

1st Draft Feedback Submitted to the Geography PAC

Joan Welch, Faculty, West Chester University of Pennsylvania, 11/10/2011

Geography articulation agreement

This is a great document but I would prefer to see geography transfer credits of 9 rather than 12. Also, for the geography courses, only one course should be required, the introductory geography course, and then there would be two recommended courses from a choice of three: physical, cultural, and geographic information systems (GIS).

In part IV of the report, it lists additional subject areas, and refers to 'both', but GIS is the only one listed.

For appendix A, then, I would recommend that students have a minimum of 9 geography credits to transfer into a geography program, and that the one required course be the introductory geography course. The remaining 6 credits would be two of the following course choices: physical, cultural and GIS.

For the category 5 recommended course, in one part it recommends only history, but in another area of the transfer matrix, which I recommend we use, category 5 includes also sociology, political science, economics, anthropology, and psychology, and all of these are acceptable.

Tom Mueller, Professor, California University of Pennsylvania, 11/18/2011

Geography

The document looks fine, however I have one issue in regards to the GIS Competencies. I believe it should state..

Students beginning their junior year of study in Geography should have demonstrated knowledge of and skill in the use of Geographic Information Systems.

The minimum competencies in this content area include:

Competency 1: history & components of Geographic Information Systems.

Competency 2: geographic & attribute data types, formats, dimensions & characteristics.

Competency 3: common data sources, reliability & uses.

Competency 5: geographic coordinate systems methods

Competency 6: basic map components & layout.

Competency 7: selection by attribute

The student also may have knowledge in the following areas –

Competency 4: incorporating Remote Sensed & GPS data.

Competency 5: geo-coding methods
Competency 7: selection by location.
Competency 8: vector analysis methods.
Competency 9: raster analysis methods.
Competency 10: publication of map & text reports.

Barbara Ford, 11/23/2011, Geography

Introduction says "a minimum of 12 credit hours in Geography." Section III says "at least nine college credits of Major-Specific coursework." Is this inconsistent?

- Introduction says "24-30 credits of foundation-level courses from the transfer Credit Framework." Section II last paragraph says "By completing an associate's degree that contains a minimum of . . . 30 credits of foundation-level coursework from the Transfer Credit, students will possess the knowledge . . ." Is it clear whether or not the entire Framework is required? Section V and Appendix A seem to indicate that it is a recommendation, not a requirement, but this may be inconsistent with "minimum of 30 credits."
- Section V 2nd paragraph states: "all criteria in the 30-credit General Education Core must be met." Is this referring to the Framework (which is not a General Education Core) or to associate degree institution cores (which are not all 30 credits)?
- Section V, 2nd paragraph refers to the TAOC system for course equivalencies. I think this is referring to PA TRAC, where the course equivalencies are located.

Ginny Mihalik, N/A, 11/25/2011

To the Geography PAC, thank you for your hard work on this. I agree with the recommendation that Geography course titles be considered for the 30 credit framework.