

Department of Geography and Regional Planning: Program Revision
Part II. Track Change: Bachelor of Science Regional Planning/Land Use Planning and GIS Track

1. Current Catalogue Description:

Geography - Geographic Information Systems and Cartographer Track
Regional Planning - Geographic Information Systems and Cartographer Track

The Geographic Information Systems and Cartographer Track prepares students for employment as Geographic Information System Specialists, Facilities Managers, Cartographers, and Remote Sensing professionals. Coursework includes methods for identifying, modeling, and analyzing the spatial organization of human and environmental systems from both practical and theoretical perspectives. Data collection, spatial information management, and graphic presentation are integral skills taught in track courses. Such skills could be used, for example, for analysis of wildlife habitat, utility facility management, or transportation system design and maintenance.

Proposed Catalogue Description:

Regional Planning- Land Use Planning and GIS Track

Geography - Geographic Information Systems and Cartographer Track

The Land Use Planning and Geographic Information Systems programs prepare students for employment as Land Use Analysts, County or City Planners, Geographic Information Specialists, Facilities Managers, Cartographers, and Remote Sensing Specialists. Course work includes methods for identifying, modeling, and analyzing the spatial organization of human and environmental systems from both practical and theoretical perspectives. Students in planning graduate with a working knowledge of subdivision, land use and zoning regulation. They are familiar with strategies of economic development and both the theory and ethics of planning. Data collection, spatial information management, and graphic presentation are integral skills taught in the program. Such skills could be and are used in course work for the analysis of wildlife habitat, facilities management, land use planning and site design, transportation systems design and maintenance.

New Program		
Bachelor of Science-Regional Planning/Land Use Planning and GIS Track		
Liberal Studies: As outlined in the Liberal Studies section with the following exceptions		53
Mathematics: MATH 217 recommended		
Liberal Studies Electives:		
9 cr, 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 GIS	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:		
RGPL 313	Cartography II	3cr
RGPL 314	Map and Photograph Interpretation	3cr
RGPL 415	Remote Sensing	3cr
RGPL 417	Technical Issues in GIS	3cr
Free Electives:		13-19
Total Degree Requirements:		120
(1) Intermediate-level Foreign Language may be included in Liberal Studies electives.		

2a. Summary of Changes

Current Program		Proposed Program	
Bachelor of Science-Regional Planning/GIS and Cartographer Track		Bachelor of Science-Regional Planning/Land Use Planning and GIS 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 GIS	3cr	RGPL 316 Introduction to GIS	3cr
RGPL 350 Introduction to Planning	3cr	RGPL 332 Urban Geography	3cr
RGPL 352 Planning Methods	3cr	RGPL 350 Introduction to Planning	3cr
RGPL 353 Planning Design I	3cr	RGPL 352 Planning Methods	3cr
RGPL 412 Research Seminar	3cr	RGPL 412 Research Seminar	3cr
RGPL 454 Planning Design II	3cr	RGPL 453 Planning Design I	3cr
RGPL 458 Land Use Law	3cr	RGPL 454 Planning Design 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 468 Planning Theory	3cr
		RGPL 493 Internship	3cr
Track Courses:		Track Courses:	
RGPL 313 Cartography II	3cr	RGPL 313 Cartography II	3cr
RGPL 314 Map and Photograph Interpretation	3cr	RGPL 314 Map and Photograph Interpretation	3cr
RGPL 415 Remote Sensing	3cr	RGPL 415 Remote Sensing	3cr
RGPL 417 Technical Issues in GIS	3cr	RGPL 417 Technical Issues in GIS	3cr
Free Electives:		Free Electives:	
RGPL 493 Internship (strongly recommended)	1-12cr		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.

Track name: From Bachelor of Science-Regional Planning/GIS and Cartographer Track to Bachelor of Science-Regional Planning/Land Use Planning and GIS Track

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 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. First, he recommended going with our strength which was Land Use and GIS, to this purpose we have renamed this track. 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 mathematics course as an 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. 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.