Proposed Changes to the Geology Undergraduate Requirements

**PRESENT:**

(none)

**PROPOSED**

**Change of Major and Continuation Criteria**

Students wishing to change into or continue in the Geology major must be in good academic standing and show potential to graduate without exceeding 216 units.

Freshmen (2nd and 3rd quarter) must demonstrate progress in basic sciences and aptitude for geology by satisfying the following three criteria by Spring Quarter or Summer Session:

- MATH 009B eligible (e.g., completion of MATH 9A or MATH 8B with grades of C- or better)
- CHEM 001B eligible (e.g., completion of CHEM 1A with a grade of C- or better)
- One of GEO 001, GEO 002, and GEO 003 completed with a grade of C- or better

Sophomores (up to 89.9 cumulative units) must demonstrate sustained progress in basic sciences and aptitude for geology by satisfying the following three criteria by Spring Quarter or Summer Session:

- CHEM 001C completed with passing grades
- MATH 009C eligible (e.g., MATH 9B with grade of C- or better)
- Two of GEO 001, GEO 002, and GEO 003 completed with no grade below C- after repeats
Juniors (90 – 134.9 units) must demonstrate near completion of basic sciences and aptitude for upper-division geology by satisfying the following three criteria by Spring Quarter or Summer Session:

- CHEM 001C and MATH 009C completed with passing grades
- PHYS 040B or PHYS 002B+002LB eligible (i.e. completion of one quarter of college physics with C- or better)
- GEO 002, GEO 003, and GEO 115 or GEO 122 (and all prerequisites) completed with no grade below C- after repeats

Seniors (135+ units): must have completed all but 1 course of the geology core requirements by Spring Quarter or Summer Session, as follows:

- CHEM 001C, MATH 009C, and PHYS 040C or 002C+LC completed with passing grades
- BIO 002 or 005A+5LA, and STAT 100A or 155 completed with passing grades
- GEO 001, GEO 003, GEO 115, and GEO 122 or GEO 101 (and all prerequisites) completed with no grade below C- after repeats.

**Justification:**

1) This formal statement of progress criteria for change into and continuance in the geology major codifies guidelines already in place in the CNAS Advising Center. They are designed to ensure a reasonable potential for successful graduation; they aim for no more than about 3-4 quarters in residence beyond the time frames of sample programs distributed to incoming freshmen and Community College transfers. The specified grade thresholds are simply the minima required as prerequisites for later required courses.

2) Because these progress milestones refer to Geology core curriculum courses, no special accounting is needed for the chosen option within the Geology major.
3) We envision that the new section will be placed in the General Catalog after the first paragraph under “Geology Major” and before the sub-section “General Geology Option.” If college- or campus-level uniformity demands a different placement, the Department would have no objection, but we note that these criteria do not pertain to the Geophysics major or the Geoscience Education Major.

**APPROVALS:**

Approved by the Department of Earth Sciences: 16 November 2011
Approved by the CNAS Executive Committee: 4/3/12
Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy: 4/16/12