**Proposal for a new minor program in the Department of Anthropology and Geography**

Minor in Human-Environment Geography

The minor in Human-Environment Geography gives students a focused area of study in the prominent sub-discipline of Geography centered on sustainability, human-environment relationships and human dimensions of global environmental change. It trains students to synthesize the physical and human aspects of geography through a complex and holistic theoretical approach, and introduces them to the use of mixed methods research that human-environment geographers employ.

**Minor Requirements (18 credits):**

Students may not count more than two courses towards both their major and the minor.

Students must earn a grade of “C” or better in the following:

Required Courses: (10 credits)………………………………………..………………………….10

GEOG 120 Cultures and Environments…………………………………....……………....3

GEOG 201 Introduction to Physical Geography………….……………………………….3

GEOG 201L Introduction to Physical Geography lab………….………………...………..1

GEOG 300 Human Landscapes…………………………………….………………...……3

Electives: (choose a minimum of 8 credits from the following): ………..………….....………….8

GEOG 200 Digital Earth……………………………………………………………...…...3

GEOG 301 Concepts in Geography………….………………………...……….………….3

GEOG 320 Introduction to Weather and Climate……………………………………....….3

GEOG 331 Topics in Historical Geography………………………………….…………....3

GEOG 341 Geography of Food and Agriculture…….......…………….………...……..….3

GEOG 342 Forests and People…………...…………...………….…………………….….3

GEOG 342L Forests and People lab………………………..…………………….………..1

GEOG 351 Spiritual Landscapes………..…………………………………………………3

GEOG 399 Independent Study\*….……………………………………..…………….....1-6

GEOG 495Q Internship\*.………….…………………………………..……………....1-12

\*Note: Sections of these courses that involve relevant content are approved for this minor. See the minor adviser.

Total Credits Required: 18

Implementation date

This program is proposed to begin in January 2020.

Program need and justification

The Department of Anthropology & Geography currently offers minors in Anthropology and Geographic Information Systems, and a Geospatial Technologies Certificate, but none that offers students the opportunity to minor in other (non-GIS) sub-disciplines of geography. The addition of this minor will help round out the offerings of our joint department. Human-environment geography is a dominant sub-discipline in the field, evidenced by there being 39 sessions with human-environment in the title or session description at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers.

To better understand student interest in the field of geography, Dominique Cagalanan, Assistant Professor of Geography, conducted a survey of 501 students at CCU (5% of the total student body), with a nearly representative sample of students across colleges, years, and gender. The survey assessed student interest in key terms frequently used for geography course titles and descriptions, and department/program titles (since many programs often considered to be interdisciplinary are fundamentally geography or geography sub-disciplines called by another name). This survey was also conducted at the University of Miami, Michigan State University, and San Diego State University. The results of the survey at CCU, and the comparison to other universities, highlights the interest in and need for this new Minor in Human-Environment Geography at CCU. Across the universities in this study, “society” and “environment” were ranked as two of the top three department names, with “society” ranked as number one and “environment” ranked as number three for CCU students. Students around the country, including those at CCU, rank geography-related terms higher after having previously taken a geography course, and so having this minor will thus offer students the opportunity to minor in what they voted as the “most attractive” aspects of geography.

Anticipated program demand and productivity

As indicated by the aforementioned survey results, it is expected that this minor will be of interest to a broad portion of the students at CCU from across colleges and majors.

Relationship to existing programs

The Minor in Human-Environment Geography will help to increase the offerings of the Geography component of our dual department to students at CCU. It will give students across CCU the opportunity to learn about one of the dominant sub-disciplines of geography.

Total new costs

Courses in the program will be taught by existing faculty in existing facilities. We will be putting in a course change for GEOG342L to request lab fees.