



PROCESS A NON-GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM PROPOSAL
LIBRARY RESOURCE FORM REQUIRED

SCC #03-04- 721

Deadlines
October 3, 2003 to be implemented Fall 2004 ~ February 13, 2004 to be implemented Spring 2005

PROPOSAL TITLE: Change name and prerequisites for Introduction to Geographical Information Systems

Sponsor(s): Dr. Richard Scott
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DEPARTMENT: Geography and Anthropology

COLLEGE: Liberal Arts and Sciences

If *Liberal Arts & Sciences* CHECK : History/Humanities Math/Sciences Social/Behavioral Sciences
 UNDERGRADUATE GRADUATE

THE ATTACHED **NON-GEN-ED** PROPOSAL IS BEST DESCRIBED BY THE ITEM(S) CHECKED

- New non-gen-ed course
- Short-term non-gen-ed course
- Minor curricular changes (fewer than three) to:
 - Existing non-gen-ed course
 - Non-gen-ed degree requirements
 - Major
 - Minor, specialization, concentration, track, certificate program

THE FOLLOWING SIGNATURES REPRESENT APPROVAL

Department Chair: [Signature] Date: 20 Oct 2003
 Department Curriculum Chair: [Signature] Date: 10-26-03
 Academic Dean: [Signature] Date: 12-11-03

COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

OPEN HEARING Date: 3-23-2004 Approved Not Approved

COLLEGE CURRICULUM CHAIR: [Signature]
Senate Curriculum Chair Signature: [Signature] Date: Senate Announcement [Signature]

Comments: Changes made to proposal 6-1-2005 per 6-7-2005

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/PROVOST Signature: [Signature] Date: 7/5/05

Approved Not Approved

REGISTRAR

Date: 7/11/05 Course Description Received & Approved ~ Hegis Taxonomy & Course #: _____

Registrar Signature: [Signature]

NOTIFICATION FORWARD

SCC Chair Academic Dean Department Chair Registrar IR CAP

VP Student Affairs Others

Hand 7-25-05

Minor Curricular Change

Details: Change in name of course and minor content modification.

- a. **Change requested.** Change name of 2206.360 from Introduction to Geographical Information Systems to Geographic Information Systems I.
Change from no prerequisite required to Introduction to the Mapping and Geographical Information Science as prerequisite, co-requisite or permission of the instructor.
- b. **Sponsors:** Dr. Richard Scott and Dr. John Hasse, Department of Geography and Anthropology.

Rationale:

- a. **Statement of need for change.** Name Change. Under a separate proposal we have asked for a name change for the course, Introduction to the Mapping Sciences [2206-193]. The new proposed name is Introduction to the Mapping and Geographical Information Science. We seek to change the name of this course for two reasons. First, we believe that having two courses with “Introduction to Geographical Information” in the title will lead to confusion among students. Second, we now have two courses in geographical information systems: Introduction to Geographical Information Systems and Advanced Geographical Information Systems. As our field continues to grow we may need to add a third level to the core of GIS offerings. Changing the name of this course to Geographical Information Systems I and the name of the advanced course to Geographical Information Systems II, removes this problem. Under the cover of a separate proposal, we are, of course, proposing to change the name of the advanced course to Geographical Information Systems II.
Prerequisite, Co-requisite or Permission Change. Currently, our introductory GIS course has no prerequisite. The introductory course places a strong emphasis on spatial analysis. When we first offered courses in GIS, the user interface of the program we used was much simpler than that of the software we use today. The programs we used then were able to perform quite sophisticated analysis, but were lacking in the robustness to handle large data sets and were completely unable to produce publication quality maps to communicate analysis results. We now use much more robust commercial packages that are able to work with enormous data bases and can produce very high quality maps. As a result of these changes in software, students have to spend more time just learning to navigate the user interface of the programs. The effect of this is that we have less time available to teach the concepts and methods used in spatial analysis. Requiring a pre or co-requisite of the mapping sciences course will enable us to devote more time to analysis in the first GIS class [2206-360]. At the same time, there are students who come to the class with considerable background in the field and who have acquired a working knowledge of the software we use on their own or by taking course from the software developer, Environmental Systems Research Institute. These individuals should be allowed into the course with the permission of the instructor.

- b. **Statement of curricular effect.** The proposed title change will result in a more accurate description of course content and will open up the possibility of more flexible course naming in the future. The pre or co-requisite requirement will enable the course better to achieve its goal of providing students with a solid introduction to spatial analysis.

Results of Consultation.

No consultations requested.