

**From:** [Cloppe, Cynthia](#)  
**To:** [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#)  
**Cc:** [Fink, Steven](#); [Haddad, Deborah](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Cognitive and Brain Sciences GIS  
**Date:** Thursday, October 17, 2013 12:19:08 PM

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Dear Bernadette,

I would be happy to clarify these points for you.

1. Some of the elective courses have prerequisites, but in almost all cases, those prerequisites are other courses on the elective list and/or graduate standing and/or permission of the instructor. It will therefore be possible for any student, regardless of discipline, to complete the GIS without taking more than the minimum number of required courses. A student who wishes to obtain more advanced knowledge or training in a particular area may choose to take an additional course, but that could involve either a prerequisite or a more advanced course on the topic, and would never be required to complete the GIS. To make the course selection process more transparent, we will include the prerequisites for each course on the elective course list on the GIS website to make sure that students take prerequisites into account in planning their coursework.

2. As described in the Administration section of the proposal, the Graduate Studies Chair for the GIS will formally approve the proposed curriculum for each student pursuing the GIS. The Graduate School specifies the procedure for this approval process, including a form for students to complete indicating their proposed coursework. This form must be signed by the student, the student's home department advisor, and the GIS GSC Chair (<http://www.gradsch.ohio-state.edu/Depo/PDF/InterdisciplinarySpecializationForm.pdf>). Our guideline that students select their electives in consultation with their advisor is simply a further specification of the process for our GIS.

I do not have access to [curriculum.osu.edu](http://curriculum.osu.edu) (Deborah Haddad submitted the proposal for me), so I would greatly appreciate it if you could forward the current version of the proposal to the Graduate School with the ASC endorsement. Please let me know if you think we should proceed differently.

Thank you!  
Cynthia

On Oct 16, 2013, at 10:58 AM, Vankeerbergen, Bernadette wrote:

Dear Cynthia,

As you know, the ASC Graduate Curriculum Committee reviewed the proposed GIS in Cognitive and Brain Sciences and approved it unanimously.

That said, a couple of questions/requests for clarification came up:

1) In the long list of elective courses, from which students must choose 2, are there any "hidden" prerequisites that would, in practice, require students from some disciplines to take additional credit hours? If so, this should be addressed and made

transparent to students looking into this GIS.

2) The guidelines state that “elective courses should be selected in consultation with the student’s advisor,” presumably meaning the advisor from that student’s home department. So are we correct in inferring that approval is more or less informal and that there is no formal mechanism or approval process by the Graduate Studies Chair or the Graduate Studies Committee charged with administering the GIS itself?

If you would prefer to address those points in your proposal before we move it on to the Graduate School, please let us know. In that case, we will return the proposal via [curriculum.osu.edu](http://curriculum.osu.edu).

Should you have any questions about this feedback, please feel free to contact Steven Fink (Chair of the ASC Graduate Curriculum Committee), or me.

Best regards,  
Bernadette

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