



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

November 8, 2005

Mark A. Emmert, President

Dean David C. Hodge
College of Arts and Sciences
Box 353765

Dear David:

Based on the recommendation of its Subcommittee on Admissions and Programs, the Faculty Council on Academic Standards has recommended approval of the revised requirements for a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography. A copy of the changes is attached.

I am writing to inform you that the Department of Geography is authorized to specify these requirements beginning autumn quarter 2005.

The new requirements should be incorporated in printed statements and in individual department websites as soon as possible. The *General Catalog* website will be updated accordingly by the Registrar's Office.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark".

Mark A. Emmert
President

Enclosure

cc: Professor James W. Harrington (with enclosure)
Enrollment Services c/o Diane Hanks (with enclosure)
Mr. Robert Corbett (with enclosure)
Dr. Deborah H. Wiegand (with enclosure)
Todd Mildon, J. D. (with enclosure GEOGRA 051805)



GEOGKA-051805

Creating & Changing Undergraduate Academic Programs*

After college/school review (send signed original and 8 copies to: FCAS, Box 351271)

College: Arts and Sciences Department or Unit: Geography
Date: 5-18-05

New Programs

- Leading to a Bachelor of _____ in _____ degree
- Leading to a Bachelor of _____ degree with a major in _____
- Leading to a _____ Option within the existing major in _____
- Leading to a Minor in _____

Changes to existing programs

- New Admission Requirements for the Major in _____ within the Bachelor of _____
- Revised Admission Requirements for the Major in _____ within the Bachelor of _____
- xx Revised Program Requirements for the Major in Geography within the Bachelor of Arts
- Revised Requirements for the Option in _____ within the major in _____
- Revised Requirements for the Minor in _____

Other Changes

- Change name of program from _____ to _____
- New or Revised Continuation Policy for _____
- Eliminate program in _____

Proposed Effective Date: (quarter/year) _____ Autumn, 2005 _____

Contact Person	Phone Number	Email
Richard Roth	3-3246	rroth@u.washington.edu

1. **Explanation of and Rationale for Proposed Change:** (Please use additional pages if necessary).
Geography wishes to

1) **Require both a research methods course (Geog 315, Explanation and Understanding In Geography) and a quantitative analysis course, Geog 326 (Introduction to Geographic Research).** We currently officially require Geog 326, which emphasizes social science statistical analysis methods. However, we are finding that our students are ill-prepared for undergraduate research and thus created Geog 315 as a way to help students understand how to generate a researchable question, how to choose appropriate research methods, how to locate and present appropriate evidence, and how to think about alternative approaches to a social issue or problem or question. The readings for this course are rooted in the actual research of our faculty, who visit the class as well to discuss their work with the students. We have been accepting Geog 315 as a substitute for Geog 326, but feel strongly that our students need a foundational quantitative methodology course as well as a general orientation to the epistemological and methodological aspects of research raised by Geog 315. (See Appendix A for a syllabus for Geog 315).

2) **Eliminate a currently-required entry tutorial for all new majors (Geog 397).** The key components of this course—helping students become familiar with the research of UW Geography faculty and forming

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learning communities around key themes, issues and areas of study—are a part of the newly-required Geog 315, Explanation and Understanding In Geography.

3) **Eliminate the current capstone requirement.** We have been designating specific 400-level courses as capstones, but have found that this limited list has created enrollment bottlenecks due to irregular course scheduling. Instead, we intend to underline the importance of summative senior-year academic experiences by developing learning goals for all of our 400-level courses and benchmarking those learning goals against already-existing departmental learning goals. We feel that this will be a very important step in moving toward meaningful assessment of learning outcomes, especially since we also intend to begin to assess student learning portfolios. (see Appendix B for a fuller explanation of our proposed “learning in the major” assessment plans.) We will continue to require at least three 400-level courses for all majors.

4) **Allow 5 credits of internship (Geog 496) or independent study (Geog 499) to apply toward the required 60 Geog credits.**

** For information about when and how to use this form please go to <http://www.washington.edu/faculty/facsenate/councils/fcas/1503/>.*

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2. Catalog Copy

A. Catalog Copy as Currently Written (Include only sections/paragraphs that would be changed if your request is approved. Please cross out or otherwise highlight any deletions.)

credits as follows:

1. Foundation Courses (credits): (1) Societies, Cities, and Economies -- 10 credits from GEOG 200, GEOG 207, GEOG 208, GEOG 230, GEOG 277, or GEOG 280. (2) Environment and Society -- 10 credits, to include GEOG 205, plus one of the following: GEOG 270, GEOG 370, GEOG 371, GEOG 372, or GEOG 380. (3) and one of the following: GEOG 367, GEOG 425, GEOG 426, GEOG 445, GEOG 460, GEOG 461, or GEOG 471.
2. (15 credits): Three upper-division GEOG courses, including two 400-level courses.
3. Electives (5 credits): 5 credits of GEOG courses at the 200-level or above. Upper-division electives are preferred.
4. Additional Degree Requirements: (1) Transfer students must complete a minimum of 25 upper-division credits in Geography in residence at the University of Washington. (2) Students must attain a minimum grade of 2.0 for all GEOG courses to be applied toward the degree. Students must attain a minimum GPA in Geography courses of 2.50.

- Deleted:** 59-61
- Deleted:** 36
- Deleted:** to be taken in the first year of the major
- Deleted:** Geographic Methods -- 15 credits to include GEOG 326 and GEOG 360, both of which must be taken within two quarters of entrance to the major.
- Deleted:** (4) Tutorial for Majors -- GEOG 397 (1 credit) to be taken within two quarters of entrance to the major
- Deleted:** Option
- Deleted:** Options are the areas of primary expertise that majors develop in the course of their studies. Students' options are a collection of courses that together provide specialization in a subfield of geography, combining systematic and analytical knowledge and skills (see advising for a list of these options).
- Deleted:** <#>Capstone Experience (3-5 credits): One of the following: Senior essay, senior seminars, honors seminars, workshop courses, or other approved arrangements. ¶
- Formatted:** Bullets and Numbering
- Deleted:** (3) Students are encouraged to take appropriate elective courses outside the Geography department in fields which support their selected option. Courses are available on lists supplied by the Geography advisers or may be recommended by the faculty adviser

B. Proposed Catalog Copy, Reflecting Requested Changes (Include exact wording as you wish it to be shown in the printed catalog. Please underline or otherwise highlight any additions. If needed, attach a separate, expanded version of the changes that might appear in department publications.)

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Proposed Geography Major Requirements (proposed changes underlined) (60 credits)

Foundations: (40 credits)

A. Societies, Cities and Economies: 10 credits (eligible courses include 100, 123, 200, 207, 208, 230, 236, 245, 277, 280)

B. Environment & Society-10 credits (Geog 205, **plus** one of the following: 270, 271, 370, 371, 372, 380)

C. Research Methods: 20 credits

1) Geog 315

2) Geog 326

3) Geog 360

3) one additional methods course from the following: 425, 426, 440, 458, 460, 461, 465, 471, 480.

Concentration (15):

Students may choose from among five concentrations (GIS; economic geography; urban/social/political geography; development studies; society and environment), or customize their own hybrid focus along more thematic or issue-driven lines, such as migration studies, globalization, geography and health, sustainability, inequality, race/class/gender studies, etc. See advisers for details. Three upper-division (300-level and 400-level) Geography courses are required for this concentration, at least two of which must be at the 400-level.

Geography Electives: (5)

5 credits of Geog electives at the 200 level and above. 300- and 400-level courses preferred.

ADDITIONAL DEGREE CONDITIONS AND PROGRAM FEATURES

- (a) Transfer students are required to complete a minimum of 25 upper-division (300- and 400-level) credits in Geography in residence at the University of Washington.
- (b) Individual Geography course grades must be 2.0 or above in order to count toward the major requirements; and the overall cumulative GPA in Geography courses counted toward the major must be 2.50 or above.
- (c) 5 credits of internship (Geog 496) or independent study (499) may apply toward the required 60 credits.

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3. Signatures (required)

Chair/Program Director <i>James W. W.</i>	Date <i>20 May 05</i>	Dean <i>Judith A. Howard</i>	Date <i>SEP 23 2005</i>
College Committee <i>Paul [Signature]</i>	Date <i>SEP 23 2005</i>	Faculty Council on Academic Standards <i>[Signature]</i>	Date <i>10-21-05</i>