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**MEMORANDUM**

<b>ATTENTION</b>	Senate	<b>DATE</b>	Oct 31, 2024	
<b>FROM</b>	Dilson Rassier, Provost and Vice-President Academic, and Chair, SCUP	<b>PAGES</b>	1/8	
<b>RE:</b>	Program Termination of the Bachelor of Arts, Environmental Specialty Major and Honours (SCUP 24-43)			

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At its meeting on October 23, 2024, SCUP reviewed and approved the program termination of the Bachelor of Arts, Environmental Specialty Major and Honours

**Motion:** That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the dissolution of the Environmental Specialty Major and the Environmental Specialty Honours programs in the Department of Geography within the Faculty of Environment effective Fall 2025.

C: Tracy Brennand, Chair, Department of Geography.



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MEMORANDUM

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ATTENTION	Senate Committee on University Priorities	DATE	September 13, 2024
FROM	Peter Hall, Chair Senate Committee on Undergradua Studies	PAGES	1/1
RE:	Faculty of Environment (SCUS 24-79)		

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Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of September 12, 2024 gives rise to the following recommendations:

**Motion 1**

That SCUP approves and recommends to Senate the dissolution of the Environmental Specialty Major and the Environmental Specialty Honours programs in the Department of Geography within the Faculty of Environment.

The relevant documentation for review by SCUP is attached.

## Proposal to Terminate a Program

1. All impacted credentials, levels and categories of the degree, and specific discipline or field of study

- BA Environmental Specialty Major
- BA Environmental Specialty Honours

2. Location of the program

Burnaby

3. Faculty(ies), Department(s), or School(s) offering the program

Department of Geography

4. Anticipated final dissolution date

Fall 2025

5. Reasons for termination of the program, such as:

- Declining enrollment demand relative to a new, similar, program (BEnv GES) which has recently become a Geography program, having originally been governed at the Faculty (FENV) level.
- Curricular issues – The BA (EGEO) is very close to the BEnv GES and causes confusion among students as well as challenges for scheduling courses.
- See the Appendix for a full rationale including data.

6. Plan for phasing-out of program, including

a) Steps taken to consult with students

Students were consulted in a face-to-face meeting and through an online survey

b) Steps taken to consult with impacted instructors and staff

Discussions were held in departmental meetings and a retreat, with the appended document as the basis for discussion. The Department voted in Spring 2018 to suspend admissions.

- c) Steps taken to ensure students in the program have the opportunity to complete the program

Courses were not deleted and will be offered (since they are part of other programs as well). The Undergraduate advisors were made aware of the change and were attentive to student concerns and problems as they continued through the program. The last student in the program is graduating this summer.

- d) Description of the reallocation of any remaining program and associated resources when program is terminated

There are no resources specially allocated to the BA (EGEO). The department's teaching capacity is not affected by the program termination because all courses are also required in the other programs offered in the department. The advising capacity has already shifted towards the growing BA (HG) and the BEnv (GES) as enrollment numbers have declined in the BA (EGEO) since its suspension.

- e) Confirmation of consultation with other impacted departments and Faculties

N/A

- f) Impacts on and/or reorganization of curriculum in cognate disciplines

N/A

- g) Timeline of activities

As the last student has completed the BA (EGEO), we propose to terminate it as soon as possible

7. Name, title, phone number and email address of the institutional contact person in case more information is required (normally, the Dean of the Faculty in which the program is housed)

Prof. Tracy Brennand  
Chair, Department of Geography



SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

## PROGRAM TERMINATION TEMPLATE

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**[FROM PROPOSAL TO SUSPEND ADMISSIONS/2018] A proposal to delete (or temporarily suspend) the BA (Environmental Specialty) program**

*Eugene McCann, UGSC Chair.*

The UGSC is making the following motion to the Department Meeting:

The BA (Environmental Specialty) should be deleted and its existing content should be borne in mind during an ongoing consideration of revisions to the BEnv (GES).

These are the reasons:

**1. We need to clarify the human-environment element of our programs.**

We currently offer 5 degrees:

<b>BA (Human Geog.)</b> *Assuming eventual approval by the dept.	Clearly defined social science degree
<b>BA (EGeo)</b> (Human-Environment)	} A muddy middle (a muddle) of Hum-Env degrees
<b>BEnv (Global Environmental Systems)</b> (Human-Environment)	
<b>BSc (GIS)</b>	} Two clearly distinct BScs
<b>BSc (Physical Geography)</b>	

If we are to make our program offerings as intelligible and attractive as possible to students, we need to avoid confusion. Shifting to 4 degrees – one social science, one human-environment, and two distinct science degrees – brings clarity to our offerings.

**2. The BA (EGeo) is redundant.**

[The BA \(EGeo\)'s requirements](#) include 35 courses. Of those, 27 (77%) are also listed in the [BEnv's requirements](#). The following 8 courses in the BA (EGeo) requirements do not appear in the BEnv:

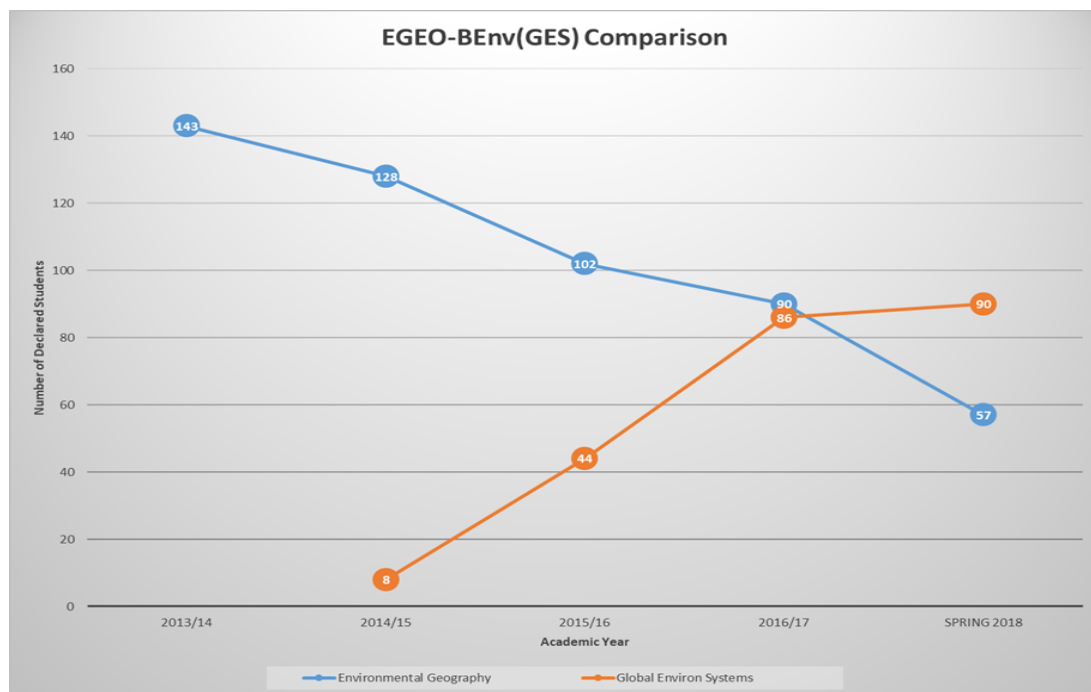
- GEOG 377 - Environmental History (4)
- GEOG 318 - Soils in Our Environment (4)
- GEOG 355 - Geographical Information Science II (4)
- GEOG 385 - Agriculture and the Environment (Food & the City) (4)
- GEOG 432 - Problems in Environmental History (4)
- GEOG 449 - City and Environment (4)
- GEOG 445 - Resource Planning (4)
- REM 445 - Environmental Risk Assessment (3)

Of these 8 courses, 318 is unlikely to run in the near future due to low faculty complement and 445 is likely to be mothballed. Therefore, if the BA (EGeo) were allowed to continue, only 6 courses would distinguish it from the BEnv. The UGSC believes that all 6 of these could possibly be included in a revised GES.

The UGSC plans to explore revisions to the GES, now that we govern the degree. If the BA (EGeo) is deleted, the 6 courses above will be considered for inclusion in a revised BEnv.

### 3. The BA (EGeo) is not as popular or as valued as the BEnv.

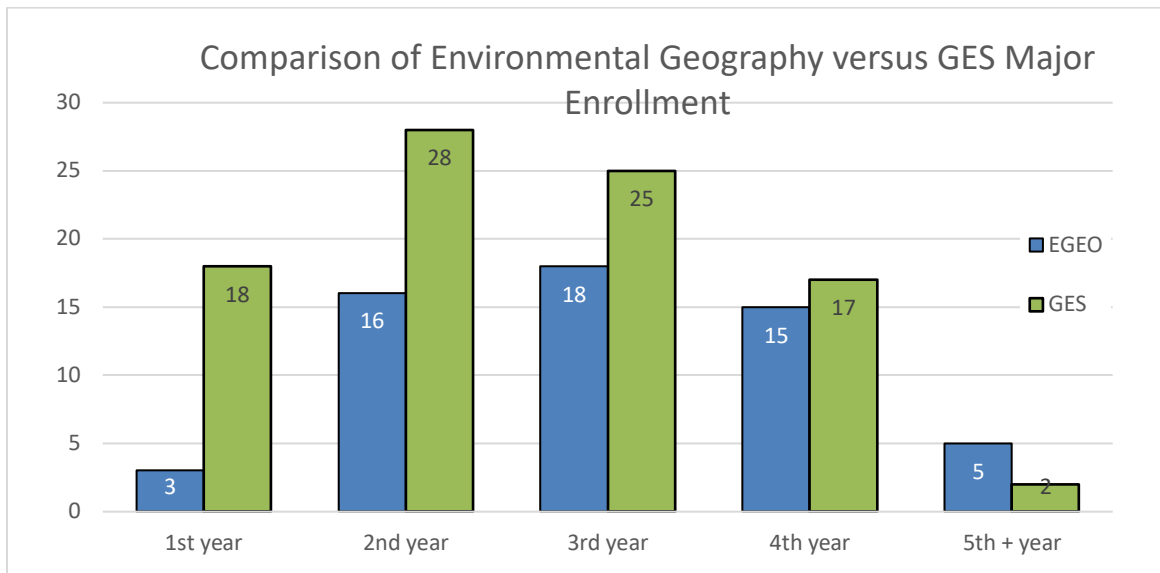
The BA (EGeo) currently has 57 majors, down from 143 5 years ago. The GES currently has 90 majors, up from 8 in its first year (2014/15). The trends are clear.



Anke Baker

Furthermore, of the students currently in the BA (EGeo), 19 are LD; 38 are UD. 46 GES students are LD, while 44 are UD. The graph below suggests that many of those still in the BA (EGeo) might be staying in it as a matter of inertia. Moreover, the advisors believe that, of the 16 students in 2<sup>nd</sup> Year in the BA (EGeo), many are only now finding out about the GES. They have recently met with some newer students who have either switched to, or inquired about the GES program. The students seem to be voting with their feet.

### EGeo & GES Enrolment, Spring 2018



Evon Khor

Over the last weeks, the UGSC has consulted with the students in the two programs:

- Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>. Face-to-Face consultation. 4 students. 2 BA (EGeo), 2 BEnv.
- Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>. Online consultations. 17 students. 6 BA (EGeo), 11 BEnv.

#### Findings:

- The BEnv name is an attractant.
- There is some sense that having a BA (“An Arts degree”) is not as good as a BEnv in terms of its connotations on the job market.
- BEnv students are more satisfied with their degree than BAs. And BEnv are more likely to say that their degree is distinct from the BA than vice versa.
- Three quarters of BAs saw no difference between the two degrees; Two thirds of the BEnvs said they were different.
- Three quarters of BAs say the two degrees could be combined; just under two thirds of BEnv students agree. Those who made comments in the face-to-face consultation or who wrote comments in the survey saw no difference.