

Registrar's Office Initiated Equivalencies

This process will establish guidelines to enter transfer course equivalencies by the Registrar's Office for approved lower division courses. These guidelines will be created by the CLAS department and approved by both the department head and the CLAS Dean's Office. The guidelines will lay out the criteria to determine what conditions a transfer course must meet to the CU Denver equivalent. These course equivalencies will be managed by the Registrar's Office and will apply to new incoming students.

The established guidelines will be given to the Registrar's Office. The courses meeting the conditions described within the listed guidelines will be given the appropriate transfer equivalencies without requiring additional departmental approval. These equivalencies will be done with the condition that the decisions made during this process are available for review by the CLAS department. Below is a set of general guidelines that all courses used in the Registrar's Office Initiated Equivalencies process will be subject to. Please see the attached pages following for specific guidelines for each course involved in the process.

Each course used in the Registrar's Office Initiated Equivalencies process must meet the following criteria:

- Has the same or similar department pre-fix
- Has a similar course title
- Taught at the lower division level
- Similar course content to CU Denver course (as determined by course description)
- Institution must be appropriately accredited
- Specific addition criteria as listed on subsequent pages

CU Denver Course	Course Title
All lower division courses in the course catalog	All lower division titles in the course catalog
ENVS 1999AE	Lower division generic
ENVS 2999AE	Lower division generic
GEOG 1999AE	Lower division generic
GEOG 2999AE	Lower division generic
GEOL 1999AE	Lower division generic
GEOL 2999AE	Lower division generic


CLAS Dean's Office


Date


CLAS Department Chair

4/11/2017

Date

These rules do **NOT** apply to internships, freshman seminars, topics courses, and independent studies. Please send these courses to GEVS department for review.

ENVS 1999AE ENVS Equivalent-Lower Division

Registrar's Office Initiated Equivalency Guidelines

CU Denver Description: N/A

Specific guidelines to be met: Transfer course does not match the title or content of any other lower division course in the catalog and the source institution course number is equivalent to CU Denver 1000 level.

ENVS 2999AE ENVS Equivalent-Lower Division

Registrar's Office Initiated Equivalency Guidelines

CU Denver Description: N/A

Specific guidelines to be met: Transfer course does not match the title or content of any other lower division course in the catalog and the source institution course number is equivalent to CU Denver 2000 level.

GEOG 1999AE GEOG Equivalent-Lower Division

Registrar's Office Initiated Equivalency Guidelines

CU Denver Description: N/A

Specific guidelines to be met: Transfer course does not match the title or content of any other lower division course in the catalog and the source institution course number is equivalent to CU Denver 1000 level.

GEOG 2999AE GEOG Equivalent-Lower Division

Registrar's Office Initiated Equivalency Guidelines

CU Denver Description: N/A

Specific guidelines to be met: Transfer course does not match the title or content of any other lower division course in the catalog and the source institution course number is equivalent to CU Denver 2000 level.

GEOL 1999AE GEOL Equivalent-Lower Division

Registrar's Office Initiated Equivalency Guidelines

CU Denver Description: N/A

Specific guidelines to be met: Transfer course does not match the title or content of any other lower division course in the catalog and the source institution course number is equivalent to CU Denver 1000 level.

GEOL 2999AE GEOL Equivalent-Lower Division

Registrar's Office Initiated Equivalency Guidelines

CU Denver Description: N/A

Specific guidelines to be met: Transfer course does not match the title or content of any other lower division course in the catalog and the source institution course number is equivalent to CU Denver 2000 level.

ENVS 1342 - Environment, Society and Sustainability

Registrar's Office Initiated Equivalency Guidelines

CU Denver Description:

Overview of perspectives on environmental issues within the context of sustainability and taking a systems approach to understanding human-environment interactions. The focus is on social science approaches to explore the human footprint on the earth, environmentalism, scientific uncertainty, policy creation and social change. Max hours: 3 Credits. GT: Course is approved by the Colorado Dept of Higher Education for statewide guaranteed transfer, GT-SS2.

Specific guidelines to be met:

The course should address environmental issues in the context of development (such as growing economies or industrial development), diversity (e.g. world views) and sustainability (e.g. approaches to resource use and management). Course descriptions should indicate that the course aims to explore the relation between human activities, the impact on the environment, and the complexities of understanding that relationship in terms of policy, culture and sustainability. Equivalent courses should be multi-disciplinary in nature.

The social causes of environmental change / globalization / population growth / social responses to environmental change (sustainable policy, conservation, etc.). Should also be a social science, not a physical science, so should not include a lab.

Keywords in titles and course descriptions: policy, sustainability, environmental change, footprint, multidisciplinary, human-environment interaction

Alternate titles to consider: Introduction to Environmental Studies/Issues/Sciences/Geography, Environment and Society, Environmental Concerns and Perspectives, Global Environment, Environmental Sustainability, Sustainability and Human Society

ENVS 1042 - Introduction to Environmental Sciences

Registrar's Office Initiated Equivalency Guidelines

CU Denver Description:

This laboratory or survey course develops a basic understanding of ecological relationships and environmental systems. Issues such as the effects of human activities on earth's environment, extinction or diversity, greenhouse effect, hazardous or toxic wastes and human population growth are discussed. Max hours: 4 Credits. GT: Course is approved by the Colorado Dept of Higher Education for statewide guaranteed transfer, GT-SC1.

Specific guidelines to be met:

Must be a physical science course and **include a lab**, though the lab can be a stand-alone/co-requisite.

Alternate titles to consider: Environmental Sciences is the most common title

GEOG 1102 - World Regions Global Context

Registrar's Office Initiated Equivalency Guidelines

CU Denver Description:

Analyzes world regions and their global interconnectedness, including the dynamic and complex relationships between people and the world they inhabit. Demographic and cultural (political, economic, and historic) issues are examined as well as interactions between human societies and natural environments. Note: This course may count for the International Studies major or minor. See your INTS advisor for more information. Max hours: 3 Credits. GT: Course is approved by the Colorado Dept of Higher Education for statewide guaranteed transfer, GT-SS2.

Specific guidelines to be met:

Most geography courses are titled very similarly (such as “world regional geography”). The intent of this course is to examine spatial patterns and processes in a global context. Often the focus is around the relationship between human and environmental interactions at the global scale. Globalization, the processes that accompany it and its impacts should be apparent from the course description. Should also be a social science, not a physical science, so should not include a lab.

Courses that are specifically about a particular world region (such as “the Geography of Europe”) should not be articulated as this course.

Keywords in titles and course descriptions: global, globalization, region, regional, human-environmental interactions

Alternate titles to consider: Survey of World Geography, Regions and Nations of the World, Current Issues in World Geography, Major World Regions, World Regional Geography, World Geography

GEOG 1202 - Introduction to Physical Geography

Registrar's Office Initiated Equivalency Guidelines

CU Denver Description:

The science that studies the processes, forms, and spatial or geographic structures of natural systems operating at or near the earth's surface, including weather, climate, and landform processes. Max hours: 3 Credits. GT: Course is approved by the Colorado Dept of Higher Education for statewide guaranteed transfer, GT-SC2.

Specific guidelines to be met:

This is a general, introductory, course in earth science and physical geographic processes and as such should include all of the components listed in the description (weather, climate, and landform processes). Similarly titled courses, such as "physical geology" or "physical meteorology," which only incorporate one of these processes or some portion of the ones listed, should not be articulated with this course.

A complete physical geography course should include study of the biosphere, lithosphere, atmosphere, and hydrosphere. This is a physical science course, so may include a lab, though our course does not have a lab.

Keywords in titles and course descriptions: earth's surface, weather, climate, landforms, biosphere, lithosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere

Alternate titles to consider: Physical Systems of the Environment, Physical Geography, Geography of the Natural Environment, Environmental Geography, Environmental Systems, Physical Geography of the Earth's Environment

GEOG 1302 – Introduction to Human Geography

Registrar's Office Initiated Equivalency Guidelines

CU Denver Description: Systematic introduction to basic concepts and approaches in human geographic analysis. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Specific guidelines to be met:

Demographic and cultural (political, economic, and historic) issues are examined from geographical perspectives as well as interactions between human societies and natural environments.

Keywords in titles and course descriptions:

Alternate titles to consider: Cultural Geography

GEOG 1602 - Urban Studies and Planning

Registrar's Office Initiated Equivalency Guidelines

CU Denver Description:

Surveys the process of urbanization, emphasizing the development of American cities, using Denver as an example. Topics covered include: evolution of metropolitan form/land use patterns, cultural landscape formation, city planning and architectural design, and urban social and policy issues. Max hours: 3 Credits. GT: Course is approved by the Colorado Dept of Higher Education for statewide guaranteed transfer, GT-SS2.

Specific guidelines to be met:

Introductory-level courses that discuss the development and processes of urbanization in North American contexts should be articulated with this course.

As with many geography courses listed here, the intent of this course should be broad and should include three or four of the components listed (land use, cultural landscapes, planning and design, social issues, and policy). Courses that are more specialized to a component of urban study or which are based on other continents (such as European or developing world contexts) should be referred to the department for further review.

This is an applied course and should not be confused with courses that are titled "Urban Geography" or "Geography of [specific city]." Should also be a social science, not a physical science, so should not include a lab.

Keywords in titles and course descriptions: urbanization, policy, cultural landscapes, urban design

Alternate titles to consider: Intro to Urban Studies

GEOL 2080 – Introduction to Mapping and Map Analysis

Registrar's Office Initiated Equivalency Guidelines

CU Denver Description:

Studies major elements in the preparation of thematic maps, including sources of data collection and manipulation of data, and cartographic techniques for display of data. GT: Course is approved by the Colorado Dept of Higher Education for statewide guaranteed transfer, GT-SC1.

Specific guidelines to be met:

This is a introductory survey course for the geospatial collection of courses, intended to provide students with foundational knowledge to succeed in more advanced and technical courses, such as remote sensing, geographic information systems (GIS), and cartography.

Language should involve general the study and use of maps without focus on a technical component, such as GIS. More specific courses, particularly those that specifically cover and focus on GIS, remote sensing, cartography, or spatial analysis should not be articulated as equivalent to this source. Equivalent courses should provide an overview or summary of three or four of these topics.

Examples of similar courses from other universities include “Introduction to Mapping,” “Introduction to Map Use,” and sometimes slightly more creative course titles such as “Mapping Our World.”

Keywords in titles and course descriptions: cartography, remote sensing, GIS, maps, mapping, analysis, spatial, geospatial

Alternate titles to consider: Introduction to GIS, Introduction to Geographic Information Science/Studies, Map Reading, Intro to Map and Compass

GEOG 2202 - Hazards to Disasters: Perception and Management

Registrar's Office Initiated Equivalency Guidelines

CU Denver Description:

Surveys those physical phenomena that often cause substantial damage when they occur in areas of human settlement. Max hours: 3 Credits. GT: Course is approved by the Colorado Dept of Higher Education for statewide guaranteed transfer, GT-SS2.

Specific guidelines to be met:

This course was designed to address the social, rather than the physical-geographic, facets of hazards. Equivalent courses should have language that engages these concepts (social, cultural, political, economic impacts of hazards or disasters as well as the policy implications of them).

Courses with the term “hazards” in the title are specifically about the physical-geographic root causes, such as geological or meteorological underpinnings of a natural disaster, should not be articulated without additional review from the department of GES. Should be a social science, not a physical science, so should not include a lab.

Any course entitled “natural hazards” or “natural disasters” should be forwarded to the department for additional review.

Keywords in titles and course descriptions: hazards, disaster, policy, social processes

GEOL 1022 – History of Life

Registrar's Office Initiated Equivalency Guidelines

CU Denver Description: Non-technical study of fossils through time and their relationship to environments through earth history. Includes discussion of evolution and extinction events and current controversies. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Specific guidelines to be met:

Title and content match (or similar)

Keywords in titles and course descriptions: fossils, earth history, evolution, extinction events

Alternate titles to consider: Historical Geology, History of the Earth

GEOL 1072 - Physical Geology: Surface Processes

Registrar's Office Initiated Equivalency Guidelines

CU Denver Description:

Introductory course in physical geology that covers surface processes and landforms, and includes one all-day field trip. Note: Required for geology majors. Max hours: 4 Credits. GT: Course is approved by the Colorado Dept of Higher Education for statewide guaranteed transfer, GT-SC1.

Specific guidelines to be met:

This is an introductory level geology course about *surficial* processes in geology. Surface processes refer to the study of landforms and the geologic sediment that lies underneath them, deposited by water, wind, and glacial ice. Course descriptions with more specific language addressing these topics may be articulated. Course must be a physical science course and include a lab, in order to be considered equivalent, though the lab may be stand-alone/co-requisite.

Course descriptions may include language about some structural processes, particularly plate tectonics, as these are often included in surficial geology courses. Courses that focus on some specific courses of physical geology or "earth science" courses, which often include only some component of the material here, should be forwarded to the department for additional review.

Keywords in titles and course descriptions: landforms, erosion, wind, water, glaciers

Alternate titles to consider: Introduction to Geology, Fundamentals of Geology, Surface of the Earth, Planet Earth, Dynamics of the Earth, Introduction to the Earth

Introduction to Geology I and II courses are often the same as our 1072 and 1082 sequence.

In the case when the transfer institution only offers one Introduction to Geology course that includes topics covered in both GEOL 1072 and GEOL 1082 the course should be transferred in as either GEOL 1999AE or GEOL 2999AE, equivalent to the level it was transferred in.

GEOL 1082 - Physical Geology: Internal Processes

Registrar's Office Initiated Equivalency Guidelines

CU Denver Description:

Introductory course in physical geology that covers internal processes and properties of the earth's interior, with plate tectonics as the underlying theme. Includes one all-day field trip. Note: Required for geology majors. Max hours: 4 Credits. GT: Course is approved by the Colorado Dept of Higher Education for statewide guaranteed transfer, GT-SC1.

Specific guidelines to be met:

Internal geological processes are those that cause geological change *within* the Earth, including rock formation, plate tectonics, earthquakes, mantle convection, and crystal growth. Plate tectonics are absolutely necessary for most geology courses (and particularly this one) and so if that is not included in the description, please forward the articulation to the department for additional review. Course must be a physical science course and ***include a lab***, in order to be considered equivalent, though the lab may be stand-alone/co-requisite.

Course descriptions that include language about surface processes (landforms, sediment, glacial deposition) should not be considered equivalent to this course. Courses that focus on some specific courses of physical geology or “earth science” courses, which often include only some component of the material here, should be forwarded to the department for additional review.

Keywords in titles and course descriptions: rock formation, plate tectonics, earthquakes, mantle convection

Alternate titles to consider: Material of the Earth, Introduction to Geology

Introduction to Geology I and II courses are often the same as our 1072 and 1082 sequence.

In the case when the transfer institution only offers one Introduction to Geology course that includes topics covered in **both** GEOL 1072 and GEOL 1082 the course should be transferred in as either GEOL 1999AE or GEOL 2999AE, equivalent to the level it was transferred in.

GEOL 1115 – Earth Sciences Content

Registrar's Office Initiated Equivalency

CU Denver Description: Covers content areas of undergraduate earth sciences. Topics include physical geology; historical geology; oceanography; meteorology; and astronomy. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Specific guidelines to be met:

Title or content match (or similar).

Course descriptions that contain some but not all topics listed may be given this equivalency.

Keywords in title and course description: Physical geology, historical geology, oceanography, meteorology, astronomy

Alternative titles to consider:

GEOL 1202 – Introduction to Oceanography

Registrar's Office Initiated Equivalency Guidelines

CU Denver Description: Surveys modern scientific knowledge of the world's oceans. Intended for non-science students, the course offers a non-quantitative introduction to the major facts and principles of physical, chemical, biological, and geological oceanography. The impact of natural and anthropic events on the marine environment are included. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Specific guidelines to be met:

Title and content match (or similar).

This is a physical science course, so may include a lab, though our course does not have a lab.

Keywords in titles and course descriptions: physical, chemical, biological, and geological oceanography, marine environment

Alternate titles to consider: Oceanography

GEOL 1400 – Geology of National Parks

Registrar's Office Initiated Equivalency Guidelines

CU Denver Description: Combines lecture and laboratory exercises to help students interpret Earth history using the national parks as examples. Students learn to identify common rocks and minerals, and how to interpret topographic and geologic maps. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Specific guidelines to be met:

Title and content match (or similar).

Keywords in titles and course descriptions:

Alternate titles to consider: National Parks