

## **Transcript of Geography & Environmental Planning Advising Presentation**

**Slide One:** Hi! Welcome to the automated Geography Advising Program. My name is Marty and I'm here to tell you today about why Geography and Environmental Planning might just be the department for you.

**Slide Two:** Now advising is mandatory for all students. Geography majors have already been assigned to an academic advisor. Take a look at Peoplesoft to find out who you've been assigned to. If you find that you haven't been assigned an advisor yet, please contact someone in the department. Our phone number is 704-2973.

**Slide Three:** The department of Geography and Environmental Planning has several different ways of getting your Bachelor's Degree. First of all, we offer a Bachelor's of Arts and a Bachelor's of Science in Geography and Environmental Planning. Second, we have a Global Skills Track. We also offer a joint program with CCBC- Catonsville, which gives you a Bachelor's in Geography and Land Surveying. We also have a Bachelor's in Geography/Secondary Education. And we have a couple of combined Bachelor's and Master's Programs; one with the Global Skills Track and the other with the Geography and Environmental Planning Track.

**Slide Four:** The Department of Geography also offers three combined Bachelor's Programs; one with Economics, one with Political Science, and one with Sociology/Anthropology. These combined Bachelor's programs require 12 fewer credits than if you had done a double major in each of these departments.

**Slide Five:** The Geography degree programs noted on the slide, all have the same core and group requirements.

**Slide Six:** Geography majors have 18 units of core required courses, starting with Geography 101 and 109. These two courses introduce students to the fundamental concepts of physical and human geography. At the 200 level, students take Interpretation of Maps, which gives them entry to the world of geographic techniques, and Physical Geography Applications, which picks up where Physical Geography left off. Quantitative Methods introduces students to statistical methods and Growth of Geographic Thought acts as a capstone for the whole Geography major.

**Slide Seven:** So why do we require these courses? Well, we want all of our students to understand exactly what geography is. Plus, we'd like you to pick up a few marketable skills.

**Slide Eight:** In addition to the core required classes, we also require one techniques course and one regional course.

**Slide Nine:** For the techniques course we offer a variety of marketable skills that are in high demand by employers; everything from the Interpretation of Air Photographs to Cartography and Geographic Information Systems.

**Slide Ten:** Majors will also take at least one regional course to strengthen their understanding of the world. You will learn about these exciting regions from people with real on-the-ground experience in each of these exciting places.

**Slide Eleven:** All Geography majors must complete their programs of study by taking 15 units, or 5 courses, at the 100-400 level. Now, 6 of these credits at maximum can be taken at the 100-200 level, so we highly recommend that you take most of your electives at the 300-400 level. This will also help you meet your GenEd requirements.

**Slide Twelve:** The Department of Geography also offers a track in Global Skills. Now, this will result in a Bachelor of Arts in Geography and Environmental Planning, with an emphasis on global skills.

**Slide Thirteen:** This track is designed for students interested in international work, whether it's for companies, the CIA, UNICEF, or whatever. The intent is to give you real skills in an international context, including language, technical skills, and regional geography knowledge. Internships with international agencies here or abroad are encouraged and they're required at the master's level.

**Slide Fourteen:** Fluency in a foreign language is a basic competency, but one that is increasingly rare in the United States. Most of the world, however, is bilingual, so if you want to work internationally, having language skills is absolutely essential. Foreign languages are also gateways for understanding other cultures and their important issues.

**Slide Fifteen:** The core requirements for the global skills differ in the number of human geography courses that are required. For this track, you must take two introductory human geography courses. Geography 109 (or Intro to Human Geography) and either Geography 102 (that's World Regional), or Geography 105 (International Affairs). Both of these courses are designed to give you a global or international perspective.

**Slide Sixteen:** Because this track focuses on international skills, we require that you have two techniques courses. We also require two regional courses from outside the North American region, so that you'll have in-depth exposure to the geography of other parts of the world. Hopefully, you have regional interests you will pursue here. Finally, you should take two systemic courses that specialize in the kind of approaches that you want to take. For example, urban, population geography, economic, or medical geography and so forth.

**Slide Seventeen:** Technical courses offer you some new skills within geography; everything from aerial photography to cartography to GIS.

**Slide Eighteen:** The regional requirements include any two courses from the following list.

**Slide Nineteen:** The global skills track offers a wide variety of systemic courses to choose from. Choose any two on the following list.

**Slide Twenty:** There's not a lot of room for free geography electives in the global skills track. But any 200-400 level geography course can satisfy this requirement. Take whatever you're interested in or talk to your academic advisor.

**Slide Twenty-One:** We maintain a list of related non-geography courses from all over the university that you can use to help fill your other B.A. requirements in such a way so you get maximum exposure to international issues.

**Slide Twenty-Two:** Up until now we've been talking about strictly bachelor's degrees. We also offer combined bachelor's and master's programs. These are a little bit more complicated and so you probably ought to talk to an advisor before you consider choosing one of these options. However, they give you the advantage in that they do offer you a master's degree by the time you finish your program of study.

**Slide Twenty-Three:** In addition to fulfilling your requirements for the major we also have a number of GenEd requirements. Talk to your advisor about the best way of meeting these requirements.

**Slide Twenty-Four:** Many of your geography courses will also help you meet your GenEd requirements. So talk to an advisor. Five different categories are served by Geography, including the science requirement and the global awareness.

**Slide Twenty-Five:** Here in the Geography Department, we like to encourage our students to develop a portfolio of their work. These will include anything like papers, reports, maps and other things you've done for your classes. These can be useful later on when you're applying for jobs and they also help show your development as a student.

**Slide Twenty-Six:** A well developed and professionally presented portfolio, in terms of its contents and appearance, may make the difference between securing your first internship or your first job after graduation.

**Slide Twenty-Seven:** This has been a pretty long presentation. If you have any comments or concerns please contact the chair of the department, that's Kent Barnes, or your faculty advisor, or just one of the professors from one of your classes. They'll be more than happy to discuss your GenEd requirements, your major requirements, or what you can do to find yourself a job after you graduate. In any case, thanks for listening and I'll talk to you later. Bye-Bye.