



UNC
COLLEGE OF
ARTS & SCIENCES

THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

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November 4, 2013

To: Administrative Board of General College and College of Arts and Sciences
Re: Revisions to Geography Major Requirements

The Department of Geography would like to make changes to the requirement structure for the Geography Major including:

- 1) Adding an additional 3 credit hours of Geography coursework, bringing the total number of credit hours required up to 30. This is in keeping with the college's recommendation for required credit hours (whereas we have previously been at 27, which is below the recommendation) and this allows us to include an additional required course without reducing the number of electives students can take.
- 2) Requiring all majors to take both Geography 391 (Quantitative Methods in Geography) AND Geography 392 (which surveys a range of both qualitative and quantitative methods used by geographers). Currently, students are required to choose just one of these courses. We want to require both courses so that students will gain a broader comprehension of the range of methods, both quantitative and qualitative, that are used by geographers.

Transition Plan: Revision 1 will add to the time required to complete the major. However we find that most of our students take at least 30 hours of Geography anyway, and often have opportunities to use a course taken while on study abroad to satisfy either a required or elective course. So we do not expect the additional 3 hours to be felt as much of a burden by students.

Revision 2: The required courses (391 AND 392) are taught regularly in Spring and Fall semester, respectively. So these are timed so that students can take easily plan for them. Students declaring their major on or after Fall 2014 would be expected to follow these new guidelines. While we would encourage this plan for all majors declared prior to this, we will not require this path if the students entered Carolina prior to Fall 2014.

Please see the accompanying document containing the revised language for the Undergraduate Bulletin. Thank you for taking the time to review and consider these changes to the major.

Sincerely,

Michael Emch
Professor and Chair, Department of Geography

Majoring in Geography: Bachelor of Arts

Core Requirements

- GEOG 110 or 111
- GEOG 120, 121, or 130
- GEOG 370, [391](#), [392](#), and ~~and~~ 420
- ~~GEOG 391 or 392~~
- Four [additional](#) courses ~~from the following course lists~~, at least three of which must be at the 400-level or above. [These may be distributed among, or concentrated within, the following general concentration areas.](#) ∴
 - *Earth Environmental Systems (EES)*: GEOG [406](#), 410, 412, 414, 416, 419, 440, 441, 442, 444, or 597
 - *Geographic Information Sciences (GISci)*: GEOG 477, 491, 541, 577, 591, 592, 594, or 597
 - *Geography of Human Activity (GHA)*: GEOG 225, 228, 232, 237, 423, [424](#), 428, [429](#) ([pending approval](#)), [430](#), 434, 435, 445, 446, 447, 448, 450, 452, 453, 454, [458](#), [460](#), or 542
 - *Regional Courses*: GEOG 259, 260, 261, 262, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 457, 458, or 464

Additional Requirements

All General Education requirements apply. Although the major requires a total of ~~nine-ten~~ geography courses (~~27-30~~ credit hours) to complete, a maximum of 15 geography courses (45 credit hours) can count toward the 120 hours required to graduate. Students wishing more information should consult the director of undergraduate studies.