MEMORANDUM

TO: John Townshend  
Dean, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences 

Charles Caramello  
Associate Provost and Dean, Graduate School 

FROM: Elizabeth Beise  
Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs 

SUBJECT: Proposal to Modify the Curriculum of the Master of Professional Studies in Geospatial Information Sciences (PCC log no. 11030) 

On February 2, 2012, the Senate Programs, Curricula, and Courses committee approved your proposal to modify the curriculum of the Master of Professional Studies in Geospatial Information Sciences. A copy of the approved proposal is attached.

The curriculum change is effective Fall 2012. Please ensure that the change is fully described in the Graduate Catalog and in all relevant descriptive materials, and that all advisors are informed.

MDC/ 
Enclosure 

cc: David Salness, Chair, Senate PCC Committee 
Sarah Bauder, Office of Student Financial Aid 
Reka Montfort, University Senate 
Erin Howard, Office of Information Technology 
Donna Williams, Institutional Research & Planning 
Anne Turkos, University Archives 
Linda Yokoi, Office of the Registrar 
Arthur Popper, Graduate School 
Wayne McIntosh, Behavioral and Social Sciences 
Christopher Justice, Geographical Sciences
THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK
PROGRAM/CURRICULUM/UNIT PROPOSAL

- Please email the rest of the proposal as an MSWord attachment to pcc-submissions@umd.edu.
- Please submit the signed form to the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs, 1119 Main Administration Building, Campus.

College/School: BSOS
College/School Unit Code-First 8 digits: 01202800
Unit Codes can be found at: https://hypprod.umd.edu/Html_Reports/units.htm

Department/Program: GEOG
Department/Program Unit code-Last 7 digits: 1281501

Type of Action (choose one):

☒ Curriculum change (including informal specializations) ☐ New academic degree/award program
☐ Renaming of program or formal Area of Concentration ☐ New Professional Studies award iteration
☐ Addition/deletion of formal Area of Concentration ☐ New Minor
☐ Suspend/delete program ☐ Other

Italics indicate that the proposed program action must be presented to the full University Senate for consideration.

Summary of Proposed Action:
Replace GEOG606, 673, 674, 676 with GEOG651, 654, 655, and 656, respectively.

APPROVAL SIGNATURES - Please print name, sign, and date. Use additional lines for multi-unit programs.

1. Department Committee Chair
   
2. Department Chair
   
3. College/School PCC Chair
   
4. Dean
   
5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required)
   
6. Chair, Senate PCC
   
7. University Senate Chair (if required)
   
8. Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost

PCC LOG NO. 11030
College/School: BSOS
College/School Unit Code-First 8 digits: 01202800
Unit Codes can be found at: https://hypprod.umd.edu/Html_Reports/units.htm

Department/Program: GEOG
Department/Program Unit code-Last 7 digits: 1281501

Type of Action (choose one):

- Curricular change (including informal specializations)
- Renaming of program or formal Area of Concentration
- Addition/deletion of formal Area of Concentration
- Suspend/delete program

Italics indicate that the proposed program action must be presented to the full University Senate for consideration.

Summary of Proposed Action:
Replace GEOG606, 673, 674, 676 with GEOG651, 654, 655, and 656, respectively.

APPROVAL SIGNATURES - Please print name, sign, and date. Use additional lines for multi-unit programs.

1. Department Committee Chair: Jianqiu Ma (signature) 10/17/2011
2. Department Chair: Martha Geore (signature) 10/17/2011
3. College/School PCC Chair: Martha E. Geore (signature)
4. Dean: Katherine Pedro Beardsley (signature)
5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required) __________________________
6. Chair, Senate PCC __________________________
7. University Senate Chair (if required) __________________________
8. Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost __________________________
PCC Proposal for the Master of Professional Studies in Geospatial Information Sciences

PCC Log# 11030

Revised 1/26/2012

Rationale and Justification

The Master of Professional Studies in Geospatial Information Sciences (MPSGIS) Program at the University of Maryland is designed to provide advanced training on geospatial technology, theory and applications including GIS, remote sensing, computer programming, and spatial statistics. This program has been highly successfully and is recognized as one of the ESRI Development Centers in the nation.

When MPSGIS program was launched in fall 2007, our students took all the classes that were co-mingled with MA or PhD students in the Department of Geography. Because of the differences of learning objectives, since fall 2008, we started to create courses to emphasize more on technology and hands-on practices so that we can meet the needs of MPSGIS students. Now we have created our own courses that are registered by MPSGIS students only and there is no more co-mingling with MA or PhD students.

However, some of our courses have the same course # or titles as those similar courses offered by the graduate program in the Geography Department. To help MPSGIS students register in our own courses, we use different section # to differentiate from the regular graduate level courses with the same course # or titles. This sometime has caused unnecessary confusion. In addition, the content and focus of our courses are increasingly become different from similar courses in the Geography Department.

There are also two other important differences between the MPSGIS and non-MPSGIS courses: (1) The MPSGIS courses are based on 10-week quarters while the similar courses in the Geography Department are based on semesters; (2) The MPSGIS courses are offered online (with the option for students to come to the labs) using Wimba Live Classroom integrated with ELMS. We have real lectures in real time online and the teaching is dynamic and interactive.

Therefore, it is evident that we should create both new course # and titles to reflect these significant differences. These proposed changes not only will help differentiate our classes from similar classes offered in the Geography Department for the registration purposes, but also more accurately describe the content of our classes due to the rapid development in the geospatial technology field.

The current graduate program courses used in the MPSGIS program are:
GEOG606, Quantitative Spatial Analysis
GEOG673, GIS Modeling
GEOG674, GIS Spatial Databases
GEOG676, Advanced Programming for Geography and Remote Sensing

The new courses to replace those in the graduate program are (VPAC submissions filed):
GEOG651, Spatial Statistics
GEOG654, GIS and Spatial Modeling
GEOG655, Spatial Database System
GEOG656, Programming and Scripting for GIS
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MPS GIS Program before Revisions</th>
<th>MPS GIS Program after Revisions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Required Courses (18 credits):</strong></td>
<td><strong>Required Courses (18 credits):</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 606 Quantitative Spatial Analysis; (3 credits)</td>
<td>GEOG 651 Spatial Statistics; (3 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 652 Digital Image Processing and Analysis; (3 credits)</td>
<td>GEOG 652 Digital Image Processing and Analysis; (3 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 653 Spatial Analysis; (3 credits)</td>
<td>GEOG 653 Spatial Analysis; (3 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 676 Programming for GIS; (3 credits)</td>
<td>GEOG 656 Programming and Scripting for GIS; (3 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 677 Internet GIS; (3 credits)</td>
<td>GEOG 677 Internet GIS; (3 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 657 Web Programming; (3 credits)</td>
<td>GEOG 657 Web Programming; (3 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advanced GIS (6 credits: select 2 of the 4):</strong></td>
<td><strong>Advanced GIS (6 credits: select 2 of the 4):</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Geographic Information Systems:</em></td>
<td><em>Geographic Information Systems:</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 673 GIS Modeling; (3 credits)</td>
<td>GEOG 654 GIS and Spatial Modeling; (3 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 674 GIS Spatial Databases (3 credits)</td>
<td>GEOG 655 Spatial Database System (3 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Remote Sensing:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Remote Sensing:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 671 Remote Sensing Instruments and Observations (3 credits)</td>
<td>GEOG 671 Remote Sensing Instruments and Observations (3 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 672 Biophysics of Optical Remote Sensing (3 credits)</td>
<td>GEOG 672 Biophysics of Optical Remote Sensing (3 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Professional Project Management and Final Project (7 credits):</strong></td>
<td><strong>Professional Project Management and Final Project (7 credits):</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 795 Professional Practices Seminar (1 credit)</td>
<td>GEOG 795 Professional Practices Seminar (1 credit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 796 GIS Project Management (3 credits)</td>
<td>GEOG 796 GIS Project Management (3 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 797 Professional Project (3 credits)</td>
<td>GEOG 797 Professional Project (3 credits)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>