



John R. Kasich, Governor
Jim Petro, Chancellor

University System of Ohio
Board of Regents

REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Bachelor of Science in Geographic Information Sciences

Request:

The Ohio State University requests approval to offer the Bachelor of Science (BS) in Geographic Information Sciences (GIS).

Background:

The Ohio State University (OSU) is a public research institution located in Columbus, Ohio with regional campuses in Lima, Mansfield, Marion, Newark and Wooster. The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools accredits OSU until its next review in 2017. OSU has an enrollment of more than 55,000 students in more than 400 programs of study at all levels, undergraduate and graduate.

The proposed degree program will be housed in the Department of Geography, College of Arts and Sciences. OSU has a longstanding focus on research and teaching in GIS and currently offers a specialization within the B.S. in Geography. The B.S. in Geographic Information Sciences will expand upon the specialization, and provide students with more extensive foundation knowledge and skill in geographic analysis and its application to a variety of real world issues. Job opportunities exist within city, regional and state governments as well as insurance, electric and other sectors that design and use GIS technologies. The degree program is multi-disciplinary and is designed to complement majors in other disciplines such as landscape architecture, city and regional planning, computer science, natural resources, political science and business.

Curriculum and Enrollment:

The program comprises geospatial technologies (conceptual geographic foundations, spatial data acquisition, modeling and analysis) and societal, organizational and ethical aspects of professional careers in GIS. The Ohio State University anticipates growth to a program size of 65 after four years. Ohio University is the only state institution with a baccalaureate degree program, although many institutions offer specializations within baccalaureate degrees or certificate programs/associate-level degrees. OSU also offers graduate study in geography. The proposed baccalaureate degree will provide extensive and comprehensive knowledge and skill development in geographic information sciences.

Faculty and Resources:

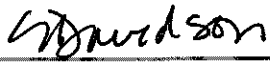
Current faculty members are sufficient in number to meet the needs of the program and provide extensive experience in all aspects of geographic information sciences. Facilities include computer labs for teaching and research and additional university resources such as the Center for Mapping, Center for


Urban and Regional Analysis, the John Glenn Center for Public Service and Public Policy, and the Center for Population Research. Students have numerous opportunities to pursue research and internship opportunities through these resources as well as government and business linkages.

Recommendation:

This program meets the Chancellor's standards for baccalaureate degrees and approval is recommended.

End of Comment Period: October 25, 2011
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

RECOMMENDATION	
The Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs has verified that this institution has met the standards and requirements of the Ohio Board of Regents.	
	10/31/11
Stephanie Davidson, Vice Chancellor	Date

APPROVED	
	10-31-11
Jim Petro, Chancellor	Date

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