

Advanced Placement Human Geography (APHG) Graduate Certificate

About the Program

More than 96,000 students took the AP Human Geography exam in 2012 and it is estimated that there are 3,200 AP Human Geography teachers nationwide. As more students take the APHG exam, the demand for qualified teachers will increase.

Designed specifically for secondary educators, the APHG graduate certificate program focuses on teaching spatial concepts as well as basic themes, skills and perspectives of APHG and how to apply them in the classroom.

In small, cohort-based classes, you'll work with experienced educators and professionals—and receive your certificate in less than a year. The program is offered entirely online through the Elmhurst College Online Center, providing the convenience teachers want—and need.

Program Highlights

- Provides secondary educators with a lesson plan and turnkey exercises to use in their AP Human Geography classrooms.
- Creates a national organized online learning community to share and collaborate on AP Human Geography teaching issues as well as spatial concepts across disciplines.
- Applicants who complete all courses including the capstone course are provided with the opportunity to publish their lesson plans and/or exercises in The Geography Teacher.

Students in the AP Human Geography Graduate Certificate Program, who are members in the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) receive a 10% discount on their tuition.

Program Format

Offered through the Elmhurst College Online Center, the program is fully online in 8-week sessions. This 5-course program can be completed in less than one year.

Admission Requirements*

To apply for admission, applicants must possess the following:

- Baccalaureate degree from accredited college or university
- Certification in education**
- Currently employed as a secondary educator**
- Currently teaching AP Human Geography or desiring to teach AP Human Geography in the future**

**Those who are currently entering into the field of education, but are not yet currently employed or certified (pre-service), must have special permission to be admitted to the program from the program director.*

***Excludes Elective Track and Pre-Service teacher applicants.*

Program Tracks

- Full Certificate: Applicants who wish to complete all five courses to receive the APHG graduate certificate.
- APHG Trained: Applicants who have taught APHG for five or more years; APH 500 is waived. To receive the graduate certificate, applicants must take an additional elective graduate course (to be determined with program director).
- Partial: Applicants who wish to take one or more APHG courses to receive graduate credit. Applicants will not receive the graduate certificate.
- Elective Participant: Applicants from disciplines *outside of education* who wish to take one or more courses to receive graduate credit. Available coursework includes APH 501, APH 502, or APH 503 only. Designed for those who are interested in applying spatial thinking concepts to any discipline.

Advisory Board Members

Mr. Paul Gray, *President of the National Council for Geographic Education, Russellville High School, Arkansas*

Mr. David Palmer, *APHG Consultant, Eaglecrest High School, Centennial, CO*

Dr. Michael Ritter, *Professor of Geography, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point*

Ms. Jody Smothers-Marcello, *APHG Instructor and Past President National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE), Sitka, Alaska, editor of The Geography Teacher*

Dr. Mike DeMers, *Professor of Geography & GIS, New Mexico State University and President-elect of the National Council for Geographic Education*

Dr. Julia Parra, *Assistant Professor, Technology Education, New Mexico State University*

Sequence of Courses

Summer (8 weeks; 1 course credit/3 semester hours)

APH 500 Teaching APHG

Fall A (8 weeks; 1 course credit/3 semester hours)

APH 501 Learning to Teach Spatial Concepts and Tools

Fall B (8 weeks; 1 course credit/3 semester hours)

APH 502 Implementing Spatial Concepts and Tools into the Classroom

Spring A (8 weeks; 1 course credit/3 semester hours)

APH 503 Teaching Urban, Economic, and Population Geography Issues

Spring B (8 weeks; 1 course credit/3 semester hours)

APH 504 APHG Capstone

Elmhurst College reserves the right to modify courses, schedules and program format without advanced notice to students.

Course Descriptions

APH 500 Teaching APHG

Designed as the gateway course to the graduate certificate program and introduces the discipline of Human Geography to those new to the teaching of AP Human Geography. This course is also beneficial as a refresher course to those who may have taught AP Human Geography in the past. Pedagogical methodologies as well as some technology are introduced to educators who are teaching APHG or will be teaching it in the future. The program content correlates directly with the College Board curriculum for AP Human Geography.

APH 501 Learning to Teach Spatial Concepts and Tools

Introduces spatial concepts and thinking to those who are new to teaching AP Human Geography and/or other disciplines. This course is also beneficial as a refresher course to those who may have taught AP Human Geography in the past. Pedagogical methodologies as well as technological tools in spatial concepts are introduced to educators who are teaching APHG or will be teaching it in the future.

APH 502 Implementing Spatial Concepts and Tools into the Classroom

Uses the spatial concepts and thinking learned in APH 501 to further implement the principles into the classroom. Pedagogical methodologies as well as technological tools in spatial concepts are implemented into the classroom setting to educators who are teaching APHG or will be teaching it in the future.

APH 503 Teaching Urban, Economic, and Population Geography Issues

This course builds upon the spatial concepts and thinking learned in APH 501 and APH 502 to further expand to include the topics which are traditionally most challenging in the AP Human Geography curriculum (urban, economic, and population geography). Pedagogical methodologies as well as technological tools in urban, economic, and population (demographic) geography are implemented into the classroom setting to educators who are teaching APHG or will be teaching it in the future.

APH 504 APHG Capstone

Designed as the final/capstone course in the graduate certificate program and builds upon the spatial concepts and thinking learned in previous coursework to instruct participants on how to incorporate all of the skills and concepts into their own lesson plans and classroom materials. Course participants will work collaboratively with a faculty advisor to write a manuscript which details their lesson plan and how concepts will be incorporated into their teaching and subsequently submitted to the peer-reviewed journal, *The Geography Teacher*, for publication. Participants will select one faculty member from the program as an advisor/mentor to assist with the process. Expectation is for manuscript to be completed and ready for submission by the end of the eight weeks.

Program Director

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