students will be able to:</p>		
	#	Outcome	How outcome measured
	1	Integrate spatial and environmental aspects of human society such as, culture, population, economic activity, politics, and settlement.	Assignments, exam questions, and papers in GEOG 230 Cultural Geography, GEOG 231 Economic Geography, GEOG 341 Climatology, GEOG 342 Physiography, GEOG 411 History of Geography, GEOG 412 Research Seminar, and RGPL 350 Introduction to Community Planning.
	2	Demonstrate applied and conceptual aspects of the major themes and paradigms related to geography and are familiar with important scholars in the discipline.	Assignments, exam questions, quizzes and term paper in GEOG 230 Cultural Geography and GEOG 411 History of Geography.
	3	Explain basic geographic concepts at various regional scales.	Exam Questions, exercises and papers in GEOG 230 Cultural Geography, GEOG 341 Climatology, GEOG 342 Physiography, and GEOG 25X Regional Geography.
4	Apply basic standards of scholarship to geographical problems.	Papers and projects in GEOG 411 History of Geography and GEOG 412 Research Seminar	
<p>(C) Implications of the program on other programs and the Students:*</p>	<p>Students currently enrolled in the Economic Geographer or General Geography Concentrations will be able to complete their program because no courses are being deleted. This should not impact any other departments either because it is just a combination of two current concentrations.</p>		

Proposed Program Information	
<p>(D) P r o p o s e d P r o g r a m T i t l e*</p>	<p>Bachelor of Arts--Geography/Human Geography Track</p>
<p>(E) P r o p o s e d N a r a t i v e</p>	

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The Department of Geography and Regional Planning offers three separate degree programs for the geographer, planner, and teacher: bachelor of arts degree with a major in geography, bachelor of science degree with a major in regional planning, and bachelor of science in education degree with a major in social studies education—geography track.

Specific core requirements in Geography and Regional Planning offer a structured approach for majors. Appropriate **tracks** are available in both programs to prepare students for graduate work and to support different career options for majors. There are **three tracks** for the geography major (**Environment/Energy, Geographic Information Science and Technology, and Human Geography**) and two **tracks** for the regional planning major (**Environmental Planning, Community Planning and Development**).

Department resources, which include the James Payne/Ruth Shirey Geographic Information Science Laboratory, the Robert Begg/Charles Weber Planning Design Laboratory/Studio, and the Dey Whit Watts Planning Studio offer access to spatial analysis and planning design equipment and applications. These well-equipped laboratories and studios house and leverage 50 workstations, large-format plotters, global positioning systems (GPS) units and a base station, small unmanned aerial systems (sUAS) aircraft, a weather station, and hydrologic and atmospheric monitoring devices. Geographic Information Systems (GIS), image processing, geovisualization, planning design, and computer-aided drafting (CAD) software includes the ArcGIS suite, the Adobe Creative Suite, AutoCAD, DroneDeploy UAS, ERDAS Imagine, Google SketchUp, MapInfo, and Trimble GPS PathFinder Office and TerraSync.

A strong internship program directed by **department faculty** offers numerous public, private, and nonprofit placements in industry, engineering, conservation, land management, and planning agencies at the local, state, and federal levels. Because of employment demand for students from department programs, approximately 80 percent of internship placements are paid positions.

Geography

Geography has several traditions of study. **Three of the most significant are the study of relationships between humans and environment (human-environment interaction), the study of places (their characteristics and structure), and the study of spatial organization (the way people use and organize space on earth, and the distribution of natural phenomena on the earth's surface).** All three traditions focus on understanding distributions of human and natural phenomena at global, regional and local scales, by building knowledge regarding the phenomena under investigation (for example cities, watersheds, business/industry location, habitats, cultural patterns, transportation, land use, resource management, the built environment, and energy production and use) and applying relevant methods and technologies (including geographic information systems (GIS), small unmanned aerial systems (sUAS), remote sensing, global positioning systems (GPS) and geovisualization) to analyze them. The Geography program is organized into three tracks to allow students to build knowledge and skills to pursue their interests and gain employment: Environment/Energy, Geospatial Information Science & Technology, and Human Geography.

Geography—Environment/Energy Track

The Environment/Energy Track prepares students for careers in environmental fields, energy industries, or graduate study. Students who elect this track acquire knowledge of the physical and human processes that shape the environment, strategies/techniques for analyzing the environment, regulatory and compliance regimes for energy industries at the federal and state levels, mitigation strategies for environmental problems, and conceptual and technical aspects of geospatial techniques implemented in environmental and energy resource analyses and applications. The knowledge and skills acquired in this track prepare students to analyze, manage, and understand land resources, water resources, energy resources and habitats using industry-standard methods and technology. Students mastering the environmental knowledge and spatial techniques in this track will be well prepared to obtain employment as environmental analysts/scientists, energy industry spatial analysts/environmental compliance specialists, environmental managers, or environmental engineering specialists.

Geography—Geospatial Information Science and Technology Track

The Geospatial Information Science and Technology Track provides preparation for employment as geographic information systems (GIS) analysts and specialists, remote sensing specialists, geospatial techniques specialists (including GPS and sUAS), cartographers, and geospatial intelligence analysts. Students are exposed to core geospatial information science concepts (GISc) that underlie emerging and fast-changing geospatial hardware, software, and infrastructure in our society such as geographic information systems (GIS), global positioning systems (GPS), remote sensing, small unmanned aerial systems (sUAS or drones), and mobile spatial technologies, as well as opportunities to apply these concepts. The curriculum for this track is referenced to competencies identified in the U.S. Department of Labor *Geospatial Competency Model*, as well as the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS) *Geographic Information Science and Technology Body of Knowledge*. Students completing the Geospatial Information Science and Technology Track will be well prepared to be employed in the rapidly-growing geospatial fields as GIS, remote sensing, and geointelligence professionals.

Geography—Human Geography Track

The Human Geography Track provides a broad framework of ideas and theories regarding the spatial organization of human phenomena (for example cities, business/industry location, cultural patterns, transportation, economic patterns, land use, the built environment) in addition to coursework in industry-standard location analysis techniques. The common thread through the course offerings in this track is the focus on understanding human-created geographic patterns on the earth's surface, and the methods which can be used to document and analyze these patterns. The knowledge base acquired in this track prepares students to understand and analyze urban development, business/industry location, cultural patterns, transportation accessibility, and economic development patterns. Students mastering the human geographic knowledge and analysis techniques in this track will be well prepared to obtain employment as location analysts, economic development professionals, demographic analysts, research analysts, or to gain admission to graduate programs.

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(F) Attach a Word document containing the proposed program requirements.

) Please clearly label the attachment as Program Requirements

Proposed Program Requirements*

File	Modified
Microsoft Word Document BA Human Geography Track (2).docx	Mar 21, 2018 by Gail S. Sechrist

(G) Supporting Documents*

Please attach a document with a summary of all proposals.

File

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Microsoft Word Document BA Human Geography Track (2).docx Mar 21, 2018 by Gail S. Sechrist

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