

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 6418S
Date of Senate Approval 04/05/18

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 57 (ENVR): **Revise the requirements for the Earth Science concentration--require Earth History and reduce the number of earth science electives**

Effective Date: Fall 2018

1. Delete: On page 156, under **Concentration in Earth Science:**

At least 31 hours distributed as follows: ENVR 105, 320, 338, 381, 385 and at least 11 additional hours of Earth Science electives chosen from ENVR 106, 282, 290, 310, 311, 362, 383, 384, 410, 411, and PHYS 131 or 221. Students interested in mineral processing should take ENVR 282, 311, 410, 411, MATH 191, 192 and PHYS 221 as part of their major requirements.

Add: On page 156, in place of deleted entry:

At least 29 hours distributed as follows: ENVR 105, 106, 320, 338, 381, 385 and at least 6 additional hours of Earth Science electives chosen from ENVR 282 (if not selected to fulfill the departmental core requirement), 290, 310, 311, 362, 383, 384, 410, 411. Students interested in mineral processing should take ENVR 311, 410, 411 and MATH 191 as part of their major requirements. Students wishing to seek a North Carolina Professional License in Geology should take 24 credit hours of upper-level earth science classes.

Impact Statement: Requiring ENVR 106 for earth science majors will have no impact on the resources and staffing of the Environmental Studies department. This course is currently offered every spring, and most earth science students take the class already. In fact, 87% of Earth Science students took this class over the past five years. Only seven Earth Science students did not (or have not yet) taken the course. Requiring this course is balanced by decreasing the number of earth science elective hours.

We also propose including wording in the catalog so students know ENVR 282 can't be double-counted for both the departmental core requirement and the earth science electives. This will make it clear to students that they need the 6 hours of electives.

PHYS 131, 221 and MATH 192 may have slightly lower enrollment, as they will be removed from the list of Earth Science electives and from the list of courses recommended for students interested in mineral processing. However, very few students ever took these courses for their elective requirements, so the impact will be minimal.

Rationale: ENVR 106 covers essential topics for earth science majors. While most students take the course already, we want to codify it as a requirement. We would rather require this essential course

and continue offering it regularly, even if it means offering fewer upper-level electives—or offering them less frequently—as a result.

The rationale for removing PHYS 131 and 221 from the list of Earth Science electives is to steer students towards ENVR courses that offer more background and training in geology and related topics. The number of courses we have been able to offer students has increased sufficiently that we can accommodate Earth Science students in them and do not need to include Physics courses on the list.

MATH 192 is being removed from the list of courses recommended for students interested in mineral processing because we are eliminating MATH 192 from the course options for the departmental math requirement.

The proposed changes result in a total requirement of 97 credit hours for LAC + Major requirements. (see first attachment below), a reduction from the 99 credit hours currently required. Note that if students select ENVR 282 (Environmental Geology, a DI-designated course) to satisfy either the department core or earth science elective requirement, the LAC + Major requirement drops to 94 credit hours (see attachment).

