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Department of Geography and Regional Planning: Program Revision  
Part II. Track Change: Bachelor of Science Regional Planning/Land Use Planning and GIS Track

1. Current Catalog Description:

**Geography - Geographic Information Systems and Cartographer Track**  
**Regional Planning - Geographic Information Systems and Cartographer Track**  
The Geographic Information Systems and Cartographer Track prepares students for employment as Geographic Information System Specialists, Facilities Managers

Cartographers, and Remote Sensing professionals. Coursework includes methods for identifying, modeling, and analyzing the spatial organization of human and

environmental systems from both practical and theoretical perspectives. Data collection, spatial information management, and graphic presentation are integral skills taught in

RGPL 464	Land Use Policy	3cr
RGPL 468	Planning Theory	3cr
RGPL 493	Internship	3cr
<b>Track Courses:</b>		
RGPL 313	Cartography II	3cr
RGPL 314	Map and Photograph Interpretation	3cr
RGPL 415	Remote Sensing	3cr
RGPL 417	Technical Issues in GIS	3cr
<b>Free Electives:</b>		13-19
<b>Total Degree Requirements:</b>		120
(1) Intermediate-level Foreign Language may be included in Liberal Studies electives.		

Current Program		Proposed Program	
<b>Bachelor of Science-Regional Planning/GIS and Cartographer Track</b>		<b>Bachelor of Science-Regional Planning/Land Use Planning and GIS Track</b>	
Liberal Studies: As outlined in the Liberal Studies section with the following specifications:	53	Liberal Studies: As outlined in the Liberal Studies section with the following specifications:	53
Mathematics: MATH 121 or 217		Mathematics: MATH 217 recommended	
Liberal Studies Electives:		Liberal Studies Electives:	

Movement of RGPL 493 Internship from recommended to required.  
Change from MATH 121 or 217 required to MATH 217 recommended.  
Change RGPL 353 to RGPL 453 for dual listing purposes.

3. Rationale for changes.

As part of an on-going effort at self-assessment and continuous improvement, the Regional Planning program of the Geography and Regional Planning Department during the Spring of 2007 invited an outside evaluator to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the program and concomitantly the department's chances of successfully becoming an "accredited" planning program. Accreditation of planning programs is done by the National Planning Accreditation Board. The board is composed of members of the American Institute of Certified Planners, the American Collegiate Schools of Planning, and the American Planning Association. Accreditation brings national recognition and ongoing external evaluation; it requires significant continuing education for faculty and immediately improves the employability of our graduates. At present there are only two accredited planning programs in Pennsylvania: The University of Pennsylvania and Temple University.

receiving accreditation. The demand for public and private sector planners both regionally and nationally is growing and accreditation gives a strong advantage to our graduates.

#### IV. Periodic Assessment

1. The Department of Geography and Regional Planning engages in constant quality improvement. In addition to the 5-year planning cycle mandated by the University, we hold annual retreats to review enrollment, curriculum, and external context. The curricular changes proposed here are the result of an external evaluation completed during the Spring of 2007. During the 2007-2008 school year, in preparation for an external evaluation team, we will do a program self-study. During the 2008-2009 school year, we will do an accreditation study. Accreditation mandates ongoing internal evaluation and 5-year

external reviews. Criteria are complex, but include: student interviews, an advisory board of program graduates that meets annually, consulting with professional planners, and measuring