

TO: Randy Smith, Vice Provost for Academic Programs  
FROM: Jennifer Schlueter, Faculty Fellow for Curriculum, Graduate School  
DATE: 30 November 2018  
RE: Proposal to deactivate the Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Geo-Spatial Data Analysis

The Departments of Statistics and Geography are proposing a deactivation of the Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Geo-Spatial Data Analysis.

The proposal was received by the Graduate School on 24 October 2018. It was reviewed by the combined GS/CAA Curriculum subcommittee, chaired by Faculty Fellow Jennifer Schlueter, on 30 October 2018 and moved forward to the Graduate Council that same day. It was reviewed and unanimously approved by that body on 29 November 2018.

**From:** [Calder, Catherine](#)  
**To:** [Bertone, Alicia](#); [Toft, Jill A.](#)  
**Cc:** [Dunham-Borst, Judith](#); [Xiao, Ningchuan](#); [Munroe, Darla](#); [Mark, Bryan](#); [Davis, Greg](#); [MacEachern, Steven](#); [Naber, Caitlin](#)  
**Subject:** Request to phase out the GSDA GIS  
**Date:** Monday, August 27, 2018 1:28:20 PM  
**Attachments:** [gsda\\_gis\\_closure.pdf](#)  
[image001.png](#)

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Dear Dr. Bertone (cc Jill Toft),

Attached please find a letter requesting that the GSDA GIS be phased out and eventually closed once the last remaining student has completed the course requirements. We have corresponded with Judith Dunham-Borst, and she advised us to submitted this letter to you. Please let me know if you need any additional information or have any questions.

Thanks,

Kate Calder

(on behalf of Bryan Mark and Ningchuan Xiao)



**Catherine (Kate) Calder**  
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August 24, 2018

Alicia L. Bertone, DVM, PhD  
Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost for Graduate Studies  
250 University Hall  
230 N. Oval Mall  
Columbus, OH 43210

Dear Dean Bertone,

We are writing to request that the Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization (GIS) in Geo-Spatial Data Analysis (GIS) begin the process of being phased out. Currently, there is only a single student working on completing the coursework for the GSDA GIS. Once this student has completed the coursework and receives the GSDA GIS transcript designation, we request that the GIS GSDA be terminated.

The GSDA GIS was originally created when Ohio State used the quarter system. After semester conversion, the GIS became nearly impossible for students to complete due to the availability of appropriate courses and the level of prerequisites for other courses. While interest in the subject appears to remain high, we believe that the GIS no longer is able to provide a curriculum that can satisfy Ohio State graduate students. As an alternative to the GSDA GIS, the Department of Geography plans to develop a certificate in Geographic Information Science. Many of the students interested in the GSDA GIS will be better served by this certificate program.

As a transition plan, we request that students no longer be allowed to start the GIS and that the Graduate School website be update by either removing the GSDA GIS or by posting a statement about this program being phased out. Prof. Calder is willing to oversee the only remaining student's completion of the GIS and will inform the graduate school when this has happened.

Please let us know if this plan is acceptable or if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Catherine Calder  
Professor of Statistics

Bryan Mark  
Professor of Geography

Ningchuan Xiao  
Professor of Geography

cc: Jill Toft, Administrative Associate, Fellowship Assistant  
Judith Dunham-Borst, Student Services Manager  
Darla Munroe, Interim Chair, Department of Geography  
Steve MacEachern, Chair, Department of Statistics