Old Dominion University

Undergraduate Certificate

Name of Certificate

Urban Studies, Policy and Planning

CIP Code

Initiation Date

Summer 2020

Description of Certificate

The proposed Graduate Certificate in Urban Studies, Policy and Planning is designed to provide a specific background, education, and expertise for students and professionals pursuing careers in urban and adaptation planning, city or county management, and community resilience building. The program covers such areas as urban and political geography, planning, community resilience and geographic information science. Students in the proposed certificate program will gain a background in geography and climatology to address climate change, resource scarcity, species extinction, habitat loss, and increased technology reliance. Students will learn how to examine planning areas, compare planning practices, and evaluate planning issues to determine solutions to community planning problems. Graduates will be prepared to manage emergencies, communicate risks, analyze and monitor hazards, conduct damage assessments, and plan adaptation and community resilience building activities to meet the needs of populations in hazardous locations.

Target Audience

The target audience includes individuals currently working in settings that focus on urban planning, geography, transportation, social justice and resource management issues. Students enrolled in undergraduate programs in social sciences, engineering, and business will also be targeted.

Time to Complete

It is anticipated that students enrolled full-time can complete the program in one year (2 semesters). Students attending part-time, can complete the program in 1.5 to 2 years (3 to 4 semesters).

Admission Criteria

Current students at Old Dominion University may ask their advisor to add the certificate to their curriculum plan. Those who are not ODU students are required to submit credentials to the Office of Admissions for admittance to the certificate. The criteria for acceptance include the following:

* A completed online application and application fee
* A minimum of two years of post-secondary coursework at one or more regionally-accredited institutions
* Official transcripts of all undergraduate coursework at regionally-accredited institutions
* Current scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a minimum of 230 on the computer-based TOEFL or 80 on the TOEFL iBT are required if the applicant’s native language is not English.

Student who have not earned a degree in the United States must submit:

* Current scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), with a minimum score of 230 on the computer-based TOEFL or 80 on the TOEFL iBT.
* A sample of scholarly writing, and three recommendations, at least one of which evaluates proficiency in English.

Curriculum Requirements

The curriculum is designed to provide students a background of knowledge and evidence-based practice to propose scalable solution to environmental challenges with compelling rational and arguments. Coursework will provide students with a foundation in resource management and environmental issues to enable them to advocate for sound environmental practices and resource management. The core courses focus on providing students with a background in global resources and sustainability efforts.

The capstone provides an experiential academic component to enhance student’s skill sets by providing insights and potential solutions to a real-world problem. Students will demonstrate their ability to find solutions to complex environmental problems.

**Program Requirements**

Required Courses: (6 credit hours)

GEOG 305 World Resources (3 credits)

GEOG 405 Seminar in International Resource Management (3 credits)

Capstone Course: (3 credit hours)

GEOG 400W Seminar in Advances Environmental Geography (3 credits)

Select Two Courses: (6 credits)

POLS 335 Environmental Politics (3 credits)

GEOG 420 Marine Geography (3 credits)

GEOG 442W Costal Geography (3 credits)

GEOG 495 Topics in Geography: Weather Climate and Society (3 credits)

GEOG 495 Topics in Geography: Study Abroad (3 credits)

Faculty

Faculty members utilized in the certificate program include faculty from the Department of Political Science and Geography. All faculty teaching in the proposed certificate program are fulltime and possess a terminal degree in Geography or a closely related field. Five fulltime faculty members in the department will teach courses in the certificate program.

No adjunct faculty will be used to teach in the certificate program.

Course Delivery Format

The proposed certificate will be offered in a tradition, face-to-face setting, as well as in an online format. Physical space and associated equipment to facilitate class sessions is available and will be used. For online classes, the University utilizes Blackboard to deliver content and WebEx or Adobe Connect for face-to-face discussions and presentations. Faculty assigned to teach online classes have been trained in best practices for offering online classes through the Center for Teaching and Learning. The University has adequate resources to deliver this certificate program.

Resources

Resources required to support the program include existing resources to support current programs such as student support services (e.g., enrollment, help desk, and library), faculty support services (e.g., copying and contracts), and general administration (e.g., budgeting and forecasting). The certificate program will utilize an existing faculty member as the program director. Existing faculty will teach certificate courses. No new positions will be created to initiate the certificate. The University has adequate resources to offer and sustain this certificate program.

Gainful Employment

The proposed certificate is not considered a gainful employment program. Title IV funds are not available to students in the program.

Course Descriptions

GEOG 305 World Resources. 3 credits.

A geographical analysis of the distribution and accessibility of the world's resources including population, agricultural land, biodiversity, water, renewable and nonrenewable materials, and energy sources. Prerequisites: GEOG 100S or GEOG 101S, or permission of the instructor.

GEOG 400W Seminar in Advances Environmental Geography. 3 credits.

Advanced study of a specialized topic in geography. The choice of the topic may vary according to the availability of faculty expertise and student interest. This is a writing intensive course. This course may be repeated once provided it is a different topic and with permission of the instructor. Prerequisites: A grade of C or better in ENGL 211C or ENGL 221C or ENGL 231C; GEOG 100S or GEOG 101S, or permission of the instructor.

GEOG 405 Seminar in International Resource Management. 3 credits.

Discussion of the ecological and management principles underlying international resource management and the goal of attaining a sustainable, ecologically balanced world. Prerequisites: GEOG 100S or GEOG 101S; GEOG 305 recommended.

GEOG 420 Marine Geography. 3 credits.

An analysis of human-sea relationships with particular emphasis on resource management and political organization from global, regional, and national perspectives. Prerequisites: Junior standing and six credits in human behavior, or permission of the instructor.

GEOG 442W Costal Geography. 3 credits.

An examination of the physical and human geography of the coastal zone. Considers problems of managing coastal resources with an emphasis on North America. Lectures focus on coastal patterns, processes, and problems at the global, national, and local scales. Students investigate a section of the local coastline and write a report on the physical and human geography on the basis of field study, library, and internet research. This is a writing intensive course. Prerequisites: GEOG 100S or GEOG 101S, a grade of C or better in ENGL 211C or ENGL 221C or ENGL 231C, or permission of the instructor.

GEOG 495 Topics in Geography: Weather Climate and Society. 3 credits.

The advanced study of selected topics which, due to their specialized nature, may not be offered regularly. These courses will appear in the course schedule, and will be more fully described in information distributed to all academic advisors. Prerequisites: Appropriate survey course or permission of the instructor

GEOG 495 Topics in Geography: Study Abroad. 3 credits.

The advanced study of selected topics which, due to their specialized nature, may not be offered regularly. These courses will appear in the course schedule, and will be more fully described in information distributed to all academic advisors. Prerequisites: Appropriate survey course or permission of the instructor

POLS 335 Environmental Politics. 3 credits.

This course examines the evolution of environmentalism in the United States, including the policy-making process, science and the role played by the public and political institutions. Prerequisites: POLS 101S.