

UNIVERSITY SENATE

**UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

Introduced by: UAC

Date: March 5, 2012

**REQUEST TO END ADMISSION TO THE GEOLOGY CONCENTRATION OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE B.S. AND THE GEOLOGY MINOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF
ATMOSPHERIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**

IT IS HEREBY PROPOSED THAT THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED:

1. That this takes effect for the spring 2012 semester.
2. That this proposal be forwarded to President George M. Philip for approval.

College of Arts and Sciences

Course and Program Action Form

Proposal No. 11-073A

Please check one: Course Proposal Program Proposal

Please mark all that apply:

New Course

Cross-Listing

Shared-Resources Course

Deactivate/Activate Course (boldface & underline as appropriate)

Revision of: Number

Title

Credits

Other (specify):

Description

Prerequisites

Ending admission into the Geology concentration of the Env. Sci. BS

Department: Atmospheric and Environ. Sci.

Effective Semester, Year: Spring, 2012

Course Number Current: _____ New: _____ Credits: _____

Course Title: _____

Course Description to appear in Bulletin:

Prerequisites statement to be appended to description in Bulletin:

If S/U is to be designated as the only grading system in the course, check here:

This course is (will be) cross listed with (i.e., CAS ###): _____

This course is (will be) a shared-resources course with (i.e., CAS ###): _____

Explanation of proposal:

Please see page three with regard to ending admission into the Geology concentration of the Env. Sci. BS.

Other departments or schools which offer similar or related courses and which have certified that this proposal does not overlap their offering:

Chair of Proposing Department _____ Date _____

Chris Thorncroft  9-23-11

Approved by Chair(s) of Departments having cross-listed course(s) [Copy of e-mail approval on following page.] _____ Date _____ Dean of College _____ Date _____

Gregory Stevens/Edelgard Wulfert _____ 11/22/11

Chair of Academic Programs Committee _____ Date _____ Dean of Undergraduate or Graduate Studies _____ Date _____

Pinka Chatterji _____ 11/10/11

College of Arts and Sciences

Course and Program Action Form

Proposal No. 11-073B

Please check one: Course Proposal Program Proposal

Please mark all that apply:

New Course

Cross-Listing

Shared-Resources Course

Deactivate/Activate Course (boldface & underline as appropriate)

Revision of: Number

Title

Credits

Other (specify):

Description

Prerequisites

Ending admission into the Geology Minor

Department: Atmospheric and Environ. Sci.

Effective Semester, Year: Spring, 2012

Course Number Current: _____ New: _____ Credits: _____

Course Title: _____

Course Description to appear in Bulletin:

Prerequisites statement to be appended to description in Bulletin:

If S/U is to be designated as the only grading system in the course, check here:

This course is (will be) cross listed with (i.e., CAS ###): _____

This course is (will be) a shared-resources course with (i.e., CAS ###): _____

Explanation of proposal:
Please see page three, with regard to ending admission into the Geology Minor.

Other departments or schools which offer similar or related courses and which have certified that this proposal does not overlap their offering:

Chair of Proposing Department _____ Date _____

Chris Thorncroft  _____ Date 9-23-11

Approved by Chair(s) of Departments having cross-listed course(s) [Copy of e-mail approval on following page.] _____ Date _____

Dean of College _____ Date _____
 Gregory Stevens/Edelgard Wulfert

Chair of Academic Programs Committee _____ Date _____
 Pinka Chatterji _____ Date 11/22/11

Dean of Undergraduate or Graduate Studies _____ Date _____
 _____ Date 11/10/11

Request to End Admission to the Geology Concentration of the Environmental Science B.S. and the Geology Minor in the Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences

Background. The Environmental Science B.S. in the Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences (DAES) has, from its inception, offered **four** different concentrations within the major. Currently, these are: Climate, Geography, Biology and **Geology**. This degree is flourishing overall, but a rash of recent personnel changes now make the Geology concentration impossible to continue to prosecute. In essence, we will have **no** faculty members with formal Geology expertise as of the fall 2012 semester. Given recent history, this may not be surprising, as we terminated the graduate program in Geological Sciences, followed by the same for the undergraduate program, in just the past few years. Indeed, just within this last year, we have had Professor William Kidd retire, Professor Brad Linsley has left for another position, and Distinguished Teaching Professor John Delano has announced his retirement at the end of the current academic year. We do not believe that the courses previously taught by this cohort of faculty members can be adequately taught by part-time instructors. We also see no scenario in which any new hires would occur for one or more faculty members in the area of Geological Sciences. Hence, the department has decided that it is best to end admission to the Geology concentration, preferably by January of 2012, and to continue the degree with just the three remaining concentrations. Yes, there will be other curriculum revisions involved, but as we are now in the process of formulating these, it will be a while before we submit these to governance. However, the need to end admission to the Geology concentration is **urgent**, so we are entering this request now in the hope that, again, it will be put into effect by the coming spring semester.

Geology Concentration. There are presently 21 students in this concentration, eight of which should be finishing up within this current academic year. So, we need to process out about a dozen. However, it is somewhat surprising how many potential new students for the ENV BS major, both transfer and native, express preference for the Geology concentration. There are some who simply will not be dissuaded from selecting this concentration, regardless of the reality of our ability to deliver the content. And, of course, as long as it does exist formally, we cannot prevent a student from selecting this concentration, merely prolonging what will be a problematic and unsatisfactory experience. Of course, we'll do everything we can to process out the remaining students via course substitutions and urging them to take geology courses at RPI and St. Rose (or elsewhere) through the Hudson Mohawk Valley Association of Colleges and Universities or the SUNY-wide Cross Registration Program. But there are serious logistical issues in doing this, as well as the "Catch 22" that students who have tried this option (via Hudson-Mohawk) have not been allowed to take courses this way because the equivalent courses still appear on the books here at their home institution! Hence, the simplest and cleanest solution is to end admission to the Geology concentration as soon as possible.

Geology Minor. To do this minor as presently configured, it is necessary to take at least three courses at the 300-level or higher. This will not be a realistic option in the immediate future. Further, there are presently only two students doing the Geology minor. Again, from our perspective, it is best to just end admission to this minor; we will easily be able to handle processing out the two students. For simplicity, we feel it makes sense to end admission starting this January, coincident with the requested action for the Geology concentration of the Environmental Science major (see above).