

## **A. General Remarks:**

This proposal presents the structure for a new major in Environmental Policy and Planning (EPP) that will be located under the Public and Urban Affairs (PUA) Bachelors of Arts degree. The vision is to create a strong, transdisciplinary undergraduate program that builds on core knowledge, experiential learning, partnerships across the university and with external stakeholders, and the university's strategic initiatives, and that builds on the strengths and interests of faculty across the School of Public and International Affairs.

Our major will:

- take advantage of the core foundations of SPIA – i.e., policy, planning, governance, and international affairs.
- Build connections across the university and with external stakeholders that support broader educational and research partnerships with the school.
- Leverage the strategic opportunity of school locations in Blacksburg, Washington, D.C., and Richmond to advance and expand undergraduate experiential learning.
- Seek to put *Ut Prosim* into practice and better prepare our students for public service leadership and scholarship.

## **B. Proposed Environmental Policy and Planning (EPP) Major in Public and Urban Affairs (PUA)**

### **I. Purpose**

Promoting sustainable human interaction with the natural environment continues to be one of the critical challenges facing societies around the world. While science and technology are critical to meeting this challenge, they must be supported by policies and plans responsive to diverse political, economic, sociocultural, institutional, and regulatory contexts. The Environmental Policy and Planning (EPP) major provides students with the interdisciplinary knowledge and skills needed to function as policymakers and planners who can understand complex environmental issues and develop enduring solutions.

EPP majors will be able to show competency in their ability to:

- Articulate how values are contested during agenda setting and framing within the environmental policy process;
- Analyze how environmental policies are implemented at national and sub-national levels;
- Evaluate how environmental policies are governed across sectoral and jurisdictional boundaries; and
- Work collaboratively to produce key environmental planning documents at multiple scales, such as site plans and comprehensive plans.

EPP majors will be employed with:

- Local, state, and federal governments
- Domestic and international nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations
- Planning and engineering consulting firms
- Real estate developers

- Private industry

EPP majors will be pursuing graduate study in:

- Urban planning and design
- Government and public policy
- International affairs and development
- Law
- Business
- Education
- Architecture
- Landscape architecture
- Construction management

## **II. Justification**

The creation of the Environmental Policy and Planning (EPP) major is the result of two significant departmental decisions to:

1. Discontinue the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Environmental Policy and Planning; and
2. Merge and elevate the existing concentrations in the Public and Urban Affairs degree into majors; specifically, the proposed EPP major represents the merging of the ‘Urbanization: Planning and Policy’ concentration and the ‘Environmental Affairs’ concentration.

While the EPP (B.S.) degree program has educated 360 students over the past 20 years, the degree needs a significant overhaul to be viable into the future. The degree was originally conceived as a university-wide, interdisciplinary program, which relied on courses offered by various departments in the humanities, natural and social sciences, planning, and public policy. Over time, as programs across the university evolved and changed, it has been increasingly difficult to maintain a consistent set of courses for students in the degree program. By discontinuing the degree and creating an EPP major housed under the Public and Urban Affairs (PUA) degree, the new program will:

- Eliminate the redundancies within the EPP and PUA degrees while maintaining the Environmental Policy and Planning title/brand.
- Take advantage of the strengths and interests of faculty across the School of Public and International Affairs, by, for example, providing students with an opportunity to study in the National Capital Region through the new *Washington Semester in Global Engagement* (offered by GIA) and the well-established *Washington Semester in Leadership through Policy and Governance* (offered by UAP and CPAP). SPIA is currently developing plans to offer a Richmond Semester through our growing campus in Virginia’s capital city.
- Adapt our curriculum to better align the EPP major with current national and global challenges.
- Better leverage new developments that support new strategic initiatives underway at Virginia Tech (discussed below).

Section VI provides the plan to integrate the new EPP major into the PUA degree and the attached letter entitled “Discontinuation of the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Policy and Planning” provides the teach-out plan for students currently enrolled in the EPP degree.

### **III. Relevance**

Over the past several years, Virginia Tech has launched several strategic initiatives – Beyond Boundaries, Destination Areas (DAs), Strategic Growth Areas (SGAs), and InclusiveVT – that together form an ambitious near- and long-term agenda of change for the university. The proposed major in Environmental Policy and Planning (EPP) will enable SPIA to support these initiatives in several ways.

The Beyond Boundaries initiative has advanced the notion of VT-shaped learning, which nurtures disciplinary depth, cross-disciplinary capabilities, and experiential learning that integrates technology and an understanding of diversity across the globe. The new PUA degree core advances VT-shaped learning by providing students with knowledge and skills in transdisciplinary problem solving, collaborative policy-making and planning, and public service leadership. The EPP core builds on this foundation by deepening student expertise in environmental policy and planning. The Washington Semesters can also be taken by students to satisfy the EPP elective requirements, along with several international study abroad programs in Europe, Africa, and China, which provide unique opportunities for experiential learning.

The themes of inclusiveness, values, ethics, and urban inequity and diversity are integrated in courses throughout the curriculum, which will enable the EPP major to support future developments in the Global Systems Science DA and Equity and Social Disparity in the Human Condition and Policy SGAs.

Finally, the EPP major’s courses, seminars, and studio will provide opportunities to help integrate the work of key DAs and SGAs, particularly in the areas of environmental policy, planning, and governance.

### **IV. Required Resources**

No additional resources are needed at this time. However, when we reach two-hundred (200) majors under the PUA degree, additional resources will be required in terms of faculty, graduate student assistance, advising, and administrative assistance in order to maintain academic and student service quality.

### **V. Proposed Changes**

#### ***Core Degree Requirements***

There will be twenty-nine (29) credit hours required for the PUA degree core. We have retained twenty-one (21) credit hours from the original major requirements for the PUA degree and added eight (8) credit hours of additional coursework.

We have retained:

- UAP 1024: Public Issues in an Urban Society (3 credits)
- PSCI 1014: Introduction to US Government and Politics (3 credits)
- STAT 3604: Statistics for Social Sciences (3 credits)
- UAP 3714: The U.S. Policy Process (3 credits) (cross listed with PSCI 3714)
- UAP 3744: Public Policy Analysis (3 credits) (cross listed with PSCI 3744)
- UAP 4754: Legal Foundations of Planning (3 credits)
- UAP 4914: Seminar in Public and Urban Affairs (3 credits)

We are adding:

- UAP 1004: Introduction to Careers in Urban Affairs and Planning (1 credit)
- SPIA 2114: Public Service Leadership (1 credit)
- SPIA 2554: Collaborative Policy-Making & Planning (3 credits)
- SPIA 3554: Transdisciplinary Problem Solving for Social Issues (3 credits)

### ***Environmental Policy and Planning major requirements***

To graduate with a major in Environmental Policy and Planning (EPP), students will need to complete twenty-five (28) credit hours (16 credit hours of required courses and nine (9) credit hours of restricted electives).

- Required courses:
  - UAP 3354: Introduction to Environmental Policy and Planning (3 credits)
  - UAP 3014: Urban Policy and Planning (3 credits)
  - UAP 3224: Policy Implementation (3 credits)
  - UAP 4344: Law of Critical Environmental Areas (3 credits)
  - UAP 4374: Land Use and Environment (3 credits)
  - UAP 4354: Interdisciplinary Environmental Problem Solving Studio (4 credits)
- The nine (9) credit hours of restricted electives will be chosen from an approved course list.
- The electives are a combination of classes from SPIA, UAP, PSCI, GEOG, LAR, AAEC, FREC, STS, and ECON. We have received a letter of support from all impacted departments (outside of UAP and SPIA) that are included in the list of restricted electives.

### **VI. Plan to Integrate the New Major**

Effective Fall 2018, the School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) plans to offer the EPP major under the PUA degree. This transition will result in the following:

- The Environmental Policy and Planning (EPP) degree will be discontinued and replaced with an EPP major housed under the PUA degree.
- The UAP program will stop accepting new students into the EPP (B.S.) degree in Spring 2018.

- All students in the EPP (B.S.) degree will have until December 2021 to complete their requirements, consistent with Presidential Policy Memorandum 148, Graduation Requirement Policy.
- Should a student in EPP (B.S.) degree leave the university and not complete the program by December 2021, the School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) is committed to working with the student to (1) identify a path for completion under a major within the PUA degree, or (2) assist the student to identify another major within the university that meets their needs.
- Students in the Class of 2020 that are currently enrolled in the EPP (B.S.) degree will have the option to switch into the EPP major housed under the PUA degree. Students will have the opportunity to work directly with the departmental academic advisor to determine the best course of action.
- Incoming first-year and transfer students in the Fall of 2018 will be admitted into the new EPP major under the PUA degree.

## **VII. Methods of Communication**

### ***Communication to Students***

- Students who are currently pursuing concentrations under the EPP (B.S.) degree will be notified by email of the changes to ensure they understand that they can graduate with an EPP (B.S.) degree provided they complete all of their requirements by December 2021. This information will also be communicated through one-on-one advising sessions with existing students.
- The academic advisor will contact all first-year and transfer students that have been offered admission to the EPP (B.S.) degree program for Fall 2018 to inform them of the changes to the EPP major.
- The instructors of UAP 1004 Introduction to Careers in UAP will communicate information regarding the new majors directly to incoming first-year students (beginning Fall 2017).
- Information sessions will be held for interested students in Blacksburg and through online platforms such as Facebook Live.
- Information regarding the new majors will be available in the advising office in the Architecture Annex and on the SPIA/UAP webpages, and through the CAUS Dean's office in Cowgill.

### ***Communication to University Studies and Undergraduate Admissions***

- The School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) met with the advising team from University Studies and the directors in Undergraduate Admissions in Fall 2016 to discuss the forthcoming changes.
- Upon approval of the EPP major, SPIA faculty will meet with the advising team from University Studies and the directors in Undergraduate Admissions again to explain the changes that have been made.

- Information about the new majors and the transition to them will be available on the SPIA/UAP website. Relevant informational material will be available through the advising office in the Architecture Annex and the CAUS Dean's office in Cowgill.

# College of Architecture and Urban Studies

School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA)

Bachelor of Arts in Public and Urban Affairs (PUA)

Major – Environmental Policy and Planning (EPP)

Checksheet for Students Graduating in Calendar Year 2020

I. Core Degree Requirements	29 Credit Hours
II. Requirements for EPP Major	28 Credit Hours
III. Curriculum for Liberal Education	36 Credit Hours
IV. Free Electives	27 Credit Hours
<b>Total Required for Environmental Policy and Planning Major</b>	<b>120 Credit Hours</b>

## Departmental Policies

**Hours Requirement:** A total of 120 hours is required to graduate with a PUA degree of which there are fifty-seven (57) required hours for the Environmental Policy and Planning major.

**In-major GPA:** All of the courses in sections I and II are included in the in-major GPA calculation. A GPA of 2.0 or above both overall and in-major GPA is required for graduation.

**Satisfactory Progress:** To proceed satisfactorily toward a degree, a student must complete UAP 1024, PSCI 1014, SPIA 2114, STAT 3604, and UAP 3354 by the end of the semester in which 60 hours have been attempted; and maintain an in-major GPA of 2.0.

**Dual Use of Courses:** No course can double count within or between SPIA-related majors or minors with the exception of the Core Degree Requirements (Section I below).

**Intra-SPIA Program majoring and minoring:** Students may pursue more than one major or minor associated with the School of Public and International Affairs Program. In this case, the policy pertaining to the “Dual Use of Courses” will apply.

**Prerequisites:** Some courses listed on this checksheet have prerequisites. Be sure to consult the University Catalog and/or check with your advisor.

## I. PUA Core Degree Requirements (29 Credit Hours)

### Required PUA Degree Core Courses (29 credit hours)

- UAP 1004 Intro to Careers in Urban Affairs and Planning (1)
- UAP 1024 Public Issues in an Urban Society (3)
- PSCI 1014 Introduction to US Government and Politics (3)
- SPIA 2114 Public Service Leadership (1)
- SPIA 2554 Collaborative Policy-Making & Planning (3)
- STAT 3604 Statistics for the Social Sciences (3) (pre. MATH 1014 or MATH 1015)
- SPIA 3554 Transdisciplinary Problem Solving for Social Issues (3)
- UAP 3714 The U.S. Policy Process (3) (cross-listed with PSCI 3714, pre. PSCI 1014)
- UAP 3744 Public Policy Analysis (3) (cross-listed with PSCI 3744, pre. PSCI 1014)
- UAP 4754 Legal Foundations of Planning (3)
- UAP 4914 Seminar in Public and Urban Affairs (3) (pre. SPIA 2554, SPIA 3554, and UAP 4754)

## II. Requirements for the (EPP) Major (28 Credit Hours)

### Required Core Courses for the EPP Major (19 credit hours)

- UAP 3354 Introduction to Environmental Policy and Planning (3)
- UAP 3014 Urban Policy and Planning (3) (pre. UAP 1024)
- UAP 3224 Policy Implementation (3) (pre. UAP 3014 and STAT 3604)
- UAP 4344 Law of Critical Environmental Areas (3)
- UAP 4374 Land Use and Environment: Policy and Planning (3) (pre. Junior Standing)
- UAP 4354 Interdisciplinary Environmental Problem Solving Studio (4) (pre. UAP 3354, UAP 3224, and Senior Standing)

## Required Elective Courses for the EPP Major (9 credit hours)

*Nine (9) hours of elective courses are required. Students must choose at least 3 credit hours each from the Policy Competency, Planning Competency, and Environment & Conservation categories.*

- Policy Course (3)                       Planning Course (3)                       E&C Course (3)

### **Policy (3 credit hours must be taken from the following)**

- UAP 3954 Study Abroad
- UAP 4624 Washington Sem: Seminar in American Politics and Public Policy (cross-listed with PSCI 4624, pre. Junior Standing)
- UAP 4644 Washington Sem: Politics, Policy, and Administration in a Democracy (cross-listed with PSCI 4644, pre. UAP 3714)
- SPIA 4964 Field Study
- AAEC 3314 Environmental Law
- LAR 4034 Evolution of the American Landscape
- PSCI 3424 State and Local Government (pre. PSCI 1014)
- PSCI 3434 Urban Politics (Pre. PSCI 1014)
- AAEC 3324 Environmental and Sustainable Development Economics (pre. AAEC 1005 or ECON 2005)
- ECON 4014 Environmental Economics (pre. ECON 2005 or 2116 or 2126 or 2025H)
- LAR 2254 Social and Cultural Landscapes

### **Planning (3 credit hours must be taken from the following)**

- GEOG 2084 Principles of Geographic Information Systems
- GEOG 4084 Modelling with Geographic Information Systems (pre. GEOG 2084)
- UAP 3024 Urban and Regional Analysis
- UAP 4764 International Development Policy and Planning (cross-listed with GEOG 4764 & SOC 4764, pre. Junior Standing)
- UAP 4854 Planning the Urban Infrastructure (pre. UAP 4754)
- UAP 4394 Community Renewable Energy Systems (pre. MATH 1025 or MATH 1016)
- SPIA 2244 Sustainable Urbanization (cross-listed with GEOG 2244)
- SPIA 2314 Active Transportation for a Healthy, Sustainable Planet (cross listed with HNFE 2314)
- UAP 4964 Field Study
- LAR 3044 Land Analysis and Site Planning (pre. LAR 1004)

### **Environment & Conservation (3 credit hours must be taken from the following)**

- LAR 1254 Environment and Natural Systems
- FREC 1044 Introduction to Environmental Informatics
- FREC 2124 Forests, Society & Climate
- FREC 2134 Plants and Greenspaces in Urban Communities (cross-listed with HORT 2134)
- STS 3334 Energy and Society
- GEOG 2004 Water, Environment and Society (cross-listed with NR 2004)
- GEOG 3104 Environmental Problems, Population, and Development
- SPIA 4454 Future of Cities (pre. SPIA 2244 or GEOG 2244)



**III. CURRICULUM FOR LIBERAL EDUCATION (CLE) Requirements (34-36 Credit Hours)**

- Area 1 Writing and Discourse (6 credits)**  ENGL 1105  
 ENGL 1106
- Area 2 Ideas, Cultural Traditions, and Values (6 credits)**  \_\_\_\_\_  
3 credit hours must be from either:  \_\_\_\_\_  
UAP 4264 or  
PHIL 1304 or  
PHIL 2304
- Area 3 Society and Human Behavior (6 credits)**  \_\_\_\_\_  
ECON 2005 and 2006 or  \_\_\_\_\_  
AAEC 1005 and 1006
- Area 4 Scientific Reasoning and Discovery (6 credits)**  ENSC 1015  
 ENSC 1016
- Area 5 Quantitative and Symbolic Reasoning (6 credits)**  MATH 1014  
MATH 1014 and one additional 3 credit Area 5 course  \_\_\_\_\_  
STAT 3604 cannot be used to meet this requirement
- Area 6 Creative and Aesthetic Experience (1-3 credits)**  \_\_\_\_\_
- Area 7 Critical Issues in a Global Context (3 credits)**  UAP 3344

*The full list of approved courses for each area above can be found in the “Curriculum for Liberal Education Guide” on the Provost’s Office web page ([www.provost.vt.edu](http://www.provost.vt.edu)).*

**IV. Free Electives (minimum of 27 credit hours)**

Free electives make up the remainder of the credits for the Environmental Policy and Planning major. Take as many as needed to reach 120 credits.

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**University and Admissions Foreign Language Requirement (No Credits Count Toward the Degree)**

Complete one of the following options

- 2 years of a single foreign, classical, or sign language in high school.  
**OR**  
 Complete FL 1105-1106 or the equivalent in college (these 6 hours do not count toward the 120 required for graduation)



**School of Public and  
International Affairs**  
201 Architecture Annex  
140 Otey Street, NW  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061  
(857) 222-3339  
<https://ralphhall.com/>

January 25, 2018

**RE: Discontinuation of the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Policy and Planning**

To whom it may concern:

After deliberation among the faculty, the School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA), in consultation with the Urban Affairs and Planning (UAP) program, is requesting the discontinuation of the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Environmental Policy and Planning (EPP).

Effective Fall 2018, the School of Public and International Affairs will be offering majors under the PUA degree. This transition will result in the following:

- All concentrations under the PUA degree will be removed and replaced with two majors – Smart and Sustainable Cities (SSC) and Environmental Policy and Planning (EPP) – housed under the PUA degree.
- The UAP program will stop accepting new students into the EPP (B.S.) degree after Spring 2018.
- All students in the EPP (B.S.) degree will have until December 2021 to complete their requirements, consistent with Presidential Policy Memorandum 148, Graduation Requirement Policy.
- Students in the Class of 2020 who are currently enrolled in the EPP (B.S.) degree will have the option to transition into the PUA degree and major in either SSC or EPP.

Students who are currently pursuing the EPP degree will be notified by email of the changes described above and that they can graduate with a B.S. in EPP provided they complete all of their requirements by December 2021. This date reflects the last scheduled graduation date for all the students currently enrolled in the EPP (B.S.) degree. However, per requirements of Presidential Policy Memorandum 148, Graduation Requirement Policy, any students who need an extension beyond December 2021 will be accommodated via individual advising. Currently, the number of freshman and sophomore students in the EPP (B.S.) degree program is relatively small and around 40 students will be affected by this decision.

Should a student in the EPP (B.S.) degree program leave the university and not complete the program by December 2021, the School of Public and International Affairs is committed to working with the student to (1) identify a path for completion under a major within the PUA degree or (2) assist the student with identifying another major within the university that meets their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Ralph P. Hall  
Director, SPIA Undergraduate Program



**School of Public and  
International Affairs**  
1021 Prince Street  
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(703) 706-8100  
[www.spia.vt.edu](http://www.spia.vt.edu)

TO: CAUS Curriculum Committee  
FROM: Anne M. Khademian  
RE: New Undergraduate Program in SPIA  
DATE: January 25, 2018

In the fall of 2018, the School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) plans to launch two new majors, one new minor, and one revised minor under a revised Public and Urban Affairs (PUA) (B.A.) degree that will be offered by SPIA.

The PUA degree core is being revised to [1] reduce the number of credit hours in the core and [2] provide three new courses (listed below) that support the new majors/minors. No additional resources are needed to create and teach these three new courses.

- SPIA 2114: Public Service Leadership (1 credit)
- SPIA 2554: Collaborative Policy-Making & Planning (3 credits)
- SPIA 3554: Transdisciplinary Problem Solving for Social Issues (3 credits)

The first new major will be in Environmental Policy and Planning (EPP). This major will replace the existing Environmental Policy and Planning (B.S.) degree that will be discontinued. No additional resources are needed for the proposed EPP major. In addition, the existing EPP minor will be revised so that it aligns with the revised PUA degree core and new EPP major.

The second new major/minor will be in Smart and Sustainable Cities (SSC). This new major/minor will require the creation of six new courses that are listed below. No additional resources are needed for the proposed SSC major/minor or for the following new courses.

- SPIA 2005, 2006: Introduction to Urban Analytics (1 credit each)
- SPIA 2104: Urban Analytics for Decision-Making (1 credit)
- GEOG 2244/SPIA 2244: Sustainable Urbanization (3 credits)
- SPIA 4454: Future of Cities (3 credits)
- SPIA 4464: Data and the Art of Decision-Making and Planning (3 credits)

Finally, the following new course will be offered as an elective in both of the new EPP and SSC majors. No additional resources are needed to create and teach this course.

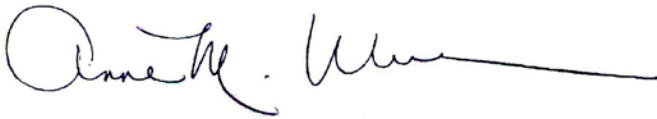
- SPIA 2314/HNFE 2314 Active Transportation for a Healthy, Sustainable Planet (3 credits)

Upon approval of the new EPP major and revised minor, and the new SCC major/minor, the existing PUA degree concentrations and PUA minor will be discontinued.

We are requesting that all of the new courses carry a SPIA prefix to help signal the creation of a School-wide undergraduate program.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Very best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Khademian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Anne Khademian  
Director, School of Public and International Affairs



VirginiaTech

College of Science

**Department of Economics**

3016 Pamplin Hall (0316)  
880 West Campus Drive  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

October 10, 2017

Professor Anne Khademian  
Director, School of Public and International Affairs

Dear Dr. Khademian,

The Department of Economics supports the proposed revisions to the Environmental Policy and Planning major. We have examined the checksheet and approve the inclusion of the courses below:

ECON 2005 Principles of Economics  
ECON 2006 Principles of Economics  
ECON 4014 Environmental Economics

We can accommodate students from this new major with no additional resources.

Warm Regards,

Sheryl Ball  
Professor and Associate Department Head

***Invent the Future***



**TO:** Chris LaPlante, Undergraduate EPP/PUA Advisor  
**FROM:** Matthew T. Holt, AAEC Professor and Head *Matthew T. Holt*  
**SUBJECT:** AAEC Courses in Revised Environmental Policy and Planning Major  
**DATE:** 8/31/2017  
**CC:** Dr. Mike Ellerbrock, Chair, AAEC Undergraduate Advisory Committee

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Per our previous exchanges, you have asked AAEC to consider allowing the following AAEC courses to be included in your revised Environmental Policy and Planning (EPP) major (School of Public and International Affairs):

AAEC 1005 Economics of the Food and Fiber System (retain)  
AAEC 1006 Economics of the Food and Fiber System (retain)  
AAEC 3314 Environmental Law (retain)  
AAEC 4314 Environmental Economic Analysis and Management (add)

AAEC 1005 and AAEC 1006 are unrestricted courses, as is AAEC 3314. AAEC 4314 has as a prerequisite AAEC 3314. AAEC faculty offer these courses on a regular basis. Faculty in AAEC concur that these courses should be included on your modified EPP checksheet.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions or require any further assistance with this matter. Thank you for your interest in collaborating with my Department.



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES  
AGRICULTURAL AND  
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VIRGINIA TECH.

**Agricultural & Applied Economics**  
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231-7417 [mattholt@vt.edu](mailto:mattholt@vt.edu)

**TO:** Chris LaPlante, Undergraduate EPP/PUA Advisor  
**FROM:** Matthew T. Holt, AAEC Professor and Head *Matthew T. Holt*  
**SUBJECT:** AAEC 3324 in Proposed Majors for Environmental Policy and Planning and Smart and Sustainable Cities  
**DATE:** 1/25/2018  
**CC:** Dr. Mike Ellerbrock, Chair, AAEC Undergraduate Advisory Committee

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Per our recent exchange, you have requested that AAEC consider allowing AAEC 3324, Environmental and Sustainable Development Economics, to be included in the Environmental Policy and Planning (EPP) major and the Smart and Sustainable Cities (SSC) major electives in the School of Public and International Affairs.

AAEC 4314 has as a prerequisite AAEC 1005 or EC 2005, which are already included as a requirement for the EPP major. AAEC faculty offer AAEC 3324 on a regular basis (indeed, every semester). Faculty in AAEC concur that these courses should be included as part of your new proposed major.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions or require any further assistance with this matter. Thank you for your interest in collaborating with AAEC.



VirginiaTech

College of Natural Resources  
and Environment

Department of Geography (0115)

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email: geog@vt.edu  
www.geography.vt.edu

08/31/2017

Chris LaPlante  
Undergraduate Advisor EPP/PUA

Dear Chris:

I support the revised major in Environmental Policy and Planning (EPP) and support the inclusion of the following four GEOG courses in the EPP major:

GEOG 2084 Principles of Geographic Information Systems  
GEOG 4084 Modeling With GIS  
GEOG 2004 Water, Environment and Society  
GEOG 3104 Environmental Problems, Population, and Development

You may add these courses to your checksheets. These courses will continue to be offered. There are no title or number changes to these courses forthcoming that I am aware of.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Crawford  
Professor and Chair  
Department of Geography

*Invent the Future*



Chris:

I support the inclusion of ENSC 1015-16 Foundations of Environmental Science on your EPP major checksheets. These courses will continue to be taught and no title or course number changes are anticipated. Additionally, they have recently been approved as satisfying natural sciences for they new Pathways to General Education.

Sincerely,

Matt

#####

Matthew Eick

Professor of Environmental Soil Chemistry

Undergraduate Program Director Environmental Science

Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences

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[540-231-8943](tel:540-231-8943)



VirginiaTech

College of Liberal Arts  
and Human Sciences

**Department of Political Science (0130)**  
Major Williams Hall, Room 531, Virginia Tech  
220 Stanger Street  
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540/231-6571 Fax: 540/231-6078

25 August 2017

Chris LaPlante  
Undergraduate Advisor EPP/PUA  
209 Architecture Annex (MC 0113)  
Virginia Tech

Dear Chris,

The Department of Political Science supports the inclusion of the following three courses in the proposed EPP major: PSCI 1014 Introduction to United States Politics and Government, PSCI 3714 U.S. Policy Process, and PSCI 3744 Public Policy Analysis. All three are taught at least once each academic year.

Please let me know if I can provide further information.

Sincerely,

*Karen*

Karen M. Hult  
Professor and Chair

cc: Ralph Hall  
Dr. Charles Taylor, Director of Undergraduate Studies

***Invent the Future***

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY  
*An equal opportunity, affirmative action institution*



**Ronald D. Fricker, Jr.**  
**Head, Department of Statistics**  
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Blacksburg, Virginia 24061  
540-231-7754  
rf@vt.edu

August 25, 2017

To whom it may concern:

This letter is written in support of the School of Public and International Affairs' (SPIA's) new majors, Smart and Sustainable Cities and Environmental Policy and Planning, being established under the Bachelor of Arts in Public and Urban Affairs (PUA), both of which will require STAT 3604 (Statistics for Social Sciences). STAT 3604 is already a requirement for the B.A. in PUA, so in that sense this is not a new requirement but rather mainly a shift of students to these new majors.

That said, it is my understanding that SPIA anticipates the number of students in this B.A. program increasing by about 40-50 by 2021. This increase will stress our STAT 3604 classes, where we currently plan to continue to offer one online section and one in-person course each semester, but we also already project that these sections will be full with 70 students in the in-person class and from 160+ (fall) to 220+ (spring) students in the online classes.

Thus, while we very much welcome the additional students into STAT 3604 and we will endeavor to fully meet the new needs, we do want to be clear that the course is very much in demand. To the extent that future resources allow, we will expand to meet the SPIA's needs during the academic year. Also, please note that we offer a summer STAT 3604 class online which currently has sufficient room to accommodate the increase.

In summary, we fully support the new majors with the caveat that seats in STAT 3604 are tight and any enrollment expansion may necessitate some students taking the class in the summer.

Sincerely,

R.D. Fricker, Jr.  
Professor and Head

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Daniel Breslau** <[dbreslau@vt.edu](mailto:dbreslau@vt.edu)>

Date: Wed, Aug 23, 2017 at 12:49 PM

Subject: Re: Letter of Support for STS courses for the revised EPP major

To: Chris LaPlante <[chrisl@vt.edu](mailto:chrisl@vt.edu)>

Chris, I approve the inclusion of STS 3334, Energy and Society, as an elective in both the EPP and SSC majors within the PUA degree. We plan to teach one section of the course per year. Let me know if I can provide any additional information.

Best wishes,

Daniel



VirginiaTech

College of Liberal Arts  
and Human Sciences

**Philosophy Department**

229B Major Williams (0126)  
220 Stanger Street  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061  
540/231-0639 Fax: 540/231-6367  
E-mail: douglas.lind@vt.edu  
<http://www.phil.vt.edu>

**Memorandum**

TO: CLAHS Undergraduate Curriculum Committee  
FROM: Douglas Lind  
Head, Department of Philosophy  
RE: Proposed revisions to undergraduate degree program in EPP  
DATE: September 5, 2017

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The Department of Philosophy endorses the proposed revisions to the undergraduate degree program in Environmental Policy and Planning (EPP) and supports the inclusion of the Philosophy courses listed below as electives. The Philosophy Department welcomes the enrollment of additional students in these courses, and we acknowledge no additional resources are needed.

PHIL 1304: Morality and Justice  
PHIL 2304: Global Ethics

*Douglas Lind*

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VirginiaTech

College of Liberal Arts  
and Human Sciences

**Department of Political Science (0130)**  
Major Williams Hall, Room 531, Virginia Tech  
220 Stanger Street  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061  
540/231-6571 Fax: 540/231-6078

23 August 2017

Chris LaPlante  
Undergraduate Advisor EPP/PUA  
209 Architecture Annex (MC 0113)  
Virginia Tech

Dear Chris,

The Department of Political Science supports the inclusion of the following three courses in the proposed major in Smart and Sustainable Cities: PSCI 1014 Introduction to United States Politics and Government, PSCI 3714 U.S. Policy Process, and PSCI 3744 Public Policy Analysis. All three are taught at least once each academic year.

This looks like a promising new major. As I have briefly mentioned, other political science courses (e.g., PSCI 3424 State and Local Government, PSCI 3434 Urban Politics) also might be potential candidates for inclusion as electives.

Please let me know if I can provide further information.

Sincerely,

*Karen*

Karen M. Hult  
Professor and Chair

Cc: Dr. Charles Taylor, Director of Undergraduate Studies

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VirginiaTech

College of Architecture  
and Urban Studies

**Landscape Architecture Program, MC 0190**  
800 Drillfield Drive / 121 Burruss Hall  
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540/231-5583  
E-mail: [landscape\\_arch@vt.edu](mailto:landscape_arch@vt.edu)  
[www.lar.vt.edu](http://www.lar.vt.edu)

January 25, 2018

RE: Support for the revised Environmental Planning and Policy (EPP) major to be offered through SPIA

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the revised Environmental Planning and Policy (EPP) major and excited to be a participating program in its course offerings. The Landscape Architecture Program supports including the following five LAR courses to be included as restricted electives in the new major. These include:

- LAR 1254 Environment and Natural Systems
- LAR 3044 Land Analysis and Site Planning
- LAR 2254 Social and Cultural Landscapes
- LAR 3264 People, Community, and Place
- LAR 4034 Evolution of the American Landscape

These courses are offered on an annual basis and are required of our Bachelor of Landscape Architecture students as well as on a restricted elective list for Landscape Architecture minors. Inclusion of these courses within a list of course options available to EPP majors is not anticipated to require any additional resources other than the possibility of a larger classroom at some future time.

Sincerely,

Terry Clements, FASLA, FCELA, LA  
Professor and Program Chair

*Invent the Future*

1/25/2018

Fwd: Letter of Support for FREC courses for the new SSC major - rphall@vt.edu - Virginia Tech Mail

From: **Jay Sullivan** <[jsulliv@vt.edu](mailto:jsulliv@vt.edu)>  
Date: Thu, Jan 25, 2018 at 1:54 PM  
Subject: Re: Letter of Support for FREC courses for the new SSC major  
To: Chris LaPlante <[chrisl@vt.edu](mailto:chrisl@vt.edu)>  
Cc: Mary Williams <[mwilliams@vt.edu](mailto:mwilliams@vt.edu)>

Chris,

I am away from the office and won't be able to put together a letter for you, so hopefully an email will suffice.

We would be happy to have our FREC courses included as electives in the EPP major, as follows:

FREC 1044 Introduction to Environmental Informatics  
FREC 2124 Forests, Society and Climate  
FREC 2134 Plants and Greenspaces in Urban Communities (cross-listed with HORT 2134)

At this time, we anticipate that each of these courses will continue to be offered, and we have no plans to change the course numbers or titles.

Sincerely,

Jay

Jay Sullivan  
Professor and Head  
Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation  
Virginia Tech