Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences to terminate the following areas of emphasis under the major in Geography (A.B.) will be an agenda item for the March 18, 2022, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting:

- Area of Emphasis in Agro-Food Systems and Food Security
- Area of Emphasis in Environmental Geography
- Area of Emphasis in Global Environmental Change
- Area of Emphasis in Globalization, Politics, and Economy
- Area of Emphasis in Urban and Community Studies

Sincerely,

Susan Sanchez, Chair
University Curriculum Committee

cc: Provost S. Jack Hu
    Dr. Marisa Pagnattaro
PROPOSAL FOR TERMINATION OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Date: November 17, 2021

School/College: Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

Department/Division: Geography

Major and Degree: Geography (A.B.)

Areas of Emphasis to be terminated: Area of Emphasis in Agro-Food Systems and Food Security
Area of Emphasis in Environmental Geography
Area of Emphasis in Global Environmental Change
Area of Emphasis in Globalization, Politics, and Economy
Area of Emphasis in Urban and Community Studies

Which campus(es) offer this program? Athens

Deactivation or Termination? Termination

Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2022

Last date students will be admitted to this program: Fall 2021

Last date students will graduate from this program: Summer 2023

Program Abstract: These areas of emphasis were created to provide students in the Geography (A.B.) major with suggested course specializations for interest in food systems (Agro-Food Systems and Food Security), physical geography and environmental issues (Environmental Geography), climate change (Global Environmental Change), economic and political geography (Globalization, Politics, and Economy), or urban geography (Urban and Community Studies).

1. State the reasons for termination of the programs, and provide copies of any relevant documents.

The areas of emphasis under Geography (A.B.) have had low enrollment for multiple years, and the department’s current course planning does not adequately support them as options for students moving forward. The faculty have decided to terminate all areas of emphasis under this major in order to focus more on the majors, minors, and certificates offered by the department.

Additionally, the content in the Area of Emphasis in Agro-Food Systems and Food Security is also offered in the Undergraduate Certificate in Local Food Systems, and the Undergraduate Certificate in Sustainability. The content of the Area of Emphasis in Urban and Community Studies is also offered in Undergraduate Certificate in Urban and Metropolitan Studies.

2. What will be done to minimize the impact of the termination of the programs upon the personal and professional lives of the faculty and staff involved? Include specific information on: a) how faculty and staff will be notified of the termination, and b) how faculty and staff will be reallocated.

There is no impact on faculty and staff by terminating these areas of emphasis. Faculty will continue to teach courses offered in the department’s other programs.

3. What will be done to ensure that termination of these programs does not weaken other programs (graduate, undergraduate, or professional) for which the department may be responsible?

Terminating the areas of emphasis will allow faculty to focus on supporting the core courses in the department’s majors and certificates. The terminations will not impact course offerings or any programs outside the department.
Proposal: Termination of Areas of Emphasis under the major in Geography (A.B.)

College: Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

Department: Geography

Proposed Effective Term: Fall 2022

Department:
  • Geography Department Head, Dr. Hilda Kurtz, 11/17/2021

School/College:
  • Franklin College of Arts and Sciences Associate Dean, Dr. Jean Martin-Williams, 2/1/2022