FAQ-Frequently Asked Questions about new Atmospheric Sciences Major

The Board of Regents approved our proposal for an Atmospheric Sciences Major. Here is a set of FAQs that hopefully address some of the initial questions you may have about the Major and your status..

1. Why did we want to change the existing certificate program in the first place? From its inception, our Certificate program was a certificate program on "steroids" at 21 hours. Its founders recognized that UGA needed to offer strong curriculum to meet employer needs. Due to expansion of our Faculty and the needs of the students, our program now requires 30+ hours and is on par with any atmospheric sciences major/BS program in the country. At the same time, an array of “certificate” programs is sprouting. Most of these certificate programs are NOT as robust and do NOT meet American Meteorological Society or Federal Civil service requirements for employment or certification. UGA's does. Yet, the perception is that all certificate programs are the same. Recently, one of our better students encountered this with a potential employer. He was told that he didn't qualify for a training program because he only had a "certificate". Evolving our program into a major makes sense given that the "credit hours are in Degree-level numbers" and to help our students get the respect they deserve for the work they have put in during college in our program.

2. **So are there major differences in the Major vs Certificate?** Not really, however, we did propose a separate ATSC listed internship since some internships would be very specific to the Atmospheric Sciences field. We are also doing away with the Tracks in the Certificate. We found that they were not really popular. Instead, we have entrained those courses into the suite of electives. We also proposed a new prefix for ATSC courses, which has now been approved.

3. When will the first graduating class of Atmospheric Science majors be? We are aggressively working to have all of the required steps in place so that Spring 2017 graduates would be eligible. However, there are numerous steps that involve curriculum changes and administrative processes that will ultimately determine the answer to this question. We hope to have a more definitive answer as soon as possible.

4. Is it possible to major in both Atmospheric Sciences and Geography? A resounding YES. In fact, we recommend this approach. Students who are currently pursuing the Geography major with the Atmospheric Sciences certificate should in nearly every case be on track to do both majors. On pages 2 and 3, you will see 2 course plans to attain the Atmospheric Sciences Major (Appendix A) and/or a Double Major in Atmospheric Sciences and Geography (Appendix B). If you have questions, Dr. Knox is happy to sit down and go through it carefully with you during advising this fall.

5. Will I be able to use GEOG 3990 instead of the ASTC 3990internship course if I am graduating in the Spring of 2017? We have been told that GEOG3990 (Internship in Geography) can be substituted for ATSC 3990 (Internship in Atmospheric Sciences) until we get that new course set up.

Appendix A

4 YEAR / 8 SEMESTER EXAMPLE COURSE SCHEDULE FOR MAJOR IN ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES (B.S.)

	Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
First Year	ENGL 1101	3	ENGL 1102 or 1103	3
	MATH 1113	3	MATH 2250	4
	GEOG 1112 + L	4	PHYS 1211 + L	4
	Foreign Language I	4	Foreign Language II	4
	FYOS 1001	1		
	TOTAL HOURS: 15		TOTAL HOURS: 15	
Second Year	MATH 2260	4	MATH 2270	3
	PHYS 1212 + L	4	CHEM 1211	3
	PHYS 2001	1	POLS 1101	3
	Foreign Language III	3	ATSC Climatology	3
	ATSC(GEOG) 3120 + L	3	Programming	2-3
	TOTAL HOURS: 15		TOTAL HOURS:	14-15
Third Year	MATH 2700	3	ATSC(GEOG) 4114 or 4116	3
	ATSC(GEOG) 4112 + L	3	Life Science	3
	HIST 2111 or 2112	3	STAT 2000	4
	Literature Course	3	ATSC(GEOG) 4111 + L	3
	FA/PH/RL #1	3	FA/PH/RL #2	3
	TOTAL HOURS: 15		TOTAL HOURS: 16	
Fourth Year	ATSC(GEOG) 4140	3	ATSC(GEOG) 4170 + L	3
	GEOG 1101	3	ATSC 3990	3
	Upper-Division general elective 3		ATSC(ENGR) 4131 + L	3
			ATSC(GEOG) 4120	3
	Upper-Division general elective 3		General elective	2-3
	Upper-Division ATSC elective	3	TOTAL HOURS: 14-15	
	TOTAL HOURS: 15			

1-hour P.E. course

Appendix B

4 YEAR / 8 SEMESTER EXAMPLE COURSE SCHEDULE
FOR DOUBLE MAJOR IN ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES (B.S.) AND GEOGRAPHY (B.S.)

	Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
First Year	ENGL 1101	3	ENGL 1102 or 1103	3
	MATH 1113	3	MATH 2250	4
	GEOG 1112 + L	4	PHYS 1211 + L	4
	Foreign Language I	4	Foreign Language II	4
	FYOS 1001	1		
	TOTAL HOURS: 15		TOTAL HOURS: 15	
Second Year	MATH 2260	4	MATH 2270	3
	PHYS 1212 + L	4	CHEM 1211	3
	PHYS 2001	1	POLS 1101	3
	Foreign Language III	3	GEOG Climatology course	3
	ATSC(GEOG) 3120 + L	3	Programming	2-3
	TOTAL HOURS: 15		TOTAL HOURS:	14-15
Third Year	MATH 2700	3	ATSC(GEOG) 4114 or 4116	3
	ATSC(GEOG) 4112 + L	3	Life Science	3
	HIST 2111 or 2112	3	STAT 2000	4
	Literature Course	3	GEOG 4111 + L	3
	FA/PH/RL #1	3	FA/PH/RL #2	3
	TOTAL HOURS: 15		TOTAL HOURS: 16	
Fourth Year	ATSC(GEOG) 4140	3	ATSC(GEOG) 4170 + L	3
	GEOG 1101	3	ATSC 3990	3
	GEOG 3510	3	ATSC(ENGR) 4131 + L	3
	GEOG 36xx or 46xx or 47xx	3	GEOG 4120	3
	Upper-Division ATSC elective	3	General elective	2-3
	TOTAL HOURS: 15		TOTAL HOURS: 14-15	

1-hour P.E. course