

Course Change Request

Date Submitted: 11/12/25 1:35 pm

Viewing: **GGG 485 : Capstone in Geography and Geoinformation Science**

Last approved: 02/28/25 6:08 am

Last edit: 11/12/25 1:35 pm

Changes proposed by: nburtch

Catalog Pages referencing this course

- [Climate Resilience and Adaptation Minor \(ATMS\)](#)
- [Climate Resilience and Adaptation Minor \(ESP\)](#)
- [Department of Geography and Geoinformation Science](#)
- [Geography and Geoinformation Science \(GGG\)](#)
- [Geography, BA](#)

Select modification type:

~~Specialized Course Designation~~
Substantial

Are you completing this form on someone else's behalf?

No

Effective Term: Fall 2026

Subject Code: GGG - Geography & Geoinformation Science

Course Number: 485

Bundled Courses:

Is this course replacing another course? No

In Workflow

1. **GGG Chair**
2. **SC Curriculum Committee**
3. SC Assistant Dean
4. Assoc Provost-Undergraduate
5. Registrar-Courses
6. Banner

Approval Path

1. 11/13/25 2:03 pm
Nathan Burtch
(nburtch): Approved for GGG Chair

History

1. Apr 28, 2023 by
Nathan Burtch
(nburtch)
2. Feb 28, 2025 by
Nathan Burtch
(nburtch)

Equivalent Courses:**Catalog Title:** Capstone in Geography and Geoinformation Science**Banner Title:** Capstone Geog & Geoinf Sci**Will section titles vary by semester?** No**Credits:** 3**Schedule Type:** Seminar**Hours of Lecture or Seminar per week:** 3**Repeatable:** May be only taken once for credit, limited to 3 attempts (N3) **Max Allowable Credits:** 9**Default Grade Mode:** Undergraduate Regular**Recommended Prerequisite(s):****Recommended Corequisite(s):** GGS 415**Required Prerequisite(s) / Corequisite(s) (Updates only):** Prereq: GGS 300, GGS 311 or GGS L311**Registrar's Office Use Only - Required Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s):**

And/Or	(	Course/Test Code	Min Grade/Score	Academic Level	)	Concurrency?
	(	GGS 300	C	UG		
Or		GGS 300	XS	UG		
Or		GGS 311	C	UG		

And/Or	(	Course/Test Code	Min Grade/Score	Academic Level	)	Concurrency?
Or		GGS 311	XS	UG		
Or		GGS L311	T	UG	)	

Registration Restrictions (Updates only): 75 or more completed credits ~~Senior or Senior Plus status only~~

Registrar's Office Use Only - Registration Restrictions:

Field(s) of Study:

Class(es): Include
 Limited to students with a class of Senior Plus (SCRRCLS_ONLY_SP)
 Limited to students with a class of Senior (SCRRCLS_ONLY_SR)

Level(s):

Degree(s):

School(s):

Catalog Description: Provides students with project-based culminating experience that integrates geographic problem solving with real-world data and questions. Students work in teams on client-based projects and present project deliverables. This course requires analytical, collaborative, communication, organizational, and research skills, with students demonstrating mastery of geographic thought and practice.

Justification: What: Changing Senior/Senior Plus status to "75 or more credits" for registration restrictions.

Why: We are having issues that students currently at Junior status are unable to register for the course, even when they will be senior status upon successful completion of the current term. The current page on Mason Apex recommends students enroll after 85 credits (<https://masoncore.gmu.edu/mason-core-course-categories/mason-apex/>), we do not find that adequate. This course is planned to be Spring only, and with some students, they will need to register while at 75 credits completed in a Fall term (as potentially, they

will complete Fall at 90 credits, and potentially complete the degree with 15 credits in Spring/Fall, thus needing to enroll in GGS 485 that upcoming Spring).

Does this course cover material which crosses into another department? No

Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate core skill set found in the Geography major;
- Integrate skills, abilities, theories, and methodologies gained throughout the undergraduate curriculum;
- Demonstrate and implement integrative multi-disciplinary problem-solving skills;
- Apply critical thinking, including the ability to critically examine existing works and established methods, and develop innovative approaches;
- Enhance and develop rigorous writing and presentation skills;
- Enhance students' ability to work and manage a project collaboratively.

Will this course be scheduled as a cross-level cross listed section?

Attach Syllabus [GGS485_syllabus.pdf](#)

Additional Attachments [GGS485-Mason-Core-Mason-Apex-Worksheet.pdf](#)
[GGS485-reflection_paper.pdf](#)

Specialized Course Categories: Mason Core

Select the Mason Core Requirement the course is proposing to fulfill:

Foundation Courses:

Exploration Courses:

Integration Courses: Mason Apex

Mason Apex

Learning Objectives:

Upon completing a Mason Apex course, students will be able to:

1. Integrate skills, abilities, theories, or methodologies gained across a Mason student's undergraduate education to explore complex issues in original ways.
2. Communicate effectively the results of the student's work with awareness of audience, purpose, and context using an appropriate modality (for example: written, oral, visual, material, embodied, multimodal).

Have you reached out to the Libraries to determine whether there are adequate resources to support your course? If not, please email Meg Meiman, Associate University Librarian for Learning, Research, and Engagement at mmeiman2@gmu.edu.

**Additional
Comments:**

**Reviewer
Comments**

Key: 15745