



Chair, Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee

Dear Chair and Members of the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee,

On May 4, 2023, the ASCC's Social and Behavioral Sciences Panel reviewed and unanimously approved with recommendations a proposal from the Department of Geography for changes to their Bachelor of Science in Geographic Information Sciences (GIS) major. The rationale for the revision was based a review of the major that identified gaps in the curriculum. There are three proposed revisions to the GIS major: 1) a refocused scaffolding of required and elective courses, 2) inclusion of courses that meet the GE embedded literacies, and 3) the addition of a new course to address the identified gaps in the curriculum.

The total number of credit hours will remain the same post-revision (33 credits, or 11 courses). The revised curriculum is scaffolded in the following manner: 1) five required core courses, 2) three intermediate GIS courses (from a list of seven), and 3) three elective courses. The electives are now grouped into three specialty areas: 1) spatial data analytics, 2) urban studies, and 3) sustainability. Students will be encouraged to focus their coursework within these specialty areas; however, they will be permitted to complete their electives from the entirety of GIS major elective course offerings.

The Department of Geography has put together a thorough revision proposal with a clearly articulated rationale and transition plan. Therefore, we advance the proposal for the revised GIS major to the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee with a motion to approve.

Sincerely,

Christina M. Roup, Ph.D.
Associate Professor