

Georgia/South Carolina (GA/SC) Regional Environmental Radiation Protection Curriculum

Executive Summary

The current proposal reflects a joint initiative between The University of Georgia (UGA), The University of South Carolina (USC), and USC-Aiken to develop a curriculum in Environmental Radiation Protection (ERP) addressing the “Radiochemistry/Radiobiology” and the “Health Physics” technical areas within the NRC Nuclear Education Grant Program. The proposed curriculum is based on the class requirements for a degree in Health Physics or Radioecology and cross-listed by all participating universities. This approach will foster the development of a multi-disciplinary curriculum within overlapping departments and expand student participation within the broader environmental and public health programs of the participating institutions. The curriculum will consist of the following classes: *Radiation Safety and Protection* (3 credit hours), *Radioecology* (3 credit hours), *Radiation Genotoxicology* (3 credit hours), *Environmental Geochemistry of Radionuclides* (3 credit hours), and a Career Development Seminar (1 credit hour). The curriculum will be centered within the UGA Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL), offering several unique advantages when compared to existing education programs in the region. The program will take advantage of SREL’s existing infrastructure to provide students hands-on experience, including well-equipped radiological labs. Access to the Savannah River Site (SRS) also provides unique opportunities for class tours of nuclear waste treatment and storage facilities, and remediation sites that can serve as instructional case studies. Enrollment will be open to UGA, USC, and USC-Aiken students, SRS employees, and other professionals with appropriate experience. Lecture classes will be taught in Aiken, SC, at the SREL Conference Center during annual three-week “Maymester” sessions. Establishing the ERP program addresses the future workforce needs in the industrial and regulatory sectors of the nuclear power industry while making efficient use of existing university expertise and infrastructure, and expanding the career opportunities for students from participating academic institutions.

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