

UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE FORMS

Academic Program Approval

This form is a routing document for the approval of new and revised academic programs. Proposing department should complete this form. For more information, call the Faculty Senate Office at 831-2921.

Submitted by: Tracy DeLiberty **phone number:** 4084
Department: Geography **email address:** tracyd@udel.edu

Action: Revise breadth requirements from 9 credits in each group to 6, along with a reduction in the total # of credits for graduation from 127 to 124 credits.

(Example: add major/minor/concentration, delete major/minor/concentration, revise major/minor/concentration, academic unit name change, request for permanent status, policy change, etc.)

Effective term: 08F
(use format 04F, 05W)

Current degree: BS
(Example: BA, BACH, BACJ, HBA, EDD, MA, MBA, etc.)

Proposed change leads to the degree of:
(Example: BA, BACH, BACJ, HBA, EDD, MA, MBA, etc.)

Proposed name: No name change
Proposed new name for revised or new major / minor / concentration / academic unit
(if applicable)

Revising or Deleting:

Undergraduate major / Concentration: Environmental Science
(Example: Applied Music – Instrumental degree BMAS)

Undergraduate minor: _____
(Example: African Studies, Business Administration, English, Leadership, etc.)

Graduate Program Policy statement change: _____
(**Must attach** your Graduate Program Policy Statement)

Graduate Program of Study: _____
(Example: Animal Science: MS Animal Science: PHD Economics: MA Economics: PHD)

Graduate minor / concentration: _____

Note: all graduate studies proposals must include an electronic copy of the Graduate Program Policy Document, highlighting the changes made to the original policy document.

List new courses required for the new or revised curriculum. How do they support the overall program objectives of the major/minor/concentrations)?

(Be aware that approval of the curriculum is dependent upon these courses successfully passing through the Course Challenge list. If there are no new courses enter “None”)

None

Explain, when appropriate, how this new/ revised curriculum supports the 10 goals of undergraduate education: <http://www.ugs.udel.edu/gened/>

The Environmental Science program proposed curriculum changes support the 10 General Education goals by allowing more flexibility for students to engage in non-traditional courses (e.g., discovery learning experience or service learning courses) and extend beyond the ENSC core requirements. Moreover, the changes also support the University’s attempt for a program to require no more than 124 credit hours for graduation.

Identify other units affected by the proposed changes:

(Attach permission from the affected units. If no other unit is affected, enter “None”)

None

Describe the rationale for the proposed program change(s):

(Explain your reasons for creating, revising, or deleting the curriculum or program.)

The interdisciplinary Environmental Science (ENSC) program is a rather rigid program with limited opportunities for students to engage in non-traditional coursework or specialize beyond the ENSC requirements. The program requires 38-40 core credit hours, 6-8 specialization credits, 6-8 elective credits with an additional 27 credits necessary in the related science and mathematics totaling 77-83 credit hours for the ENSC program which is larger than many other BS programs. In addition, the current requirements of the ENSC program limit the flexibility for students to fulfill a minor outside of the three concentration areas (Atmospheric, Biological, Geological, and Marine Environment), study abroad during the regular fall or spring semester, conduct independent research with a faculty member, and/or specialize in geospatial technologies (geographic information systems, remote sensing, spatial data analysis). Moreover, our students are also having difficulty completing breadth requirements in their first two years with many saving those requirements to complete during a study abroad semester. This rationale of reducing the breadth requirements is in line with the recent College of Arts and Sciences change in the BA requirements reducing the number of courses in each group from 12 credits to 9 credits. Reducing the number of required courses in each group will allow students more flexibility to develop or discover interests and talents outside or complementary to the ENSC program.

In addition to the breadth requirement reduction, the program also requests a reduction in the # of credits necessary for graduation to be reduced from 127 to 124 credit hours. This reduction conforms to the University’s attempt to reduce the total # of credits required for graduation by programs above 124 credits as suggested by the University Studies Committee of the University Faculty Senate.

Program Requirements:

(Show the new or revised curriculum as it should appear in the Course Catalog. If this is a revision, be sure to indicate the changes being made to the current curriculum and **include a side-by-side comparison** of the credit distribution before and after the proposed change.)

CURRENT REQUIREMENT	PROPOSED REVISIONS
BREADTH REQUIREMENTS (See pages 95-100) Group A 9 Understanding and appreciation of the creative arts and humanities. At least two areas must be represented. Group B 9 The study of culture and institutions over time. At least two areas must be represented. Group C 9 Empirically based study of human beings and their environment. At least two areas be represented	BREADTH REQUIREMENTS (See pages 95-100) Group A 6 Understanding and appreciation of the creative arts and humanities. Group B 6 The study of culture and institutions over time. Group C 6 Empirically based study of human beings and their environment.
CREDITS TO TOTAL A MINIMUM OF 127	CREDITS TO TOTAL A MINIMUM OF 124

Please note that we are also requesting to delete the phrase “At least two areas must be represented” for each Group. This will allow students the flexibility to select any two courses within a group and the option to complete a two semester sequence in a topical area of interest.

ROUTING AND AUTHORIZATION: (Please do not remove supporting documentation.)

Department Chairperson _____ Date _____

Dean of College _____ Date _____

Chairperson, College Curriculum Committee _____ Date _____

Chairperson, Senate Com. on UG or GR Studies _____ Date _____

Chairperson, Senate Coordinating Com. _____ Date _____

Secretary, Faculty Senate _____ Date _____

Date of Senate Resolution _____ Date to be Effective _____

Registrar _____ Program Code _____ Date _____

Vice Provost for Academic Affairs & International Programs _____ Date _____

Provost _____ Date _____

Board of Trustee Notification _____ Date _____

Revised 10/23/2007 /khs