



# Program Approval Form

For approval of new programs and deletions or modifications to an existing program.

### Action Requested:

- Create New (SCHEV approval required except for minors and certificates)
- Delete Existing
- Modify Existing (check all that apply)
  - Title (SCHEV approval required except for minors, certificates)
  - Concentration** (Choose one):  Add  Delete  Modify
  - Degree Requirements
  - Admission Standards
  - Application Requirements
  - Other Changes: \_\_\_\_\_

### Type (Check one):

- B.A.  B.S.  Minor
- Undergraduate Certificate
- M.A.  M.S.  M.Ed.
- Ph.D.  Graduate Certificate
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**College/School:**  **Department:**   
**Submitted by:**  **Ext:**  **Email:**

**Effective Term:** Fall  **Please note:** For students to be admitted to a new degree, minor, certificate or concentration, the program must be fully approved, entered into Banner, and published in the University Catalog.

**Justification:** (attach separate document if necessary)

	Existing	New/Modified
<b>Program Title:</b> (Required) Title must identify subject matter. Do not include name of college/school/dept.	Geography	
<b>Concentration(s):</b>	None	
<b>Admissions Standards / Application Requirements:</b> (Required only if different from those listed in the University Catalog)	None	
<b>Degree Requirements:</b> Consult University Catalog for models, attach separate document if necessary using track changes for modifications	See Attached	See Attached
<b>Courses offered via distance:</b> (if applicable)		
<b>TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED:</b>	28	37-39

## Approval Signatures

Department \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ College/School \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Provost's Office \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
*Interdisciplinary Council Use Only*

If this program may impact another unit or is in collaboration with another unit at Mason, the originating department must circulate this proposal for review by those units and obtain the necessary signatures prior to submission. Failure to do so will delay action on this proposal.

Unit Name	Unit Approval Name	Unit Approver's Signature	Date

### For Graduate Programs Only

Graduate Council Member \_\_\_\_\_ Provost Office \_\_\_\_\_ Graduate Council Approval Date \_\_\_\_\_

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## Proposed Program Modifications for Geography BA Fall 2013

Overall: This proposal accomplishes two objectives. First, the flexibility implemented in the Geography minor is mirrored in the degree, allowing multiple courses to be used to meet the physical geography requirement, and bringing the upper-division text in line with current practice. Second, a number of important courses are brought into the core of the degree. Two of these courses are already taken by the majority of our students, and are important for the ones who do not take it. Finally, we add an elective course to slightly increase credit requirements and bring the degree in line with the other departmental offerings.

Proposed Modifications:

- 1) **Modify** requirement for GGS 102 (Physical Geography) to allow GGS 102 OR GGS 121 (Dynamic Atmosphere and Hydrosphere) OR GGS 122 (Dynamic Geosphere and Ecosphere)

Rationale: Having established lab-based versions of introductory physical geography, we believe our students should be able to take this sequence rather than mandating the non-lab version currently required.

- *This modification is similar to the change implemented in the Geography minor for the 2013 catalog (122 is added)*

- 2) **Remove** 4-course Systematic / Regional Requirement
- 3) **Add** Requirement for 1 Regional Course
- 4) **Add** Requirement for 1 Systematic Courses
- 5) **Add** requirement for 2 upper-division GGS elective courses

Rationale: This section requires adjustment because it frequently became used for application courses rather than regional and systematic courses. We seek to increase the flexibility of the curriculum while also ensuring that regional and systematic courses remain part of the student's program of study. We also wish to make sure a number of electives are upper division.

- *This set of modifications is identical to the change implemented in the Geography minor for the 2013 catalog*

- 6) **Add** requirement for GGS 110 (Maps and Mapping)

Rationale: This course is intended to be our introductory geographic technology course, and we believe our students should take this as part of their educational progress through our degree.

- 7) **Add** requirement GGS 311 (Intro to GIS)

Rationale: GIS is a crucial technical skill for modern geographers. We believe that all geography students should take this course as part of their curriculum.

- 8) **Add** requirement 1 general GGS elective course

Rationale: The BA needs another course to round it out, as it current stands as a much shorter degree compared to our BS. Additionally, making it a general GGS elective (rather than upper division only) permits the use of GGS 101 (Major World Regions) or the other half of the lab-based physical geography course in the degree.

We define the current set of Systematic and Regional Courses to be the following:

**Systematic**

GGG 301 - Political Geography  
GGG 302 - Global Environmental Hazards  
GGG 303 - Conservation of Resources and Environment  
GGG 304 - Populations Dimensions of Global Change  
GGG 305 - Economic Geography  
GGG 306 - Urban Geography  
GGG 307 - Sustainable Development  
GGG 309 - Meteorology and Climate  
GGG 312 - Physical Climatology  
GGG 314 - Severe and Extreme Weather  
GGG 319 - Air Pollution  
GGG 321 - Biogeography: Space, Time and Life  
GGG 322 - Issues in Global Change

GGG 357 - Structures in Urban Governance and Planning  
GGG 398 - Selected Topics in Global Change  
GGG 406 - Suburban Geography  
GGG 420 - Physiography of North America

**Regional**

GGG 315 - Geography of the United States  
GGG 316 - Geography of Latin America  
GGG 320 - Geography of Europe  
GGG 325 - Geography of North Africa and the Middle East  
GGG 330 - Geography of the Soviet Succession States  
GGG 333 - Issues in Regional Geography  
GGG 380 - Geography of Virginia

**Expected Course Repercussions**

- Slightly increased overall credit load could reduce the number of students taking the BA as a 2<sup>nd</sup> major.
- Requiring GGS 110 should not substantially increase load in this course as many of our students are already taking the GIS minor. Similarly, many of our BA students are already taking GGS 311.
  - These students will have to take additional credits in the 'elective' part of the minor to get their 'unique credit count' rather than using GGS 110 and GGS 311
- This will increase load in our upper-division technical courses, which is generally desirable. It also makes the GIS minor much more technically substantial.
  - Newly expanded elective list for GIS minor will make this much easier

## **Current Geography BA**

*Core: (16 credits)*

GGS 102 (Physical Geography)

GGS 103 (Human Geography)

GGS 300 (Quantitative Methods)

GGS 310 (Intro Cartography)

GGS 415 (Seminar in Geography)

*4-course set (12 credits)*

–Regional Course

–Systematic Course

–2x Regional/Systematic

*2<sup>nd</sup> Major or Minor of choice (18+ credits)*

*Total Credits:*

28 credits as a 2<sup>nd</sup> major

37 credits (maximum overlap with minor)

46 credits with outside minor (no overlap)

## **Geography BA**

*After Proposed Modifications*

*Core: (22-23 credits)*

GGS 102 OR GGS 121 OR GGS 122

GGS 103

GGS 110 (Maps and Mapping)

GGS 300

GGS 310

GGS 311 (Intro GIS)

GGS 415

*Breadth and Experience: (15-16 credits)*

1 x Regional Course (3 credits)

1 x Systematic Course (3 credits)

2 x GGS UD electives (6 credits)

1 x GGS elective (3-4 credits)

*2<sup>nd</sup> Major or Minor of choice (18+ credits)*

*Total Credits:*

37-39 credits as a 2<sup>nd</sup> major

46-48 credits (maximum overlap with minor)

55-57 credits with outside minor (no overlap)