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. Geology students, total 29 replied, 20 of which plan to continue their current degree programs, 8 not decided, 1 to shift to the new programs.

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, While 85, unknown 2.

B.A. Geography (22)  
Gender: Female 15, Male 7; Racial Distribution: Asian 1, Black 3, While 18.

B.S. Geography (22)  
Gender: Female 11, Male 11; Racial Distribution: American Indian or Alaska Native 1, While 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, While 10.

B.S. Geology (44)
Gender: Female 20, Male 24; Racial Distribution: American Indian or Alaska Native 3, Asian 1, Black 2, While 38.

5. Identify any potential negative impact of the proposed action on the current representation of females, minorities, faculty, and students.
None

Signature of Requestor/Initiator

Signature of Campus EO Officer

Signature of College Dean

Signature of President or Vice President for Academic Affairs

Date Approved by the University Board of Trustees

Signature of Chair, Board of Trustees

08/23/2017 Date

10-2-17 Date

9/21/17 Date

9/29/17 Date