

LSC Use Only No:	LSC Action-Date:	UWUCC USE Only No.	UWUCC Action-Date:	Senate Action Date:
		07-30a.	App-2/14/08	App-2/26/08

Curriculum Proposal Cover Sheet - University-Wide Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

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Proposing Department/Unit Geography and Regional Planning	Phone 724-357-2250

Check all appropriate lines and complete information as requested. Use a separate cover sheet for each course proposal and for each program proposal.

1. Course Proposals (check all that apply)

New Course Course Prefix Change Course Deletion
 Course Revision Course Number and/or Title Change Catalog Description Change

<u>Current Course prefix, number and full title</u>	<u>Proposed course prefix, number and full title, if changing</u>

2. Additional Course Designations: check if appropriate

This course is also proposed as a Liberal Studies Course. Other: (e.g., Women's Studies, Pan-African)
 This course is also proposed as an Honors College Course.

3. Program Proposals

New Degree Program Program Title Change Program Revision
 New Minor Program New Track Other

Track Change

<u>Current program name</u>	<u>Proposed program name, if changing</u>
	B.S. Regional Planning/Environmental Planner

4. Approvals		Date
Department Curriculum Committee Chair(s)	<i>[Signature]</i>	10/17/07
Department Chair(s)	<i>[Signature]</i>	10/18/07
College Curriculum Committee Chair	<i>[Signature]</i>	11/28/07
College Dean	<i>[Signature]</i>	11/28/07
Director of Liberal Studies *	<i>[Signature]</i>	1/31/08
Director of Honors College *		
Provost *	<i>[Signature]</i>	1/15/08
Additional signatures as appropriate: (include title)		
UWUCC Co-Chairs	<i>[Signature]</i>	1/29/08

* where applicable

Received Received Received
 FEB 08 2008 JAN 29 2008 NOV 29 2007
 Liberal Studies Liberal Studies Liberal Studies

Department of Geography and Regional Planning: Program Revision

II. Track Change: Bachelor of Science - Regional Planning/Environmental Planner Track

1. Proposed Catalogue Description: Regional Planning/Environmental Planner Track

Current Catalogue Description:

Regional Planning involves preparing for the future. The demand and effects of a large and growing population require that land use, resource use, settlement patterns, transportation systems, and economic activity be planned. Regional Planning is concerned with the social, locational, and environmental aspects of these planning decisions. Today economic development has become an important focus for planners.

Geography-Environmental Geographer Track

Regional Planning-Environmental Planner Track

The Environmental Track is designed to prepare majors in geography or regional planning for careers in environmental fields or graduate study that leads to a variety of environmental positions. Students who elect this track will acquire knowledge of the physical and human processes that shape the environment, strategies for analyzing environmental issues, and concepts that underlie strategies for ameliorating environmental problems. The skills acquired in this track will enable students to assess the causes, consequences, and solutions to a wide variety of environmental issues such as water pollution, acid rain, or tropical deforestation.

Proposed Catalogue Description:

The focus of the Bachelor of Science in Regional Planning is to prepare students for eventual leadership positions as professional planners. A broad range of technical skills, land use and environmental training prepare our students for public or private service as spatial and physical planners.

Regional Planning-Environmental Planner Track

Geography-Environmental Geographer Track

The Environmental Track is designed to prepare majors in geography or regional planning for careers in environmental fields or graduate study that leads to a variety of environmental positions. Students who elect this track acquire knowledge of the physical and human processes that shape the environment, strategies for analyzing environmental issues, and concepts that underlie strategies for ameliorating environmental problems. Students in planning graduate with a working knowledge of subdivision, land use and zoning regulation. They are familiar with strategies of flood plain and wetland regulation, the management of waste and storm water, and environmental impact assessment. They understand both the theory and ethics of planning. The skills acquired in this track enable students to assess the causes, consequences, and solutions to a wide variety of environmental issues such as water pollution, acid rain, watershed planning, or deforestation.

Proposed Program	
Bachelor of Science- Regional Planning/Environmental Planner Track	
<u>Course Requirements</u>	
Liberal Studies: As outlined in the Liberal Studies section with the following specifications:	53
Mathematics: MATH 217 recommended	
Liberal Studies Electives:	
9cr BTED/COSC/IMFG 101 recommended, no courses with RGPL prefix	
College:	
Foreign Language Intermediate Level (1)	0-6
Major:	
Required Courses in Planning:	48
RGPL 213 Cartography I	3cr
RGPL 316 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems	3cr
RGPL 332 Urban Geography	3cr
RGPL 350 Introduction to Planning	3cr
RGPL 352 Planning Methods	3cr
RGPL 412 Research Seminar	3cr
RGPL 453 Planning Design I	3cr
RGPL 454 Planning Design II	3cr
RGPL 458 Land Use Law	3cr
RGPL 464 Land Use Policy	3cr
RGPL 468 Planning Theory	3cr
RGPL 493 Internship	3cr
Track Courses: Four courses from the following	
GEOG 335 Geography of Energy	3cr
GEOG 341 Climatology	3cr
GEOG 342 Physiography	3cr
GEOG 343 Geography of Fresh Water Resources	3cr
GEOG 440 Conservation: Environmental Analysis	3cr
RGPL 314 Map and Photo Interpretation	3cr
RGPL 345 Biogeography for Environmental Managers	3cr
RGPL 415 Remote Sensing	
Free Electives:	13-19
Total Degree Requirements:	120
(1) Intermediate-level Foreign Language may be included in Liberal Studies electives	

2. Summary of Changes
a. Table Comparing Old and New Programs

Current Program		Proposed Program	
Bachelor of Science-Regional Planning/ Environmental Planner Track		Bachelor of Science- Regional Planning/ Environmental Planner Track	
Liberal Studies: As outlined in the Liberal Studies section with the following specifications:	53	Liberal Studies: As outlined in the Liberal Studies section with the following specifications:	53
Mathematics: MATH 121 or 217		Mathematics: MATH 217 recommended	
Liberal Studies Electives:		Liberal Studies Electives:	
9cr, BTED/COSC/IMFG 101 recommended, no course with RGPL prefix		9cr, BTED/COSC/IMFG 101 recommended, no course with RGPL prefix	
College:		College:	
Foreign Language Intermediate Level (1)	0-6	Foreign Language Intermediate Level (1)	0-6
Major:		Major:	
Required Courses in Planning:	42	Required Courses in Planning:	48
RGPL 213 Cartography I	3cr	RGPL 213 Cartography I	3cr
RGPL 316 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems	3cr	RGPL 316 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems	3cr
		RGPL 332 Urban Geography	3cr
RGPL 350 Introduction to Planning	3cr	RGPL 350 Introduction to Planning	3cr
RGPL 352 Planning Methods	3cr	RGPL 352 Planning Methods	3cr
RGPL 353 Planning Design I	3cr	RGPL 412 Research Seminar	3cr
RGPL 412 Research Seminar	3cr	RGPL 453 Planning Design I	3cr
RGPL 454 Planning Design II	3cr	RGPL 454 Planning Design II	3cr
RGPL 458 Land Use Law	3cr	RGPL 458 Land Use Law	3cr
RGPL 464 Land Use Policy	3cr	RGPL 464 Land Use Policy	3cr
RGPL 468 Planning Theory	3cr	RGPL 468 Planning Theory	3cr
	3cr	RGPL 493 Internship	3cr
Track Courses: Four courses from the following		Track Courses: Four courses from the following	
GEOG 335 Geography of Energy	3cr	GEOG 335 Geography of Energy	3cr
GEOG 341 Climatology	3cr	GEOG 341 Climatology	3cr
GEOG 342 Physiography	3cr	GEOG 342 Physiography	3cr
GEOG 343 Geography of Fresh Water Resources	3cr	GEOG 343 Geography of Fresh Water Resources	3cr
GEOG 345 Biogeography for Environmental Managers	3cr	GEOG 440 Conservation: Environmental Analysis	3cr
GEOG 440 Conservation: Environmental Analysis	3cr	RGPL 314 Map and Photo Interpretation	3cr
RGPL 314 Map and Photo Interpretation	3cr	RGPL 345 Biogeography for Environmental Managers	3cr
RGPL 415 Remote Sensing	3cr	RGPL 415 Remote Sensing	3cr
Free Electives:	19-25	Free Electives:	13-19
Total Degree Requirements:	120	Total Degree Requirements:	120
(1) Intermediate-level Foreign Language may be included in Liberal Studies electives		(1) Intermediate-level Foreign Language may be included in Liberal Studies electives	

2b. List of all associated changes.

Addition of RGPL 332 Urban Geography as a required course.
Movement of RGPL 493 Internship from recommended to required.
Change from MATH 121 or 217 required to MATH 217 recommended.
Change GEOG 345 Biogeography for Environmental Managers to RGPL 345 Biogeography for Environmental Managers.
Change RGPL 353 to RGPL 453 for dual listing purposes.

3. Rationale for changes.

As part of an on-going effort at self-assessment and continuous improvement, the Regional Planning program of the Geography and Regional Planning Department during the Spring of 2007 invited an outside evaluator to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the program and concomitantly the department's chances of successfully becoming an "accredited" planning

program. Accreditation of planning programs is done by the National Planning Accreditation Board. The board is composed of members of the American Institute of Certified Planners, the American Collegiate Schools of Planning, and the American Planning Association. Accreditation brings national recognition and ongoing external evaluation; it requires significant continuing education for faculty and immediately improves the employability of our graduates. At present there are only two accredited planning programs in Pennsylvania: The University of Pennsylvania and Temple University.

In his pre-evaluation of the Bachelor of Science, Paul Rollinson, AICP, concluded that:

“Overall, my assessment of the B.S. in Regional Planning Program at IUP is positive and I would recommend moving forward in your efforts to receive PAB approval (sic).”

In spite of an overall positive report, Dr. Rollinson recommended some curricular changes to both focus the program and to bring it into compliance with PAB standards. Second, the program lacks sufficient historical perspective to meet PAB standards. Urban Geography as it now exists covers much of the history of town planning and design and has been added as a required course to ameliorate a perceived curricular deficit. The Internship has been moved from recommended to required because PAB requirements for accreditation list practical experience as a necessary ingredient for a complete planning education. The faculty concurs with this. Planning is an applied discipline and an internship allows our students to bring important insights into their upper-level course work while also providing a stepping stone to employment.

In January of 2006, the department voted to accept any Liberal Studies math as appropriate, currently only MATH 121 and MATH 217 are listed. MATH 217 will be recommended. Statistics is an important planning tool and would benefit students who could list it on their resumes.

Changing GEOG 345 Biogeography for Environmental Managers to RGPL 345 Biogeography for Environmental Managers is correcting an earlier error. We will change RGPL 353 to RGPL 453 for dual listing purposes.

III. Implementation

1. Students already in the program or entering this year will be given the option of finishing under the present requirements and with the present tracks. All new students new to the program in 2008-9 will be expected to follow the new curriculum.
2. Faculty resources are adequate; no new courses are being added to the program.
3. No new physical resources will be required.
4. One of the strong rationales for seeking accreditation, the driving forces behind these changes, is to increase the visibility and enrollment in our planning program. At present some of our upper-level planning courses are under-enrolled. The strategy we are following mimics that of Missouri State University that doubled its planning majors after receiving accreditation. The demand for public and private sector planners both regionally and nationally is growing and accreditation gives a strong advantage to our graduates.

IV. Periodic Assessment

1. The Department of Geography and Regional Planning engages in constant quality improvement. In addition to the 5-year planning cycle mandated by the University, we hold annual retreats to review enrollment, curriculum, and external context. The curricular changes proposed here are the result of an external evaluation completed during the Spring of 2007. During the 2007-2008 school year, in preparation for an external evaluation team, we will do a program self-study. During the 2008-2009 school a team of external evaluators will do an accreditation study. Accreditation mandates ongoing internal evaluation and 5-year external reviews. Criteria are complex, but include: student interviews, an advisory board of program graduates that meets annually, consulting with professional planners, and measuring the program against national curricular and performance standards.
2. Internal evaluations are on-going with annual reports. External evaluations are every 5 years.
3. Internally the Planning Program faculty and the inchoate Planning Graduate Advisory Board review the program; externally the Planning Accreditation Board described above.