

**From:** [Lawrence Krissek](#)  
**To:** [James Fredal](#)  
**Cc:** [Lawrence Krissek](#); [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#); [Andereck, Dave](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Earth Sciences BA Semester Conversion Proposal  
**Date:** Friday, April 22, 2011 4:02:34 PM  
**Attachments:** [Earth\\_Sci\\_BA\\_EXAMPLE\\_4\\_YEAR\\_PLANS\\_rev\\_22\\_April.doc](#)  
[Earth\\_Sciences\\_BA\\_Semester\\_Proposal\\_Attach2\\_rev\\_22\\_April.doc](#)

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Hi Jim,

Attached here as Word files -- in case you want to review them -- are the revised Earth Sci BA conversion proposal and the revised sample 4-year plans.

Here are comments/explanations addressing the 5 points raised in your letter from the Sciences Subcommittee:

- 1) Learning Goal 3 has been rephrased as you suggested.
- 2) The presentation of the Major Program requirements has been revised as you suggested.
- 3) An explanation regarding Earth Sci 4580 (the semester version of our existing Earth Sci 580) has been added to the Program Rationale Statement. I have also added Earth Sci 4580 to the list of courses in the program, although that seems odd -- since 4580 explicitly ISN'T in the program. However, I've added a note to the entry for 4580, emphasizing that it cannot be used to meet the requirements of the B.A.
- 4) Essentially each of our courses does address each learning outcome for a particular subdiscipline within Earth Sciences. Each course does require students to use the Earth Science literature (perhaps not the primary literature, but some component of Earth Sci literature), does involve presentations of Earth Sci information (via maps, graphs, field photos, written and/or oral reports), does deal with some dynamic component of the Earth system, does apply appropriate techniques to collect/analyze/interpret some type of Earth Sci data, does involve problem-solving, and does apply knowledge and skills from allied sciences. The specific subject area differs from course to course, but these learning outcomes apply across the broad range of our subdisciplines.

In answer to the second part of this question -- yes, we realize that a student can complete our B.A. without fulfilling the learning goals at the advanced level. The requirements of our semester B.A. do ensure that a student will meet those goals at least at the intermediate level; that outcome is acceptable to us, because our B.A. students are not preparing for careers as professional earth scientists. In contrast, our B.S. degree is intended for students who are preparing for careers as professional earth scientists, and its requirements do force students to address its learning goals at the advanced level.

5) a. The Earth Sci upper-level electives have been generalized as totals for each semester. The primary goal here was to demonstrate that a student can complete the program in 4 years without carrying >18 credits in any semester. Whether an individual student will make the choices that match this sample will be up to him/her.

b) English 110 ("Writing 1") has been shifted to the Spring in the combined quarter/semester 4-year plan. I don't see explicit reference to a writing course in the semester-only 4-year plan, so the GE distribution hasn't changed for that plan. If I've missed something obvious in

the semester-only 4-year plan, please let me know.

Please let me know if you have additional questions or concerns about this. Thanks for guiding the review of this proposal.

Best,  
Larry

On 4/7/2011 10:25 AM, James Fredal wrote:

To: Larry Krissek, Earth Sciences Assoc. Director for Administration  
From: James Fredal, CCI Sciences Subcommittee  
Re: Semester Conversion Proposal for Earth Sciences BA

Date: April 6, 2011

Larry:

The Social, Behavioral, Biological, Mathematical and Physical Sciences Subcommittee of the CCI met on March 14<sup>th</sup> to review the proposed semester conversion plan for the Earth Sciences BA and voted unanimously to approve the proposal and to send it forward to the full CCI pending a few small changes and questions.

1. Learning Goal number 3 seems to need rephrasing since it suggests the application of knowledge and the application of that application. Could the phrase simply be deleted to read: "Students apply knowledge of Earth Science data to understand ..."
2. In the List of Program Requirements, Semester Courses, and Equivalent Quarter Courses, could the explanation of required credit hours for the major (under "Major Program") be presented in paragraph format rather than within the chart? The committee felt this might be easier to read and understand. It also might be helpful to reword the passage about hour maximums, since it seems to suggest that students can take more courses outside Earth Sciences as long as they are under the 3000 level. We interpreted the statement to mean that students could take a maximum of 6 credits outside Earth Sciences, and that ALL course work outside Earth Sciences should be at the 3000 level and above," but it was unclear.
3. Both the List of Program Requirements and the Advising Sheet refer to Earth Sciences 4580, but that number does not appear on the course list.
4. The committee noted that almost every course addresses all learning goals, and that this didn't seem to differentiate one course content from another. We also noted that students could obtain a degree without taking any course that fulfills goals at the advanced level. Is that the unit's intent?
5. 4-yr plans:
  - a. The plan lists courses by number at 4 credit hours each: "Earth Sci Upper-level 1: 4 cr" and "Earth Sci Upper-level 2: 4 cr," etc. Would it be preferable to list these by total credit hours: "Earth Sci Upper level: 8 credits" or "8-9 credits" since courses range from 2-4 credit hours?
  - b. Also, it was noted that students in Earth Sciences do not take English 110 in the Fall. Earth Sciences students would take 110 in the SP

according to agreements with the English department. This should be altered on the plans.

These are primarily small fixes except for item #4, the program learning goals, which is really just a query from the committee and may or may not involve any substantial changes to the proposal. We therefore unanimously approved the proposal and will forward it to the full CCI with a recommendation for their approval.

Thanks!

Jim Fredal

cc: Bernadette Vankeerbergen

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James Fredal  
Assoc. Professor, English  
Adviser, Speech and Debate Team  
The Ohio State University