

**Office of the President
California State University, Chico**



Executive Memorandum 21-013

March 16, 2021

From: Gayle E. Hutchinson, President

Subject: Approval of the New General Education Minor in Sustainability and Climate Change

Upon the recommendation of the Academic Senate, and with the concurrence of the Provost, I approve the new GE Minor in Sustainability and Climate Change within the General Education Program, effective fall 2022. Per [EM 19-021](#), “Upon completion of nine units from designated courses in an upper-division Pathway and an additional nine units from designated courses in lower-division GE, students will be awarded a GE Minor with the same name as the upper-division Pathway.”

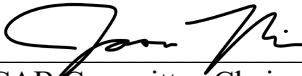
Policy Title:	EM 21-013 GE Sustainability and Climate Change
Contact:	Undergraduate Education
Supersedes:	
Revision:	
Enabling Legislation or Executive Order:	

New GE Minor Signature Form

GE Minor Name: General Education Minor in Sustainability and Climate Change

Rationale: EM 19-021 calls for “a process of revising the number and/or title of upper-division Pathways and corresponding GE Minors and designating the lower- and upper-division courses that will count for each GE Minor.” All ten existing existing minors have been discontinued, and this one of ten new minors added in their place. For a list of the extensive consultation that guided CAB's implementation of EM 19-021, please see CAB's website: <https://www.csuchico.edu/ge/2021/consultation.shtml>


Required Signatures



CAB Committee Chair

September 1, 2020

Date



Dean of Undergraduate Education

September 1, 2020

Date

Send signature page with proposal attached to Curriculum Services at Undergraduate Education, zip 680

Curriculum Review Completed

9/2/2020

Date



Proposal for a New Minor
General Education Minor in Sustainability and Climate Change
Recommended by the Curriculum Advisory Board (CAB) to EPPC, March 22, 2020

The Academic Senate (EM 19-021) charged CAB with “revising the number and/or title of upper-division Pathways and corresponding GE Minors and designating the lower- and upper-division courses that will count for each GE Minor” for Fall 2021 implementation. As instructed by Senate, “in 2019-20, CAB will propose changes to existing GE Minors to EPPC,” and during this process, no courses that currently have GE status, including “experimental courses,” will forfeit their status. On March 10, following months of transparent consultation, including publicly announced committee and subcommittee meetings, and after incorporating feedback from two EPPC Discussion Items on February 20 and March 5, CAB voted to approve 10 GE Minors to recommend to EPPC.

For more information about consultation and transparency, see:

<https://www.csuchico.edu/ge/2021/consultation.shtml>
<https://www.csuchico.edu/ge/2021/implementation.shtml>

For more information about the ten recommended GE Minors, see:

<https://www.csuchico.edu/ge/2021/campus-feedback.shtml>
<https://www.csuchico.edu/ge/2021/ge-minor-descriptions.shtml>

(NOTE: Abbreviated new minor proposal form approved for use with GE minors by the Senate Executive Committee - crossed out items not required for GE Minors)

- I. Proposed title of new minor. **General Education Minor in Sustainability and Climate Change**
- ~~II. Academic year of intended implementation.~~
- ~~III. Name of the department and college submitting the proposal; identify unit with primary responsibility for the minor.~~
- ~~IV. Statements on questions of need and demand.~~
 - ~~A. Relation of the minor to the University [Strategic Plan](#).~~
 - ~~B. Need for the proposed minor.~~
 - C. Identify other closely related curricula currently offered by the campus.
 1. Explain the impact the proposed minor will have on these programs.
 2. Explain how current programs do not meet the proposed minor's objectives.

In a report to the Academic Senate on January 31, 2019 on the completion of the five-year review of the GE Program, CAB shared a summary of the recommendations of the External Reviewer, Vice Provost Grassian, and Provost Larson who stated that the GE Program should “establish a policy to discourage double-counting courses with other programs.”

CAB reviewed course proposals to avoid duplicating the curricula of existing programs, and conducted course usage reports for every course proposed for a

GE Minor, and in general recommended GE Minors to EPPC where students couldn't count half or more of the courses in the GE Minor for any other program (major or minor) on campus.

In the case of this minor, there is significant overlap with the existing and soon-to-be discontinued GE Minor in Sustainability. Students spoke loud and clear in 2019 when they voted overwhelming to ask the AS to encourage the university to incorporate climate change education in all fields of study, and this GE Minor is a first step towards achieving this goal. There is some overlap with the Environmental Studies minor, especially in upper-division courses, but the interdisciplinary approach to climate change sets this GE Minor apart.

GE Minors, by definition, are unique from any other curricula on campus: they connect a select set of lower- and upper-division GE courses to form an intellectually cohesive course of study that explores an issue or subject from multidisciplinary perspectives. They are distinct and should have a minimal impact on existing programs.

~~D. Student demand for the minor.~~

~~V. Resources~~

~~A. List the faculty members for the required courses in the minor by~~

~~Name~~

~~Rank~~

~~Appointment status~~

~~Highest degree earned~~

~~Date and Field of highest degree~~

~~Professional experience~~

~~B. List the faculty members for the elective courses in the minor by~~

~~Name~~

~~Rank~~

~~Appointment status~~

~~Highest degree earned~~

~~C. List the resources needed to sustain the program for the first five years, including cost and funding source.~~

~~1. Faculty~~

~~2. Staff~~

~~3. Facilities~~

~~4. Library resources; provide evidence of consultation with the Library Dean indicating that the program can be supported by the library.~~

~~5. Equipment~~

~~6. Specialized material~~

~~D. Additional support resources required, including source of support.~~

VI. Curriculum

Note: Proposed curriculum should take advantage of courses already offered in other departments when subject matter would otherwise overlap or duplicate existing course content.

- A. Total number of units required for the minor. **18**
- B. List all new courses for the proposed program. **No new courses.**
1. Course number and title
Units of credit
Prerequisites
Proposed catalog description
Mode of course delivery if other than regular
 2. Identify the new courses needed to initiate the program.
 3. Identify the new courses needed during the first two years after implementation.
- C. List all required courses for the minor.
Course number and title
Units of credit
Prerequisites
- D. List all elective courses for the minor.
Course number and title
Units of credit

Curriculum Summary, as Requested by EPPC:

2 Lower-Division Courses, Required:

C2

- PHIL 129 Environmental Ethics

D

- HIST 205W: Global Environmental History GC

1 Lower-Division Course, Choose 1:

A3

- GEOS 104 Inquiry into the Science of Climate Change

B1

- GEOS 101: Our Changing Planet

Upper-Division Courses, Choose 3 from Different GE Areas:

UD-B

- GEOS 330W Environmental Science

UD-C

- HIST 341W: American Environment USD

UD-D

- GEOG 304: Sustainability and Climate Change Issues
- SOCI 420: Environmental Sociology USD

Note: Chairs and Deans have indicated preliminary support for these courses, including any changes to existing courses. However, in consultation with the

Academic Senate and Curriculum Services, CAB will not request Intent Memos and/or CPCR's until after the completion of the senate process. Chair/Dean support, therefore, are not formal "approvals," but rather indications of possible support during normal curriculum processes (Intent Memo and CPCR) that will likely take place in August 2020.

- ~~E. Explain provisions for articulation of the proposed minor with community college courses.~~
- F. Complete catalog copy, including admission and completion requirements. See the current University Catalog for correct format; please follow it exactly. Before the proposal is submitted to Curriculum Services, it may be helpful to review catalog copy with Academic Publications.

Note 1: The catalog copy represents changes to existing courses approved by CAB but pending normal curriculum process (Intent Memos and/or CPCR's) after the completion of the senate process, as recommended by Curriculum Services and the Academic Senate.

Note 2: The catalog copy includes new prerequisites for upper-division GE courses, which will be added to all upper-division GE courses (whether in GE Minors or not) for Fall 2021 implementation. The new prerequisites are our campus response to EM 19-021's mandate that "CAB will work with relevant units to transition our practices to support EO 1100, sec 2.2.3." Here's EO 1100, sec. 2.2.3:

The 9 upper-division GE courses are designed to be taken after upper-division status (completion of 60 semester units or 90 quarter units) is attained. Students enrolling in upper-division GE courses shall have completed required lower-division GE courses in written communication, oral communication, critical thinking, and mathematics/quantitative reasoning. Campuses may require no more than 9 upper-division GE semester units (or the quarter equivalent).

After working with relevant units on campus, CAB recommends adding a prerequisite statement to all UD GE courses (for Fall 2021 catalog), but not adding the prerequisite to PeopleSoft, etc. Here is the prerequisite language that we will add to all UD GE courses, beginning with the Fall 2021 catalog (the same as San Francisco State's):

Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

In Fall 2021, Chico State's A4 will be renamed as B4 to align with EO 1100.

Attach [the New Minor signature form](#) to the front of the proposal and submit to Curriculum Services after all department and college reviews are complete.

The General Education Minor in Sustainability and Climate Change

Course Requirements for the Minor: 18 units

The following courses, or their approved transfer equivalents, are required of all candidates for this minor.

Lower Division: 9 units

2 courses required:

Choose 1 course from each different GE area.

Humanities (C2)

PHIL 129	Environmental Ethics		3.0	FS	GE
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Social Sciences (D)

HIST 205	Global Environmental History		3.0	FS	GE GC
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HIST 205W	Global Environmental History (W)		3.0	FS	GE GC W
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1 course selected from:

Critical Thinking (A3)

GEOS 104	Inquiry into the Science of Climate Change		3.0	FS	GE
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Physical Science (B1)

GEOS 101	Our Changing Planet		3.0	FS	GE
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Upper Division: 9 units

3 courses selected from:

Choose 1 course from each different GE area.

Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning (B)

GEOS 330	Environmental Science		3.0	SMF	GE
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Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, B1, B2, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

GEOS 330W	Environmental Science (W)		3.0	FS	GE W
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Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, B1, B2, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

Arts and Humanities (C)

HIST 341W	American Environment		3.0	SMF	GE USD W
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Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

Social Sciences (D)

GEOG 304 Sustainability and Climate Change Issues  3.0 FS GE

Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

SOCI 420 Environmental Sociology  3.0 FS GE USD

Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.