



Program Approval Form

For approval of new programs and deletions or modifications to an existing program.

Action Requested:

- Create New (SCHEV approval required except for minors and certificates)
- Delete Existing
- Modify Existing (check all that apply)
 - Title (SCHEV approval required except for minors, certificates)
 - Concentration** (Choose one): Add Delete Modify
 - Degree Requirements
 - Admission Standards
 - Application Requirements
 - Other Changes: _____

Type (Check one):

- B.A. B.S. Minor
- Undergraduate Certificate
- M.A. M.S. M.Ed.
- Ph.D. Graduate Certificate
- Other: _____

College/School: **Department:**
Submitted by: **Ext:** **Email:**

Effective Term: Fall **Please note:** For students to be admitted to a new degree, minor, certificate or concentration, the program must be fully approved, entered into Banner, and published in the University Catalog.

Justification: (attach separate document if necessary)

See Attached

Program Title: (Required)
 Title must identify subject matter. Do not include name of college/school/dept.

Concentration(s):

Admissions Standards / Application Requirements:
 (Required only if different from those listed in the University Catalog)

Degree Requirements:
 Consult University Catalog for models, attach separate document if necessary using track changes for modifications

Courses offered via distance:
 (if applicable)

TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED:

| Existing | New/Modified |
|---|--------------|
| Earth Systems and Geoinformation Sciences | |
| | |
| | See Attached |
| | |
| | |

Approval Signatures

 Department Date College/School Date Provost's Office Date
Interdisciplinary Council Use Only

If this program may impact another unit or is in collaboration with another unit at Mason, the originating department must circulate this proposal for review by those units and obtain the necessary signatures prior to submission. Failure to do so will delay action on this proposal.

| Unit Name | Unit Approval Name | Unit Approver's Signature | Date |
|-----------|--------------------|---------------------------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

For Graduate Programs Only

 Graduate Council Member Provost Office Graduate Council Approval Date

Proposed Program Modifications for ESGS PhD Fall 2015

Overall: We seek to do two things. First, we're reducing our Dissertation Proposal and Dissertation hour requirements back to the minimum university requirements to ease departmental advising. Second, we're tweaking course piles because of changes in the curriculum over the past two years. These changes are fairly minor in nature, and we anticipate students moving transparently after the change.

Proposed Modifications:

- 1) **Remove GGS 525** from the Human Geography Core.

Rationale: This course is not central enough to the 'Human Geography' concept to remain in this core category. We prefer students take other courses to fulfill this requirement..

- 2) **Modify** Geoinformatics Core to include GGS 692 (Web GIS).

Rationale: This is a new course that we wish to be an option for our PhD students.

- 3) **Modify Dissertation Requirement.** Students can use between 12 and 24 credits of dissertation proposal (GGS 998) and dissertation (GGS 999) to satisfy degree requirements. At least 6 credits must be Dissertation (GGS 999).

Rationale: We are writing many substitution courses and memorandum to allow fewer dissertation credits and permit more proposal credits (we currently require 12 dissertation credits). As our goal is to provide flexibility, we maximize it here in accordance with University Policy.

Approvals:

- 9/25/14: Approved by the departmental curriculum committee
- 10/14/14: Modified and approved at GGS department meeting

Current ESGS PhD Core

Core: (24 credits)

1 course in 5 of the following 6 groups

2 courses in 3 of those 5 choices

Quantitative Core

GGS 560

GGS 754

GGS 791

Geoinformatics Core

GGS 650

GGS 664

GGS 675

GGS 787

Geosciences and Physical Geography Core

GGS 656

GGS 657

GGS 670

GGS 721

PHYS 575

Human Geography Core

GGS 505

GGS 525

GGS 533

GGS 540

GGS 605

GGS 704

Geographic Information Science Core

GGS 553

GGS 563

GGS 671

Remote Sensing Core

GGS 579

GGS 680

GGS 756

GGS 760

GGS 777

ESGS PhD Core

After Proposed Modifications

Core: (24 credits)

1 course in 5 of the following 6 groups

2 courses in 3 of those 5 choices

Quantitative Core

GGS 560

GGS 754

GGS 791

Geoinformatics Core

GGS 650

GGS 664

GGS 675

GGS 692 (Web GIS)

GGS 787

Geosciences and Physical Geography Core

GGS 656

GGS 657

GGS 670

GGS 721

PHYS 575

Human Geography Core

GGS 505

GGS 533

GGS 540

GGS 605

GGS 704

Geographic Information Science Core

GGS 553

GGS 563

GGS 671

Remote Sensing Core

GGS 579

GGS 680

GGS 756

GGS 760

GGS 777

Other ESGS PhD Requirements

Current

Research Synthesis (2-3 credits)

GGS 684

GGS 689

GGS 792

GGS 795

Seminar (2 credits)

GGS 900 x 2

Dissertation & Proposal (12-24 credits, with at least
12 credits in GGS 999)

Electives (19-32 credits)

Total: 72 credits

Other ESGS PhD Requirements

After Proposed Modifications

Research Synthesis (2-3 credits)

GGS 684

GGS 689

GGS 792

GGS 795

Seminar (2 credits)

GGS 900 x 2

Dissertation & Proposal (12-24 credits, with at least
6 credits in GGS 999)

Electives (19-32 credits)

Total: 72 credits