

**Information on the requirements for the Geography Major
in the Department of Geography and Environmental Science
October 21, 2021**

The Geography major advisor is Prof. Frei (geogmajor@hunter.cuny.edu).

Overview

During the academic year 2020-2021 a new set of requirements for Geography Majors went into effect. Thus, there are two groups of students with geography majors.

- *Students who had declared their majors prior to the 2020-2021 academic year* will by default remain under the old requirements, but have the option to switch to the current requirements.
- *Students who declared their majors during the 2020-2021 academic year, or more recently*, will by default be placed under the new requirements must fulfill the current requirements.

Students who declared a Geography Major prior to the 2020-2021 academic year, and remain under the old requirements, have the option to switch to the current requirements.

What's the difference between the prior and the current requirements? The current requirements give the student more freedom to choose. While the current requirements include a slightly bigger core, the electives allow the student freedom to choose from many courses in our department. Thus the student can develop either a wider array of courses, or a deeper selection of courses, as they see fit. In conjunction with the advisor, the student may choose courses that are of greatest interest to them. In contrast to the old requirements under which the student had to choose a track, or concentration, the new requirements have no tracks.

How can a student determine which is better for them?

- *For a student who has taken relatively few courses in our department*, the new major is likely the best choice, since it provides more freedom to choose (as discussed above).
- *For a student who has taken many courses in our department*, and who has fulfilled many of the old requirements, it may be best to remain under the old requirements.
- *To determine which is major makes sense*, a student can use degreeworks to determine whether the courses they have already taken fulfill more of the old or of the new requirements. This can be done by the student alone or in discussion with the advisor. In degreeworks a student can see how their courses fulfill the requirements of any major in the college. You can see how your courses fulfill both the old and new majors, and decide which is best for you. Here are step by step instructions.
 1. *Open degreeworks.* When you open degreeworks you will see the how your courses fulfill the requirements of your declared major. If your requirements include one of the four tracks (A Urban/Social; B Physical/Environmental; C GIS; D Sustainability) then you are under the old major.
 2. *Click on the "what-if" button* on the upper left side of the screen. You will be brought to a screen where you pick your major and concentration, or minor; and the catalog years associated with each of them.
 3. *Pick a major and Catalog Year.*

- a. On the “pick a major” menu go around three quarters down the list and choose “U Geography”
 - b. On the “catalog year” menu choose either “2020-2021” to see the new major, or “2019-2020” to see the old major
4. *Pick a Concentration and Catalog Year.*
 - a. On the “pick a concentration” menu go around half way down the list and choose “Geography” to see the new major, or “Geog-xxx” where “xxx” is the name of one of the four concentrations under the old major.
 - b. On the “catalog year” menu choose either “2020-2021” to see the new major, or “2019-2020” to see the old major
5. *Process the request.* Click on the “Process What-if” button near the top of the page

How to declare or switch majors?

To declare a major you must go to the following URL and fill out the form. After you fill out the form, it is suggested that you inform the advisor by email that you did it, so that the advisor can make sure it was submitted properly, and approve it.

<https://ww2.hunter.cuny.edu/students/academic-planning/majors-minors-and-certificates/declare-a-major-or-minor/>

Course requirements and substitutions

Course requirements for the new major can be seen in three places, each in a different format: on degree works, on the Hunter College Catalog page

(http://catalog.hunter.cuny.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=43&poid=10186&returnto=13492)

or at the bottom of this document. While the three formats differ, the information is the same.

Substitutions for required courses

Occasionally a student and the advisor believe that it is appropriate to substitute a course that is not listed as an option for the major, then the advisor will request the substitution from the registrar. In general, substitution courses are expected to be infrequent, but if a substitution is appropriate it may be a course from either our department or from another department, and is decided on a case-by-case basis by the advisor.

Three courses have been predetermined to be acceptable for substitution Two of these courses – PHILO25500 (Environmental Philosophy) and URBS4031W (Urban Water Supply) – are acceptable for credits towards the major electives. PGEOG250 (Earth System Science 1) is acceptable to fulfill either the Intro Earth Science Lecture, or Intro Earth Science lab, requirement.

Geography Major Requirements Beginning Fall 2020 – Spring 2021 As of November 2020
Total credits required: 52-53 credits

# cr	Requirement Categories	
13	Department of Geography and Environmental Science Core Requirements	Choose one course from each category to fulfill the departmental requirement
3	Intro Geography / Environment	GEOG10100 <i>People and Their Environment</i> GEOG15000 <i>World Regional Geography</i>
4	Intro GIS	GTECH20100 <i>Introduction to Geographic Information Science</i>
3	200 level Population / Environment	GEOG22600 <i>Environmental Conservation: Resource Management</i> GEOG24100 <i>Population Geography</i>
3	Intro Statistics	STAT11300 <i>Elementary Probability and Statistics</i> STAT21300 <i>Introduction to Applied Statistics</i>
21- 22	Geography Major Requirements	Choose one course from each category to fulfill the Geography Major requirement
3 or 4	Intro Earth Science lecture	PGEOG13000 <i>Weather & Climate (lec and lab 4 cr)</i> GEOL10000 <i>Intro to Geology (3 cr)</i> GEOL10500 <i>Intro to Environmental Geosciences (3 cr)</i> GEOL18000 <i>Intro to Oceanography (3 cr)</i>
3 or 4	Intro Earth Science lab	PGEOG13000 <i>Weather & Climate (lec and lab 4 cr)</i> GEOL10100 <i>Intro to Geology (lab 3 cr)</i>
3	Human Geography	GEOG24300 <i>Urban Geography</i> GEOG22100 <i>Economic Geography</i>
3	Geographic Research Methods	GEOG25000 <i>Geographic Research Methods</i>
3	Regional Geography	Any GEOG2xxxx regional geography Any GEOG306xx Special Topics in Contemporary Regional Geography
3	Field Geography	GEOG 35700 <i>Geography of New York City and Vicinity</i> GEOL 38333 <i>Geology of New York City and Vicinity</i> PGEOG 38367 <i>Field Ecology of NYC</i> PGEOG 38306 <i>Ecology of Global Change</i> PGEOG 38363 <i>New York City Water Supply</i>
3	Independent Research	GEOG39xxx <i>Independent study in Geography</i> PGEOG39xxx <i>Independent study in Physical Geography</i>
18	Geography Major Electives	Choose any of these courses to fulfill the Geography Major electives
15	300-level	GEOG3xxxx 300-level Geography course PGEOG3xxxx 300-level Physical Geography course GEOL3xxxx 300-level Geology course
3	200-level	GEOG2xxxx or 3xxxx 200 or 300-level Geography course PGEOG2xxxx or 3xxxx 200 or 300-level Physical Geography course GEOL2xxxx or 3xxxx 200 or 300-level Geology course