

**From:** [Martin, Andrew](#)  
**To:** [Sutherland, Sue](#); [Smith, Randy](#)  
**Cc:** [Reed, Katie](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Embedded literacy  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 15, 2025 9:58:06 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[EL memo October 2025.pdf](#)

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Hi Randy and Sue

Please see attached a memo from Geography making some changes to their Embedded Literacies for some of their majors. Their hope is to move forward with these changes as soon as possible.

Best

Andrew



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**Andrew W. Martin**

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To: Andrew Martin  
From: Mat Coleman  
Subject: **Changes to our embedded literacies**  
Date: October 13, 2025

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Dear Andrew,

Prior to my term as chair, the department chair and then Director of Undergraduate Studies interpreted the GE-N Embedded Literacy (EL) policy as requiring a stand-alone, credit-bearing writing literacy course for our majors. Although the ELs were originally designed to be integrated into discipline-specific coursework and practiced within learning contexts relevant to each major, this interpretation led to the addition of GEOG 3597.03 ([Environmental Citizenship](#)) as a 3-credit-hour prerequisite for the following programs:

- B.S. in Atmospheric Science
- B.S. in Geographic Information Science
- B.S. in Spatial Analysis
- B.A. in Social and Environmental Geography
- B.S. in Physical Geography

This approach was developed during the 2021–2022 academic year and implemented in Autumn 2022.

When I assumed the role of interim chair in Autumn 2022, I became aware of this arrangement. Because several program revisions were already in progress, I decided to address the EL issue as part of those broader updates. Accordingly:

- GEOG 3597.03 was removed as a prerequisite in the GIS and Spatial Analysis degrees during the 2023–2024 cycle (effective Spring 2024).
- GEOG 3597.03 has been slated for removal from the Atmospheric Science B.S. in a program revision which will be submitted to ASCC this month.
- The same change is planned during revisions to the Social and Environmental Geography B.A. and Physical Geography B.S. which we intend to undertake later this academic year.

**I am writing to request that we expedite this process by removing GEOG 3597.03 from our advising sheets immediately, rather than waiting for each individual program**



**revision to move through formal approval.** Doing so will streamline advising and accurately reflect our current curricular intent. **While this adjustment reduces the total credit hours of the affected degrees by 3CH, it does not entail any loss of substantive content or learning outcomes for our students, as the embedded literacies are already well integrated into discipline-specific coursework.**

| Degree                                  | 3597.03? | Revised embedded literacies                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Atmospheric Science B.S.                | Yes      | <b>Data analysis EL:</b> GEOG 5921 ( <a href="#">Microclimatology: Boundary Layer Climatology</a> ), ATMOSSC 5401 ( <a href="#">Practical Data Processing and Analysis for Atmospheric Sciences</a> ) |
|                                         |          | <b>Advanced writing EL:</b> GEOG 5941 ( <a href="#">Synoptic Analysis and Forecasting</a> ), GEOG 5942 ( <a href="#">Synoptic Meteorology: Severe Storm Forecasting</a> )                             |
|                                         |          | <b>Technology EL:</b> GEOG 5922 ( <a href="#">Microclimatological Measurements</a> )                                                                                                                  |
| Social and Environmental Geography B.A. | Yes      | <b>Data analysis EL:</b> GEOG 4103 ( <a href="#">Introductory Spatial Data Analysis</a> ), GEOG 5210 ( <a href="#">Fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems</a> )                               |
|                                         |          | <b>Advanced writing EL:</b> GEOG 4100 ( <a href="#">Geographic Inquiry</a> ), GEOG 4101 ( <a href="#">Undergraduate Research and Professionalization</a> )                                            |
|                                         |          | <b>Technology EL:</b> GEOG 4103 ( <a href="#">Introductory Spatial Data Analysis</a> ), GEOG 5210 ( <a href="#">Fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems</a> )                                  |
| Physical Geography B.S.                 | Yes      | <b>Data analysis EL:</b> GEOG 5210 ( <a href="#">Fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems</a> )                                                                                                 |
|                                         |          | <b>Advanced writing EL:</b> GEOG 3900.01* ( <a href="#">Global Climate Change</a> ) or GEOG 3900.02* ( <a href="#">Global Environmental Change—4CH Research</a> )                                     |
|                                         |          | <b>Technology EL:</b> GEOG 5210 ( <a href="#">Fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems</a> )                                                                                                    |
| Air Transportation B.A.                 | No       | No changes to ELs                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| GIS B.S.                                | No       | No changes to ELs                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Spatial Science B.S.                    | No       | No changes to ELs                                                                                                                                                                                     |

*Table 1. Current uses of GEOG 3597.03 as an embedded literacy in Geography and Atmospheric Science.*

Table 1, above, outlines our six degrees and whether GEOG 3597.03 is currently required in the degree as a stand-alone, credit bearing EL. Three of our degrees currently require the course—the Atmospheric Science B.S., the SEG B.A., and the Physical Geography B.S. For each of these degrees, Table 1 lists replacement data analysis, writing literacy, and technology ELs as agreed to by our faculty, our current Director of Undergraduate Studies (Dr. Jana Houser), our full-time advising staff (Ryan Godfrey, Jocelyn Nevel), and myself.

All the courses listed in Table 1 are required by our majors, meaning that we will capture all students with these ELs.



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Removing GEOG 3597.03 from our advising sheets at this stage will bring our materials into alignment with the intent of the GE-N EL policy. I also want to stress that our unit's discussion about ELs will benefit students with the more comprehensive and thoughtful approach sketched out above. I am happy to provide more information on the situation and would welcome your guidance on this matter.

Sincerely,

Mat Coleman

Mat Coleman

Professor and Chair, Department of Geography, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

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