

## **UVic Geography Program Updates & FAQs**

**As of September 1, 2020, the Department of Geography changed some course options and requirements in its BSc and BA programs and discontinued the Concentration options.** These changes were made to offer more flexibility in course options to students while maintaining program rigour.

### ***I have already declared my program. Do these changes affect me?***

No, students who have declared their program by August 31, 2020 are not affected by these changes. If you declared your program before August 31, 2020, you will be able to continue in and complete your declared program as normal.

### ***I have not declared my program yet. Do these changes affect me?***

Any students who start their studies at UVic on or after September 1, 2020 will follow the new Geography program requirements.

If you started your studies at UVic before September 1, 2020, you have the option of following the new Geography program requirements, or you may be able to declare in one of the former program options or a Concentration. Please contact [geogadvising@uvic.ca](mailto:geogadvising@uvic.ca) if you are hoping to declare one of the former program options or a Concentration. Our team can also help if you would like to review your program options or if you would like to request a program planning worksheet for one of the former program options (including Concentrations).

### ***I want to change my declared program. How can I do this?***

If you would like to declare one of the new Geography programs, you can do so after September 1, 2020, through [www.uvic.ca/declareme](http://www.uvic.ca/declareme).

If you are hoping to declare one of the former program options or a Concentration, please contact [geogadvising@uvic.ca](mailto:geogadvising@uvic.ca). Our team can also help if you would like to review your program options or if you would like to request a program planning worksheet for one of the former program options (including Concentrations).

### ***Can I still declare a Concentration?***

If you started your studies at UVic on or after September 1, 2020, it is not possible to declare a Concentration.

If you started your studies at UVic before September 1, 2020, please contact [geogadvising@uvic.ca](mailto:geogadvising@uvic.ca) to ask about declaring a Concentration.

***I would like some advice about this. Who can I contact?***

If your questions are related to Geography programs, program requirements, or courses, please contact [geogadvising@uvic.ca](mailto:geogadvising@uvic.ca).

If your questions are about your degree as a whole (including university-level requirements, how your programs fit together, and graduation checks), please contact [advising@uvic.ca](mailto:advising@uvic.ca).

***What has changed in the new programs?***

*Changes to the BA programs:* At the lower level (Years 1 and 2), more course options have been added to the BA program requirements. At the upper level, thematic area requirements have been added to ensure that students graduate with a strong knowledge of the different areas of human geography.

*Changes to the BSc programs:* In general, more course options have been added to the BSc program requirements in Years 1 to 4. A regional geography requirement has been added at the upper level (Years 3 and 4).

*Concentrations:* Concentrations have been discontinued for all degree programs.

***Why have the programs changed? How did these changes come about?***

The Department of Geography decided to change the programs and discontinue the Concentrations for the following reasons:

- To provide more course options and flexibility to students as they move through their programs,
- To help students move towards graduation more efficiently by opening up restrictive program requirements, and
- To give the department more flexibility in the courses it offers.

The process of making these changes occurred over four years. The department started by consulting with students, faculty members, staff, and other interested parties about the strengths and weaknesses of the programs. From there, faculty members and staff worked over the following years to develop the new undergraduate curriculum to respond to student needs. The department is immensely grateful to all of the people who were involved in this process.

**If you have any questions about these changes, please contact our Geography Undergraduate Advising Team at [geogadvising@uvic.ca](mailto:geogadvising@uvic.ca).**