

To: Members of the Arts and Science Curriculum Committee
From: J. Todd Nesbitt, Assistant Professor of Geography
Re: Geography Minor
Date: October 14, 2004

Please see the attached Geography Minor proposal and supporting materials for consideration by the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee.

To: Members of the University Curriculum Committee

From: Lynette Reitz, Chairperson, Department of Sociology/Anthropology/Social Work/Criminal Justice/Geography

Subject: Geography Minor

Date: October 14, 2004

The department of Sociology/Anthropology/Social Work/Criminal Justice/Geography is submitting the attached Geography Minor and supporting materials for your consideration. We believe that the opportunity for students of various majors, especially elementary and secondary education, to obtain a minor in Geography will enhance their proficiency in teaching Geography, which is now required for students in grades 3, 6, 9, and 12.

Proposed Geography Minor

Purpose:

This minor is open to all students. It is generally aimed at those students looking to adopt a minor that assumes a holistic, interdisciplinary, and global approach to understanding the integration of human and physical systems. The unique aspect of geography is that it is an integrating science, analyzing both human and physical systems from a spatial perspective. This characteristic makes the geography minor suitable for nearly any major.

More specifically, the minor may be of special interest to education majors wanting to identify a minor emphasis in geography. Geography has now been included as one of the five core subject areas for k-12 students as outlined in the **Goals 2000: National Education Act (NEA)**. This Act identifies proficiency standards in geography at grades 3, 6, 9, and 12, and recommends that geography be taught as a separate and independent course (not within social studies as it has traditionally been taught in the U.S.) within every state. The Pennsylvania Department of Education adopted revised Geography standards July 18, 2002 based on the recommendations of the Goals 2000: NEA (see attachment). The net effect of this is that more k-12 teachers will be needed in the future with proficiency in geography.

Resources:

The minor will not require any new resources or expenses. Required and elective courses for the minor are currently offered as part of the geography major.

Geography Minor (18 hours)

Required Courses:

Geography 100 – Physical Geography (3sh)
Geography 260 – World Regional Geography (3sh)
Geography 440 – Economic Geography (3sh)

Elective Courses:

- **Pre-requisites for all electives are Geog. 100 & Geog. 260 / or instructor permission**
- **The co-requisite for Geog. 201 is Geog. 202**

Select any three of the following courses

Geography 110 – General Climatology (3sh)
Geography 180 – Urban Geography (3sh)
Geography 201 – Applications of GIS in Geography (1sh)
Geography 202 – Introduction to GIS (2sh)
Geography 212 – Geography of the Developing World (3sh)
Geography 214 – Geography of the Developed World (3sh)
Geography 220 – Cartography (3sh)
Geography 305 – Conservation of Natural Resources (3sh)
Geography 315 – Political Geography (3sh)
Geography 328 – Social Science Seminar (3sh)
Geography 445 – Geography of Latin America (3sh)
Geography 499 – Independent Study (3sh)

***Geography Minor (18 hours)**

* All Secondary Education Citizenship/Social studies Majors are required to take six credits of geography – Geography 260 and an elective. Elementary Education majors are required to take Geography 260.

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Geography 260 – World Regional Geography (3sh)
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