

Contact: Rachel Boon

REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE BACHELOR OF ARTS & BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN GEOGRAPHY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Action Requested: Approve the request by the University of Iowa to terminate the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Geography in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The Council of Provosts and Board office staff reviewed the proposal and recommend approval.

Description of program. Geographers study how humans interact with the environment, often using digital technologies, and solve problems to build a more sustainable world. The major in geography is appropriate preparation for advanced training or careers in geographical and sustainability sciences.

Reason for proposed termination. The requested action is to collectively close these selected programs of study as part of a restructuring of the undergraduate curriculum in the areas of environmental and sustainability sciences and environmental policy and planning. The new structure will include three programs: 1) Earth and Environmental Sciences BA/BS degrees; 2) Geographical and Sustainability Sciences BA/BS degrees (new proposed majors); and 3) Environmental Policy and Planning BA degree. With the restructuring, students interested in these areas of study will be able to enroll in one of the three programs listed above. Additionally, they will take more courses in common, which will help build a community of learners who are prepared to take on the most pressing environmental challenges of the next century (and beyond).

Effect on current students. Students who are currently declared in these degree programs will be able to finish their program of study. They will also have the option to switch to one of the three programs mentioned above if desired. The estimated length of the transition period will be about two years.

Application, Enrollment and Completion Trends.

	Applications	Enrollment	Completions
2023	unknown	31	11
2022	unknown	25	6
2021	unknown	31	10
2020	unknown	34	11
2019	unknown	47	21

Impact on resources. There are no anticipated costs related to terminating these programs.

Impact on workforce. Workforce needs in the state are not expected to be affected. Several majors continue to be offered in these areas allowing students to pursue their career objectives.

Alternative programs. Iowa State University (Geographic Information Science and Cartography 45:0702, bachelor's degree) and University of Northern Iowa (Geographic Information Science and Cartography 45:0702, Geography 45:0701, bachelor's degrees)

Effective date of termination. Upon approval by the Board of Regents.