

ILLINOIS STATE
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Graduate Curriculum Committee

February 6, 2013

TO: Daniel Holland, Chairperson, Academic Senate
FROM: Alberto Delgado, Director of the Graduate School
RE: Executive Summary – IT Proposal for the new Geographic Information Systems Sequence

The Graduate Curriculum Committee has approved and is forwarding for Academic Senate review the attached proposal to add a new Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Sequence to the Master's Degree in Information Systems.

The School of Information Technology provided the following description and rationale for the addition of the new sequence:

- The School proposes a cross-disciplinary degree sequence between the school of Information Technology and the Institute for Geospatial Analysis and Mapping in the Department of Geography-Geology.
- The implementation of the new sequence will open new research areas and job opportunities for graduate students in Geographic Information Systems.
- Information technology business trends indicate there is demand for information technology professionals who can help business and government agencies visualize the data they are rapidly accruing.
- Information technology professionals specialized in geographic information systems are required to understand the procedures of capturing, storing, querying and displaying geographical data. This proposed sequence will equip students with the essential knowledge leading to effective use and development of present and future GIS applications.
- The proposed establishment of the sequence in each option (project, thesis, and course) of the degree program is a result of student requests, advisory board input, and faculty desire to provide GIS courses and research opportunities. Establishment of this sequence in the Master of Science in Information Systems degree program will place Illinois State as a leader in both education and research in this field.
- The School of Information Technology indicated that they do not expect a need for additional funding or staffing. They believe that sufficient seats in undergraduate and graduate Information Technology and Geography-Geology courses are expected to be available to accommodate the proposed addition of the sequence.

The Department of Geography-Geology has enthusiastically endorsed the graduate sequence in GIS that is proposed as part of the IT curriculum. The Graduate Curriculum Committee supports the proposal to add the new sequence as stated above.