PROGRAM PROPOSAL

FACULTY: Liberal Arts & Sciences  X ; Fine and Performing Arts _______; Education _______; Engineering & Business _______; Honors Program _______

DEPARTMENT: Geography

PROGRAM NAME: Environmental Concentration

TYPE OF PROPOSAL (check one):  X New Program  X Revision of Existing Program - Add a new concentration

Please check here to indicate that you have consulted with Library Collections Developer  X  
(Consultation can be done by phone, fax, and/or E-mail. This sheet is checked by proposer, not librarian.)

Recommended by Department Chair:  [Signature]  Date 11/11/13

Reviewed and Approved by Faculty Review Committee (if necessary):

Chair of Committee:  [Signature]  Date 2/11/14

Recommended by Dean:  [Signature]  Date 3/3/14

Undergraduate Programs:
Reviewed and Approved by College Curriculum Committee:

Chair, College Curriculum Committee:  [Signature]  Date 4/2/14

Graduate Programs:
Reviewed and Approved by Graduate Council:

Dean of the Graduate College:  [Signature]  Date

APPROVED BY ACADEMIC SENATE AND THE FACULTY

Presiding Officer of the Faculty  Date

APPROVED BY VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: (ALL PROGRAMS)

Vice President  Date

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

FEB 27 2013

LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

[Signature]  [Title]

[Signature]  [Title]
SUNY – NEW PALTZ
OUTLINE FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSALS FOR NEW OR REVISED PROGRAMS

(submit one original plus original cover sheet to your dean's office; 12 photocopies are also required for curriculum committee review)

Part I: Summary Information for College Records

1. Name of department - GEOGRAPHY
2. Date of submission to Dean's Office – 11/6/13
3. Name of chair (typed and signed) – John I. Sharp
4. Name of program – BA in Geography – Environmental Concentration (new)
5. Proposal type – New Program Revision
6. Are present library holdings, audio-visual equipment, and laboratory facilities adequate? Yes

Part II: In-Depth Narrative Justifying Recommendation by Department

1. Narrative Justifying New Program
   Geography is a diverse and integrative discipline that is unique in linking the study of physical and social sciences. Geographers study how places have distinctive characteristics, reveal regional differentiation and demonstrate the relationships that have evolved over time between people and their environment in different cultures.

   In the last decade, Geography has been increasingly recognized as the primary field where technological tools such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS) can be taught. This is because Geography, as both an integrative and inherently spatial discipline, is ideal in teaching the essential spatial, critical thinking and problem solving skills that new technological solutions to solving complex 21st century locational problems demand.

   Environmental issues have also become a growing concern, as the impacts of climate change are now scientifically and publically accepted. The SUNY New Paltz Geography Department is responding to the growing need for Geography BA graduates to have both strong technological skills and a robust scientific background. The Geography faculty have reviewed other Geography and related programs in the SUNY system and noted the environmental concentrations or options are available in various SUNY campuses, and we have decided to offer an environmental concentration that parallels those.

   Most geography programs in the SUNY system already have multiple concentrations, and several have an environmental emphasis. For instance, Buffalo State has several concentrations including Watersheds and Ecosystems; Binghamton has a number of tracks including Environment and Natural Resources, and Geneseo has an Environmental Studies minor in addition to its liberal arts major in geography.

   Curriculum in the Department of Geography at SUNY-New Paltz has a strong environmental component. All of the courses below directly address environmental issues. We expect to add new elective courses to this major in water analysis and policy that our newest faculty member will be teaching in future semesters.
In addition, we offer courses such as GEO526 – Urban Planning, which is open to seniors, and GEO383 and GEO483, Geographic Information Science, all courses that deal with environmental data, solving problems and understanding environmental regulations. Finally, we have a successful internship program through which New Paltz Geography majors for more than 30 years have done work related to the environment for the DEC, Nature Conservancy, Mohonk Preserve, Dutchess County Planning and Orange County Planning, and many more. These students have gone on to work in numerous planning and environmental agencies across the U.S.

Geography is inherently interdisciplinary, so geography majors are exposed to a multitude of approaches to studying the environment from measuring relative humidity, to the social relations of soil degradation, to the analysis of aerial photography to the mechanisms, economics and environmental impacts of hydraulic fracturing. Moreover, this integration of socioeconomic fundamentals and technical training is the embodiment of President Christian’s mission and metaphorical call to “no longer place liberal education and practical or professional education in separate silos.”

2. Relations of this Program to Department’s Overall Goals, and Other Programs.

The environmental concentration in geography complements existing New Paltz offerings in the environment. The Environmental Geochemical Science major administered by the Department of Geology is focused on the physical science of the environment. The Environmental Studies minor is a broad introduction to environmental issues with an emphasis on social sciences. Our environmental concentration is for students who want to bridge the gap between the physical and the social sciences, a critical combination which few environmental program provide.

This new environmental concentration addresses a need, voiced by our students to strengthen the Geography major with rigorous environmental and scientific credentials.

3. Describe the department’s plans for evaluating the success of this program in the future. SEI’s alone do not constitute an evaluation plan.

Exit interviews with graduating seniors to judge their experience as Geography majors with an environmental concentration as well as their future plans upon graduation.

Evaluations of our interns by their supervisors. These will reflect the training and competence of our senior students.
**Major in Geography - 41-44 credits**

**Required Courses** ........................................ 16 credits
GEO252 Economic Geography (3)
GEO273 Physical Geography (3)
GEO274 Environment and Culture (3)
GEO381 Cartography (4)
GEO383 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (3)

**Required Cognate Courses** ............................. 7-8 credits
MAT185 Statistics & Public Policy (3) OR
MAT241 Introduction to Statistics (3) OR
PSY275 Psychological Statistics (4)

**Electives** ........................................ 18-20 credits
Each major candidate is required to complete 6 elective courses in geography, at least 4 of which must be systematic courses.

**Systematic courses:**
GEO272 People-Environment Relations I (3)
GEO285 Geography of Hazards (3)
GEO310 Gender and Environment (3)
GEO330 Geography of Soils (3)
GEO382 Remote Sensing (4)
GEO405 Political Geography (3)
GEO406 Natural Resources: Utilization and Management (3)
GEO480 Internship in Geography (*)
GEO481 Internship Seminar (1)*
GEO483 Geographic Information Systems Applications (3)

* The internship and co-requisite seminar may only be taken with the chair’s permission and after the major has been completed or nearly so. Students may take GEO480, Internship in Geography, for 3, 6 or 9 credits.

**Regional courses:**
GEO207 Current Issues in Latin American Geography (3)
GEO240 World Geography (3)
GEO301 Geography of the United States and Canada (3)
GEO307 Understanding Latin America (3)

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**Geography (Emphasis in Planning) - 53-61 credits**

**Required Courses** ........................................ 16 credits
GEO252 Economic Geography (3)
GEO273 Physical Geography (3)
GEO274 Environment and Culture (3)
GEO381 Cartography (4)
GEO383 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (3)

**Cognate Courses** ......................................... 21-25 credits
Students in this emphasis must also take:
MAT241 Introductory Statistics (3)

And three of the following cognate courses (9-12 credits):
BIO340 Ecology (4)
ECO206 Microeconomics (3)
GLG201 Physical Geology (3) and GLG211 Physical Geology Lab (1)
GLG346 Conservation & Environmental Impact (3)
CPS210 Computer Science I: Foundations (4)
PHI201 Logic (3)

And three of the following additional cognate courses (9-10 credits):
ECO304 Public Finance (4)
HIS303 The Empire State (3)
POL301 State Politics (3)
POL310 Public Management (3)
POL305 American Legislative Processes (3)
POL316 American Public Policies (3)
SOC345 Urban Sociology (3)

**Electives** ........................................ 16-20 credits
Six courses selected with advisement from the list of Systematic and Regional courses in geography.

In addition, although not required, students in the planning emphasis are encouraged to devote a semester to the Internship in Geography (GEO480) and the co-requisite Internship Seminar (GEO481), both of which may be taken after the major has been completed or nearly so.
SUNY NEW PALTZ  
Curriculum: Liberal Arts

GEOGRAPHY: Environmental Concentration (XXX)  
(45-47 CREDITS)

REQUIRED COURSES  
(16)

GEO252 Economic Geography 3  
GEO273 Physical Geography 3  
GEO274 Environment & Culture 3  
GEO383 Introduction to GIS 3  
GEO381 Cartography 4

ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS  
(9)

GEO272 People and Environment Relations I 3  
GEO330 Geography of Soils 3  
GEO406 Natural Resources Management 3

ELECTIVES (any 3 systematic geog courses)  
(9-11)

GEO285 Geography of Hazards 3  
GEO310 Gender and Environment 3  
GEO340 Geography, Health & Environment 3  
GEO382 Remote Sensing 4  
GEO480/481 Internship in Geography/Seminar 4*

* Variable credits, but only 4 credits may count toward electives

REQUIRED COGNATE COURSES  
(11)

EVERYONE MUST TAKE:
MAT185 Stats and Public Policy OR  
MAT241 Introduction to Statistics 3

AND

ANY TWO OF THE FOLLOWING LAB CLASSES:
GLG220/221 Physical Geology and lab  (# to change to GLG201/211)  
GLG303 Geomorphology (take GLG220 first)  
BIO201/211 General Biology I and lab  
BIO202/212 General Biology II and lab (take BIO201 first)  8