

**PROGRAM TERMINATION FORM**  
Board of Governors, State University System of Florida

UNIVERSITY: Florida Atlantic University

PROGRAM NAME: B.A./B.S. in Geography

DEGREE LEVEL(S): Baccalaureate CIP CODE: 450701

OFFICIAL TERMINATION DATE: July 2018  
(Last date that students will be accepted into program)

OFFICIAL PHASE-OUT DATE: December 2021  
(Last date that data will be submitted for this program)

*This is the form to be used for university requests to terminate doctoral degree programs and is recommended for use when terminating other programs. The request should be approved by the University Board of Trustees (UBOT) prior to submission to the Board of Governors, State University System of Florida for approval. Please fill out this form completely for each program to be terminated in order for your request to be processed as quickly as possible. Attach additional pages as necessary to provide a complete response. In the case of baccalaureate or master's degree programs, the UBOT may approve termination in accordance with BOG Regulation 8.012 (3), with notification sent to the Board of Governors, Office of Academic and Student Affairs. The issues outlined below should be examined by the UBOT in approving termination.*

**1. Provide a narrative rationale for the request to terminate the program.**

The department was formed by merging two disciplines: Geology and Geography, and the current baccalaureate degree programs (B.A./B.S. in Geography, B.A./B.S. in Geology) reflect the legacy. A strategically planned fusing process started years ago with a goal to allow students to focus on trainings in the interdisciplinary field of Geoscience rather than the traditional individual disciplines of Geography and Geology.

A synergistic Geosciences Ph.D. program was established in 2009, which has proven to be a great success – 18 PhDs already awarded by the end of Summer 2016. We continued the fusing process at master's program level by merging the traditional Geography and Geology master's degrees and successfully launched an

interdisciplinary M.S. Geosciences in Fall 2016.

At the baccalaureate degree level, the faculty in the Department voted to develop an interdisciplinary B.A./B.S. in Geosciences, which will span the topical areas covered in the department, and will replace the current baccalaureate degree programs (B.A./B.S. in Geography, B.A./B.S. in Geology). Curricular proposals have been developed and approved at the department level. This is in line with program review recommendations by outside consultants which occurred in 2014-2015. The reviewers recommended the following:

*The Review Team believes that the Department should seriously consider the realignment of its undergraduate and graduate degree granting programs. Unless a significant number of new faculty lines are forthcoming, it does not seem that the traditional BA and BS Geography degrees are viable in the long term. Instead, the Review Team recommends developing hybrid BA and BS Geoscience degrees that focus on the mission statement of the department.*

**2. Indicate on which campus(es) the program is being offered and the extent to which the proposed termination has had or will have an impact on enrollment, enrollment planning, and/or the reallocation of resources.**

The program is offered on the Boca Raton and Davie campuses. The new degrees do not require changes to the delivery of courses, nor the reallocation of resources. We expect enrollment will remain stable or potentially increase because the new programs should be able to retain all the existing students and it will also attract additional applicants with the interdisciplinary training.

**3. Provide an explanation of the manner in which the University intends to accommodate any students or faculty who are currently active in the program scheduled to be terminated. State what steps have been taken to inform students and faculty of the intent to terminate the program?**

The department had faculty meetings in Fall 2016 to approve the curricula for the new BA/BS in Geoscience. Faculty voted to terminate the four existing baccalaureate degrees when the new degrees become available and after existing students complete their degrees.

All existing students were contacted by emails five times in Spring 2017 and were asked, via an online survey, whether they want to continue in the older degree programs or shift to the new B.A./B.S. in Geosciences when the new degrees become available in Fall 2018. Out of total 103 existing students (B.A. Geography 22, B.S. Geography 22, B.A. Geology 15, B.S. Geology 44), 37 students replied, 23 of which plan to continue their current degree programs, 1 to shift to new programs, 13 not decided yet. For the B.A./B.S. Geography students, total 8 replied, 3 of which plan to continue

their current degree programs, 5 not decided.

Admissions to the old program will be halted in August of 2018, when the new B.A./B.S. Geosciences degree programs are expected to start. The survey indicates that the last student to graduate from the old programs would graduate no later than December of 2020. The tentative date to terminate the old programs will be Fall 2021 to accommodate potential delays. However, given that not all students responded to the survey, we will keep monitoring and communicating with the existing students once the new degrees started and will adjust the termination date if necessary.

**4. Provide data (and cite source) on the gender and racial distribution of students and faculty. For faculty also list the rank and tenure status of all affected individuals.**

Faculty (16)

- Dr. Tiffany Briggs, Assistant Professor, tenure-track
- Dr. Xavier Comas, Associate Professor, tenured
- Dr. Maria Fadiman, Associate Professor, tenured
- Mr. James Gammack-Clark, Senior Instructor
- Dr. Russell Ivy, Professor, Associate Provost, tenured
- Dr. Tobin Hindle, Associate Scientist
- Dr. Erik Johanson, Assistant Professor, tenure-track
- Dr. Weibo Liu, Assistant Professor, tenure-track
- Dr. Scott Markwith, Associate Professor, tenured
- Dr. Anton Oleinik, Associate Professor, tenured
- Dr. Colin Polsky, Professor, CES Director, tenured
- Dr. Charles Roberts, Associate Professor and Associate Dean, tenured
- Dr. Tara Root, Associate Professor, tenured
- Dr. David Warburton, Associate Professor, tenured
- Dr. Caiyun Zhang, Associate Professor, tenured
- Dr. Zhixiao Xie, Professor and Chairperson, tenured

Faculty (Source: Banner)

Gender: Female 4, Male 12; Racial Distribution: Asian 3, Hispanic 1, White 12.

Students (Source: Banner, 103)

All four programs ( B.A./B.S. in Geography, B.A./B.S. in Geology)  
Gender: Female 54, Male 49; Racial Distribution: American Indian or Alaska Native 4, Asian 5, Black 6, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander 1, White 85, unknown 2.

B.A. Geography (22)

Gender: Female 15, Male 7; Racial Distribution: Asian 1, Black 3, White 18.

B.S. Geography (22)

Gender: Female 11, Male 11; Racial Distribution: American Indian or Alaska Native 1, White 19, unknown 2.

B.A. Geology (15)


Gender: Female 8, Male 7; Racial Distribution: Asian 3, Black 1, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander 1, White 10.

B.S. Geology (44)

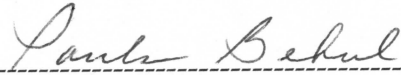
Gender: Female 20, Male 24; Racial Distribution: American Indian or Alaska Native 3, Asian 1, Black 2, White 38.

**5. Identify any potential negative impact of the proposed action on the current representation of females, minorities, faculty, and students.**

None

  
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Signature of Requestor/Initiator


08/23/2017  
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Date

  
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Signature of Campus EO Officer

10-2-17  
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Date

  
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Signature of College Dean

9/21/17  
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Date

  
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Signature of President or Vice President for Academic Affairs

9/29/17  
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Date

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Date Approved by the University Board of Trustees

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Signature of Chair, Board of Trustees

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Date