**Cover Sheet for New Undergraduate Curriculum Proposals**

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| **Date:**  | **Proposal Number:** (Assigned by the Registrar)**Contact Person: Ryan Sincavage** |
| **Department: Geology** |
| **Current Course or Program ID:**  |

**Proposal Category:** (🗸 all that apply). A separate cover sheet must be submitted for each proposal.

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| \_\_\_\_ Course Prerequisite Change | \_\_\_\_ Change to Catalog Description |
| \_\_\_\_ Course Title Change  | \_\_\_\_ Minor Change to Course |
| \_\_\_\_ Course Deletion | \_\_\_\_ New Course |
| \_\_\_\_ Course Number Change | \_\_\_\_ Program Revision |
| \_\_\_\_ Course Credit Hour Change  | \_\_x\_\_ New or Discontinued Program  (Major, minor, or certificate) |
| \_\_\_\_ Course Syllabus Change |  |

**Other Proposal Requirements:** (🗸 as applies and attach form)

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| **\_\_\_\_** | For New Course Proposals, attach the New Course Proposal.  |
|  | For New or Discontinued Majors or Certificates, or significant changes in program requirements contact the SCHEV liaison, the Assistant Provost for Academic Operations, to compose and attach the proposal in SCHEV format. |

**Proposal Description with Rationale:** For changes in catalog entries or syllabi, include the current language and use track changes to indicate proposed changes. Explain why the change is desired.

The Department of Geology at Radford University proposes a new minor in Planetary Science. Research in the solar system and the celestial bodies within it advance fundamental science knowledge, and provide pathways for technological advances that benefit the entire human species. By deepening our understanding of the Earth and its neighbors, we not only gain insights into the changes Earth has undergone through its long history, but we are awarded windows into its possible future through knowledge of natural systems and processes on other planets in our solar system. A recent resurgence in interest of space exploration, fostered by groundbreaking research on Mars, makes a dedicated program to the study of our solar system desirable to today’s undergraduate population. Providing a sequence of planetary science courses increases scientific awareness and literacy among our graduates, to the benefit of society as a whole.

**Effective Date**: Fall 2020

Reason for requesting an alternative effective date:

Planetary Science minor (minimum 17 credits)

**GOAL**: To understand the structure, composition, and evolution of Earth and the other planets and celestial bodies of the solar system.

**TARGET**: Majors outside of the natural sciences with an interest in the physical processes operating on Earth and within our solar system.

Required core courses (7-8 credits):

**GEOL 105** (4): Exploring Earth

**ASTR 111**(4): General Astronomy I

OR

**ASTR 220** (3): Introduction to Astrophysics

Electives (choose ***three*** additional courses from the list below):

**ASTR 310** (3): Observational Methods in Astronomy (*prerequisite - ASTR 220*)

**ASTR 421** (3): Solar System Astronomy (*prerequisite - ASTR 220*)

**GEOL 106** (4): It’s About Time: A History of Earth, Life, and Global Change (*prerequisite- GEOL 105 or permission of instructor*)

**GEOL 310** (4): Mineralogy (*prerequisite- GEOL 105, corequisite CHEM 111 or permission of instructor*)

**GEOL 320** (4): Sedimentary Petrology and Stratigraphy (*prerequisite- GEOL 310*)

**GEOL 365** (4): Earth’s Ocean and Climate Systems (*prerequisite- 7 hours of natural science*)

**PHYS 301** (4): Atmospheric Physics (*prerequisite- PHYS 111 or 221, or ASTR 220*)

## **Approval/Recommendation Signature Sheet for Undergraduate Curriculum Proposals**

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| **Signature** | **Title** | **Date** |
|  | Department Curriculum Committee Chair |  |
|  | Department Chair (on behalf of faculty) |  |
|  | College Curriculum Committee Chair |  |
|  | College Dean |  |
| For courses proposed to be included in the Core Curriculum: |
|  | Core Curriculum Advisory Committee Chair |  |
| For new majors and certificates: |
|  | Library Liaison |  |
| For new or discontinued majors, minors, certificates, concentrations, options or significant changes in program requirements: |
|  | Faculty Senate President following review by the Faculty Senate |  |
|  | Provost and VP for Academic Affairs |  |
| For proposals going to BOV, SCHEV and/or SACSCOC: |  |
|  | President |  |
|  | Board of Visitors approval date |  |
|  | SCHEV approval date |  |
|  | SACSCOC approval date |  |
|  | Entered into catalog by Registrar’s Office |  |