



# Program Approval Form

For approval of new programs and deletions or modifications to an existing program.

**Action Requested:**

Create New (SCHEV approval required except for minors)  
 Inactivate Existing  
 Modify Existing (check all that apply)  
 Title (SCHEV approval required except for minors)  
 **Concentration** (Choose one):  Add  Delete  Modify  
 Degree Requirements  
 Admission Standards/ Application Requirements  
 Other Changes: \_\_\_\_\_

**Type** (Check one):

B.A.  B.S.  Minor  
 M.A.  M.S.  M.Ed.  
 Ph.D.  
 Undergraduate Certificate\*  
 Graduate Certificate\*  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**College/School:**  **Department:**   
**Submitted by:**  **Ext:**  **Email:**

**Effective Term:** Fall  **Please note:** For students to be admitted to a new degree, minor, certificate or concentration, the program must be fully approved, entered into Banner, and published in the University Catalog.

**Justification:** (attach separate document if necessary)

	Existing	New/Modified
<b>Program Title:</b> (Required) Title must identify subject matter. Do not include name of college/school/dept.	Climate Dynamics PhD	
<b>Concentration(s):</b>		
<b>Admissions Standards / Application Requirements:</b> (Required only if different from those listed in the University Catalog)		
<b>Degree Requirements:</b> Consult University Catalog for models, attach separate document if necessary using track changes for modifications	24 credits of electives, including up to 5 credits of independent research.  No more than 24 combined credits from CLIM 998 and CLIM 999 may be applied toward satisfying doctoral degree requirements, with no more than 12 credits of CLIM 998.	24 credits of electives, including up to 3 credits of CLIM 796 or CLIM 996.  No more than 24 combined credits from CLIM 998 and CLIM 999 may be applied toward satisfying doctoral degree requirements, with no more than 21 credits of CLIM 999.
<b>Courses offered via distance:</b> (if applicable)		
<b>TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED:</b>		

\*For Certificates Only: Indicate whether students are able to pursue on a  Full-time basis  Part-time basis

## Approval Signatures

Department	Date	College/School	Date	Provost's Office <i>Interdisciplinary Council Use Only</i>	Date
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If this program may impact another unit or is in collaboration with another unit at Mason, the originating department must circulate this proposal for review by those units and obtain the necessary signatures prior to submission. Failure to do so will delay action on this proposal.

Unit Name	Unit Approval Name	Unit Approver's Signature	Date

### For Graduate Programs Only

Graduate Council Member	Provost Office	Graduate Council Approval Date
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## Description of Changes

1. Maximum number of elective credits that can be fulfilled with independent research is changed from 5 to 3. "independent research" is changed to "CLIM 796 or CLIM 996".
2. Maximum number of dissertation credits that can be fulfilled by CLIM 998 is changed from 12 to 21.

## Justification

1. All Climate Dynamics elective courses are 3 credits, so even though 5 credits of independent research is allowed, in practice only 3 credits of it can be used to fulfill the 24 credit requirement. Students have been confused by 5 credits being listed in the program description. The change from "independent research" is to clarify that reading courses taken as **CLIM 796 Directed Reading and Research** or **CLIM 996 Doctoral Reading and Research** can be applied toward elective credits.
2. The Registrar's Office has recently made it difficult to waive course requirements for advancement to candidacy. Students often finish their thesis proposal while they still have not finished one or two courses (typically CLIM 991 Climate Dynamics Seminar for 1 credit per semester). If this course requirement is not waived, students cannot advance to candidacy until they have taken an extra semester or more of CLIM 998 even after defending a thesis proposal. This may result in a student accumulating more than 12 credits of CLIM 998 and less than 12 credits of CLIM 999. Changing the requirement to 3 credits of CLIM 999 helps a student avoid taking more credits or more time than is necessary.

## Current Catalog

24 credits of electives, including up to 5 credits of independent research

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No more than 24 combined credits from CLIM 998 and CLIM 999 may be applied toward satisfying doctoral degree requirements, with no more than 12 credits of CLIM 998.

## Catalog With Revisions

24 credits of electives, including up to 3 credits of CLIM 796 or CLIM 996

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No more than 24 combined credits from CLIM 998 and CLIM 999 may be applied toward satisfying doctoral degree requirements, with no more than 21 credits of CLIM 998.