

SEP 10 2010

LSC Use Only No:	LSC Action-Date:	UWUCC USE Only No.	UWUCC Action-Date:	Senate Action Date:
		10-336.	App-11/16/10	App-12/7/10

Curriculum Proposal Cover Sheet - University-Wide Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Contact Person Bob Begg / John Benhart	Email Address bobegg@rup.edu
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

Current Course prefix, number and full title Proposed course prefix, number and full title, if changing

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 Catalog Description Change Program Revision
 New Minor Program Program Title Change Other
 New Track

Current program name Proposed program name, if changing

Bachelor of Science - Regional Planning/Environmental Planner Track

4. Approvals

		Date
Department Curriculum Committee Chair(s)	Gail Sedquist	9/3/10
Department Chair(s)	John Benhart	9/3/10
College Curriculum Committee Chair	Stuart Challe	9/13/10
College Dean	Ann	9/13/10
Director of Liberal Studies *		
Director of Honors College *		
Provost *	Gerald Chutkan	9/21/10
Additional signatures as appropriate: (include title)		
UWUCC Co-Chairs	Gail Sedquist	11/16/10

* where applicable

Received

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Liberal Studies
Liberal Studies

Department of Geography and Regional Planning: Program Revision

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

1. Catalogue Description: Regional Planning/Environmental Planner Track

The Environmental Track is designed to prepare majors in regional planning for careers as environmental planners or further graduate studies. Students who select this track learn about aspects of the natural environment, methods to preserve and conserve resources, and how to plan communities where humans both benefit from the natural environment and have minimal impact upon it. They are knowledgeable about environmental regulation and policy. They understand community strategies for ameliorating environmental problems and have both a theoretical and working knowledge of subdivision, land use, and zoning regulation. They are familiar the regulation and management of flood plains and wetlands, the management of waste and storm water, and environmental impact assessment. They understand both the theory and ethics of planning. Students completing this track should be able to assist diverse communities and organizations in identifying and finding solutions to a wide variety of environmental issues such as waste water treatment, water pollution, acid rain, watershed planning, carbon footprints, deforestation, and natural resource extraction.

Proposed Program	
Bachelor of Science- Regional Planning/Environmental Track	
Liberal Studies: As outlined in the Liberal Studies section with the following specifications:	53
Mathematics: MATH 217 recommended	
Natural Science: BIOL 103-104 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:	54
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 410 Community Participation and Civic Engagement Seminar	3cr
RGPL 412 Community Planning Practicum	3cr
RGPL 426 Environmental Land Use Planning	3cr
RGPL 453 Planning Design Studio I	3cr
RGPL 454 Planning Design Studio 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
RGPL 314 Map and Photo Interpretation	3cr
RGPL 341 Climatology	3cr
RGPL 342 Physiography	3cr
RGPL 343 Geography of Fresh Water Resources	3cr
RGPL 345 Biogeography for Environmental Managers	3cr
RGPL 415 Remote Sensing	3cr
RGPL 440 Conservation: Environmental Analysis	3cr
Free Electives: BIOL 114 recommended	7-13
Total Degree Requirements(2):	120
(1) Intermediate-level Foreign Language may be included in Liberal Studies electives	
(2) As they pass through the program students will be expected to develop and maintain a portfolio of planning course work as a requirement for graduation.	

2. Summary of Changes

a. Table Comparing Old and New Programs

2a. Summary of Changes

Current Program		Proposed Program	
Bachelor of Science-Regional Planning/Geographic Information Systems and Land Use Planning Track		Bachelor of Science-Regional Planning/Geographic Information Systems and Land Use Planning 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 217 recommended		Mathematics: MATH 217 recommended	
Liberal Studies Electives: 9cr, BTED/COSC/IMFG 101 recommended, no course with RGPL prefix		Liberal Studies Electives: 9cr, BTED/COSC/IMFG 101 recommended, no courses with RGPL prefix	
College: Foreign Language Intermediate Level (1)	0-6	College: Foreign Language Intermediate Level (1)	0-6
Major: Required Courses in Planning:	48	Major: Required Courses in Planning:	51
RGPL 213 Cartography I	3cr	RGPL 213 Cartography I	3cr
RGPL 316 Introduction to GIS	3cr	RGPL 316 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems	3cr
RGPL332 Urban Geography	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 412 Research Seminar	3cr	RGPL 410 Community Participation and Civic Engagement Seminar	3cr
RGPL 453 Planning Design I	3cr	RGPL 412 Community Planning Practicum	3cr
RGPL 454 Planning Design II	3cr	RGPL 453 Planning Design Studio I	3cr
RGPL 458 Land Use Law	3cr	RGPL 454 Planning Design Studio II	3cr
RGPL 464 Land Use Policy	3cr	RGPL 458 Land Use Law	3cr
RGPL 468 Planning Theory	3cr	RGPL 464 Land Use Policy	3cr
RGPL 493 Internship	3cr	RGPL 468 Planning Theory	3cr
Track Courses:		RGPL 493 Internship	3cr
RGPL 313 Cartography II	3cr	Track Courses: Four courses from the following	
RGPL 314 Map and Photograph Interpretation	3cr	GEOG 334 Political Geography	3cr
RGPL 415 Remote Sensing	3cr	PLSC 376 Public Sector Budgeting and Financial Management	3cr
RGPL 417 Technical Issues in GIS	3cr	RGPL 313 Cartography II	3cr
Free Electives:	13-19	RGPL 314 Map and Photograph Interpretation	3cr
Total Degree Requirements:	120	RGPL 415 Remote Sensing	3cr
		RGPL 417 Technical Issues in GIS	3cr
		Free Electives:	10-16
		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 410 Community Participation and Civic Engagement Seminar as a required course.

Addition of Portfolio requirement for graduation.

Change GEOG 412 Research Seminar to RGPL 412 Community Planning Practicum.

Change RGPL 453 and RGPL 454 Planning Design I and II to RGPL 453 and 454 Planning Design Studio I and II.

Add GEOG 334 Political Geography and PLSC 376 Public Sector Budgeting and Financial Management as options under controlled electives for this track.

Change GEOG 412 Research Seminar to RGPL 412 Community Planning Practicum.

Change RGPL 453 and RGPL 454 Planning Design I and II to RGPL 453 and 454 Planning Design Studio I and II.

Change: GEOG 341 Climatology, GEOG 342 Physiography, GEOG 343 Geography of Fresh Water Resources, and GEOG 440 Conservation: Environmental Analysis to RGPL 341 Climatology, RGPL 342 Physiography, RGPL 343 Geography of Fresh Water Resources, and RGPL 440 Conservation: Environmental Analysis.

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 Summer of 2010 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 is only one accredited planning program in Pennsylvania: The University of Pennsylvania.

In her pre-evaluation of the Bachelor of Science, Susan Bradbury, AICP, concluded that:

"I think you have a real potential for growth. If you are accredited you have a unique market area and your specializations are very appropriate "

In spite of an overall positive report, Dr. Bradbury recommended some curricular changes to both focus the program and to bring it into compliance with PAB standards. Planning is an applied discipline and although much of our curriculum involves service learning and real world project, the names of courses did not reflect this. For this reason RGPL 453 and 454 Design I and II have had the word "Studio" added. This is common practice in planning and necessary to present the appropriate and accurate image to the accreditation board. Similarly, RGPL 412 Research Seminar, has been retitled Community Planning Practicum. The course description already requires an applied research project, but the name change highlights this.

Two courses have been added as required core courses. The one significant gap in the curriculum identified by Dr. Bradbury was a course that taught the important community involvement techniques required of practicing planners. For this reason RGPL 410 Community Participation and Civic Engagement Seminar is added. It seems obvious that environmental planners should have a course in environmental planning. RGPL 425 Environmental Planning was added to the track only as a required course for that reason. Both of these courses have been taught successfully as RGPL 481 courses and were under consideration by the department as gaps in any cases.

As planners are deeply involved in program and capital budgeting at the municipal and county level PLSC 376 is strongly recommended.

Climatology, Physiography, Geography of Freshwater Resources, and Conservation have already been crosslisted in the catalog, but the prefixes were not changed in the program listing.

Although the department covers some of the course work necessary to understand physical processes, we felt that a stronger background in biological processes and environmental biology would strengthen the credentials of an environmental planner. For that reason BIOL 103 and 104 have become recommended Natural Science Laboratory courses for the environmental track only and BIOL 114 has been added as a recommended free elective.

The portfolio requirement is an outgrowth of the current emphasis in higher education on outcomes assessment. It requires no real additional work by our majors, but they will be on notice that they must compile their significant course work as they proceed through the program.

III. Implementation

1. Students already in the program or entering this year will be given the option of finishing under the present requirements. All new students new to the program in 2011-12 will be expected to follow the new curriculum.
2. Faculty resources are adequate; both new courses have been taught as RGPL 481 within the past year without needing additional resources or endangering the curriculum. No new physical resources will be required.
3. 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 Summer of 2010. During the 2010-2011 school year, in preparation for an external evaluation team, we will do a program self-study. During the 2011-2012 school year 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 using student learning outcomes to measure 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 Planning Advisory Board made up of professional planners review the program annually; we have had two external evaluators in the past for years and are preparing for the Planning Accreditation Board review described above.