

# FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY™

## Graduate Programs—PROGRAM CHANGE REQUEST

UGPC APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
 UFS APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
 CATALOG \_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTMENT: GEOSCIENCE

COLLEGE: SCIENCE

PROGRAM NAME: MA IN GEOGRAPHY, MS IN GEOLOGY

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

(PROVIDE TERM/YEAR)

1/2016

PLEASE EXPLAIN THE REQUESTED CHANGE(S) AND OFFER RATIONALE BELOW AND/OR ATTACHED:

THE GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY PROGRAMS ARE IN THE GEOSCIENCE DEPARTMENT, AND WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF MERGING THE PROGRAMS INTO A GEOSCIENCE PROGRAM, AS MANY OTHER SIMILAR DEPARTMENTS HAVE DONE. THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCE IS MERGING TWO LOW ENROLLMENT GRADUATE DEGREES, THE MA IN GEOGRAPHY AND THE MS IN GEOLOGY INTO A SINGLE DEGREE PROGRAM, MS IN GEOSCIENCES. THIS WILL SATISFY THE BOG ACTION PLAN, BUT THE BOG REQUEST THAT INSTEAD OF WRITING A NEW DEGREE FROM SCRATCH THAT WE CHANGE THE CIP CODE AND WRITE A NEW CATALOG DESCRIPTION. NOTHING IS CHANGED IN TERMS OF DELIVERING THE PROGRAM, ALL EXISTING COURSES WILL CONTINUE TO BE DELIVERED. MANY OF THE STUDENTS IN THE CURRENT DEGREE PROGRAM WILL SWITCH TO THE NEW PROGRAM, WHICH HAS A BROADER MENU OF AVAILABLE COURSES.

FOR THOSE STUDENTS THAT REMAIN IN THE OLD DEGREE PROGRAMS, NOTHING HAS CHANGED IN TERMS OF COURSE DELIVERY, THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO FINISH THE MS IN GEOLOGY AND MA IN GEOGRAPHY ON THE SAME SCHEDULE THAT THEY ARE FOLLOWING AT THIS TIME. CURRENTLY, NO STUDENTS ARE BEING ADMITTED TO THE OLDER PROGRAMS, AND THOSE THAT ARE IN THOSE PROGRAMS WILL BE ABLE TO FINISH BY FALL OF 2017 OR EARLIER.

THE CIP CODE FOR THE MS IN GEOLOGY IS BEING CHANGED TO THE CIP CODE FOR GEOSCIENCE. THE MA IN GEOGRAPHY WILL BE TERMINATED THROUGH A PROGRAM CHANGE REQUEST AS SOON AS THE LAST STUDENT HAS GRADUATED OR SWITCHED TO THE NEW MS IN GEOSCIENCE DEGREE.

Faculty contact, email and complete phone number:

croberts@fau.edu

Consult and list departments that might be affected by the change and attach comments.  
 None are affected, as course delivery has not changed.

Approved by:

Department Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

College Curriculum Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

College Dean: \_\_\_\_\_

UGPC Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduate College Dean: \_\_\_\_\_

UFS President: \_\_\_\_\_

Provost: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:

09/16/15

09/21/15

09/21/15

10-7-15

Email this form and syllabus to [UGPC@fau.edu](mailto:UGPC@fau.edu) one week before the University Graduate Programs Committee meeting so that materials may be viewed on the UGPC website prior to the meeting.

## M.S. in Geosciences

Students who successfully complete this degree program will earn a M.S. in Geosciences. The department will offer both a thesis and a non-thesis option for this degree. The requirements for both options are outlined below. Students must choose between the thesis/non-thesis option and a focus area by the end of their second semester of study, when the plan of study is filed.

Thesis students will be required to form a committee (advisor and two additional committee members) during the second semester of study. Students who do not have a thesis committee formed by the end of the second semester are automatically transferred to non-thesis option.

### Course requirements

All courses must be taken at the 5000 level or higher. No more than 3 credits of directed independent study (such as GEO 6908 or GLY 6908) may be used to fulfill the minimum credits for either degree option. A minimum of 24 credits should be taken from the geosciences curriculum.

### Thesis Option Core courses

The core courses (7 credits) shown below will be required for all students in the thesis option of the program.

Table 1. Department Core Courses for Thesis Option

Course Title	Course Number	Credits
Research in the Geosciences	GEO 6118	3
Thesis Seminar	GLY 6931	3
Geosciences Colloquium	GEO 6920	1

### Non-Thesis Option Core Courses

The core courses (7 credits) shown below will be required for all students in the non-thesis option of the program.

Table 2. Department Core Courses for Non-Thesis Option

Course Title	Course Number	Credits
Research in the Geosciences	GEO 6118	3
Human/Environmental Interactions	GEA 6277	3
Geosciences Colloquium	GEO 6920	1

### Geosciences Focus Areas

Students will choose to focus their studies on one of the three Focus Areas shown in the table below (Table 3). Both thesis and non-thesis students will take a minimum of 12 credits from within their chosen Geoscience focus area, beyond courses required for the department core.

Table 3. MS in Geosciences Focus Areas and Course Prefix

Geoscience Focus Areas	Course Prefix
Geology	GLY
Human Environment and Sustainable Science	GEO, GEA, EVR
Geographic Information Science	GIS

### Electives and thesis credits

Thesis students must take 6 credits of master's thesis, including a successful thesis defense. Thesis credits cannot count towards focus area or elective credits. Non-thesis students must take 15 credit hours of electives while thesis students must take 6 credit hours of electives. Electives may be taken from any Geosciences focus area and up to 6 credit hours can be taken from cognate areas approved by student's advisor. A summary of course requirements is depicted in Table 4 below.

Table 4. Distribution of credits for non-thesis and thesis option

Distribution	Credits	
	Non-thesis option	Thesis option
Department Core	7	7
Main Geoscience Focus Area Courses	12	12
Electives	15	6
Thesis	0	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>31</b>

#### Other requirements

Students enrolled in the thesis-option must successfully defend their thesis proposal no later than beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester for full time and beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> semester for part time student.

#### Admission Requirements

In addition to meeting the University and College admission requirements for graduate study, applicants for master's degrees in the Department of Geosciences must meet the following requirements:

1. Hold a bachelor's degree in an appropriate discipline from an accredited college or university;
2. Have earned a minimum grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) in the last 60 credits of undergraduate work attempted;
3. Have obtained a Graduate Record Exam (GRE) score of 146 or higher on the verbal portion and 144 or higher on the quantitative portion. GRE scores more than five years old will not be accepted;
4. Receive the recommendation of the department faculty;
5. International students whose native language is not English must score at least 550 on the paper-based TOEFL, at least 61 on the computer-based test or IELTS band score of at least 6.0.

#### General Degree Requirements (for all master's degrees)

1. Students must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher throughout their graduate program. Failure to do so will subject the student to dismissal from the program.
2. Students must achieve a grade of at least "C+" in order for a course to be counted as part of the minimum credits toward the degree.

## M.S. in Geosciences

Students who successfully complete this degree program will earn a M.S. in Geosciences. The department will offer both a thesis and a non-thesis option for this degree. The requirements for both options are outlined below. Students must choose between the thesis/non-thesis option and a focus area by the end of their second semester of study, when the plan of study is filed.

Thesis students will be required to form a committee (advisor and two additional committee members) during the second semester of study. Students who do not have a thesis committee formed by the end of the second semester are automatically transferred to non-thesis option.

### Course requirements

All courses must be taken at the 5000 level or higher. No more than 3 credits of directed independent study (such as GEO 6908 or GLY 6908) may be used to fulfill the minimum credits for either degree option. A minimum of 24 credits should be taken from the geosciences curriculum.

### Thesis Option Core courses

The core courses (7 credits) shown below will be required for all students in the thesis option of the program.

Table 1. Department Core Courses for Thesis Option

Course Title	Course Number	Credits
Research in the Geosciences	GEO 6118	3
Thesis Seminar	GLY 6931	3
Geosciences Colloquium	GEO 6920	1

### Non-Thesis Option Core Courses

The core courses (7 credits) shown below will be required for all students in the non-thesis option of the program.

Table 2. Department Core Courses for Non-Thesis Option

Course Title	Course Number	Credits
Research in the Geosciences	GEO 6118	3
Human/Environmental Interactions	GEA 6277	3
Geosciences Colloquium	GEO 6920	1

### Geosciences Focus Areas

Students will choose to focus their studies on one of the three Focus Areas shown in the table below (Table 3). Both thesis and non-thesis students will take a minimum of 12 credits from within their chosen Geoscience focus area, beyond courses required for the department core.

Table 3. MS in Geosciences Focus Areas and Course Prefix

Geoscience Focus Areas	Course Prefix
Geology	GLY
Human Environment and Sustainable Science	GEO, GEA, EVR
Geographic Information Science	GIS

### Electives and thesis credits

Thesis students must take 6 credits of master's thesis, including a successful thesis defense. Thesis credits cannot count towards focus area or elective credits. Non-thesis students must take 15 credit hours of electives while thesis students must take 6 credit hours of electives. Electives may be taken from any Geosciences focus area and up to 6 credit hours can be taken from cognate areas approved by student's advisor. A summary of course requirements is depicted in Table 4 below.

Table 4. Distribution of credits for non-thesis and thesis option

Distribution	Credits	
	Non-thesis option	Thesis option
Department Core	7	7
Main Geoscience Focus Area Courses	12	12
Electives	15	6
Thesis	0	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>31</b>

#### **Other requirements**

Students enrolled in the thesis-option must successfully defend their thesis proposal no later than beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester for full time and beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> semester for part time student.

#### **Admission Requirements**

In addition to meeting the University and College admission requirements for graduate study, applicants for master's degrees in the Department of Geosciences must meet the following requirements:

1. Hold a bachelor's degree in an appropriate discipline from an accredited college or university;
2. Have earned a minimum grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) in the last 60 credits of undergraduate work attempted;
3. Have obtained a Graduate Record Exam (GRE) score of 146 or higher on the verbal portion and 144 or higher on the quantitative portion. GRE scores more than five years old will not be accepted;
4. Receive the recommendation of the department faculty;
5. International students whose native language is not English must score at least 550 on the paper-based TOEFL, at least 61 on the computer-based test or IELTS band score of at least 6.0.

#### **General Degree Requirements (for all master's degrees)**

1. Students must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher throughout their graduate program. Failure to do so will subject the student to dismissal from the program.
2. Students must achieve a grade of at least "C+" in order for a course to be counted as part of the minimum credits toward the degree.

**PROGRAM CIP CHANGE REQUEST FORM**  
Board of Governors, State University System of Florida

**UNIVERSITY:** Florida Atlantic University

**PROGRAM NAME:** Geology

**DEGREE LEVEL(S):** M.S.

**OLD/CURRENT CIP CODE:** 40.0601

**NEW/REQUESTED CIP CODE:** 40.0699

**NEW CIP CODE EFFECTIVE TERM:** Spring 2016  
(First term for students in the program using the new CIP code)

*Please use this form to notify the Board of Governors, State University System of Florida that an institution intends to change the CIP code for an already existing degree program and begin reporting enrollments and degrees data under the new CIP code. This action will allow for more accurate data analysis of enrollment and degree productivity as well as it will initiate any necessary changes to the articulation manuals and online search tools.*

**1. Provide a short background and rationale for the CIP change request.**

The Department of Geosciences currently houses bachelors and masters programs in geography, geology and a doctorate in geosciences which combines certain subfields of geography and geology into an applied teaching and research focus. Feedback from a recent external program review coupled with the recent degree productivity review by the BOG have led the department to develop a plan to combine the Masters in Geography and the Masters in Geology into one single degree program that will mimic the teaching and research focus of the current doctoral program. **As an initial step in this process, the Department is requesting that the CIP for the M.S. in Geology be changed to the current CIP used by the Ph.D. in Geosciences.** This will be followed by a termination of the current M.A. in Geography (with teachout plan) and a curriculum revision of the M.S. in Geology such as described above along with a name change of the degree to M.S. in Geosciences – basically a roll up of the M.A. in Geography and the M.S. in Geology to the M.S. in Geosciences.

**2. Explain the impact of the proposed change on the current faculty and current and future students.**

There will be no impact on the current faculty as most of the coursework offered in the department will be the same. The degree requirements will simply be repackaged where students will be able to get an M.S. in Geosciences with either a slightly more geology focus or a slightly more geography focus (as is done with the doctoral degree). Current students in the geography and geology masters will be considered with a teach out plan as the final changes discussed in #1 have been rolled out. As identified in our external program review of Spring 2015, we feel that the future students will be better prepared for the South Florida geoscience/environmental job market and, for those who have the interest, certainly better prepared as potential candidates for our doctoral program.

- 3. Provide evidence that considerations have been given to the impact of this CIP change on existing programs at the university, and the possibility that the program using the new CIP will duplicate already existing programs at other SUS institutions.**

As the requested CIP change only impacts the programs housed in Geosciences, we see no negative impact on any other programs or departments at FAU. A positive change (when the entire plan in #1 is rolled out) will be to make the masters program in the Department of Geosciences more productive by combining students with an interest in geography with the students interested in geology into a single rolled up degree program (M.S. in Geosciences). As far as within the SUS, we see no impacts. FAU is the only university in the SUS that offers a combined geography/geology teaching and research focus in a degree program.

- 4. If applicable, please explain how the CIP change will impact the program's listing in a Programs of Strategic Emphasis (PSE) category. Please provide a rationale to support the need for the program to be included in a PSE category, if it is not already included in a PSE category.**

Both the current CIP for our Masters in Geology and the proposed CIP for the reworked Masters are in Programs of Strategic Emphasis categories.

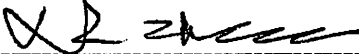
- 5. For baccalaureate programs please identify any related changes to the approved common prerequisites and degree program length.**

Not applicable.

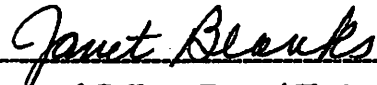
- 6. If this is a baccalaureate program, please list the common prerequisites for the current CIP code as listed in the program's curriculum and the common prerequisites associated with the new CIP code.**

Not applicable.

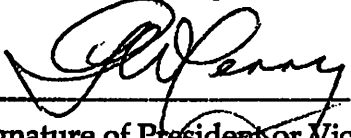
**CIP Change Request Form – Signatures Page**

  
Signature of Requestor/Initiator

9/16/2015  
Date

  
Signature of College Dean/Chair

9/16/2015  
Date

  
Signature of President or Vice President for  
Academic Affairs

9/16/2015  
Date