



Docket Item:

University Program Approval: Oregon State University, Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Geography and Geospatial Science

Summary:

Oregon State University proposes a new degree program leading to a B.S. in Geography and Geospatial Science. Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) staff completed a review of the proposed program. After analysis, HECC staff recommends approval of the program as proposed.

Staff Recommendation:

The HECC recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Higher Education Coordinating Commission approve the following program: Bachelor of Science in Geography and Geospatial Science at Oregon State University.



Oregon State University seeks the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission's approval to offer an instructional program leading to a B.S. degree in Geography and Geospatial Science

1. *Describe the purpose and relationship of the proposed program to the institution's mission and strategic plan.*

Oregon State University's (OSU) proposed new major in "Geography and Geospatial Science" unites traditional human and physical geography with contemporary geospatial technologies and analysis. Program objectives are:

(1) Geography. To teach students to understand fundamental concepts and theories governing the spatial distribution and interrelationships of people, natural resources, plant and animal life; to evaluate how human-environment relationships vary based on history, political, economic, and cultural systems; and to apply these concepts and theories to areas such as land-use planning, water resources, development studies, and analyses of specific countries, regions, and resources.

(2) Geospatial Science. To teach students to understand the fundamental physical principles underlying contemporary ubiquitous geospatial technology; to apply mathematical, statistical, computer, and other techniques to analyze large amounts of geographic data; and to create maps and visualizations of geographic information emerging from these technologies and analyses.

The proposed new B.S. in Geography and Geospatial Science degree program supports OSU's mission as a land-, sea-, space- and sun-grant institution. The proposed undergraduate program is inherently an interdisciplinary degree, combining a traditional discipline (Geography) with modern technology (Geospatial Science), hence reflecting OSU's increased emphasis on interdisciplinary and applied approaches to research and education.

The proposed Geography and Geospatial Science degree program will directly support one of OSU's signature areas of distinction in its strategic plan; i.e., "Advancing the Science of Sustainable Earth Ecosystems" through research and education. With the proposed program being fundamentally integrative across human-environment systems, the potential exists for the program to involve a wide range of stakeholders across Oregon, the Pacific Northwest, and beyond.

Institution: Oregon State University
Program: B.S. in Geography and Geospatial Science

Action: At the May 4, 2017 meeting, the Statewide Provosts Council approved a new program for Oregon State University, B.S. in Geography and Geospatial Science, to move forward to the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission for its review and approval. The Oregon State University Board of Trustees approved it at their January 19, 2017 meeting.

Eastern Oregon University

Sarah Witte, provost

Approved
 Opposed
 Abstained



Oregon Health & Science University

Elena Andresen, interim provost

Approved
 Opposed
 Abstained



Oregon State University

Ed Feser, provost

Approved
 Opposed
 Abstained



Oregon Tech

LeAnn Maupin, acting provost

Approved
 Opposed
 Abstained



Portland State University

Sona Andrews, provost

Approved
 Opposed
 Abstained



Southern Oregon University

Susan Walsh, provost

Approved
 Opposed
 Abstained



University of Oregon

Scott Coltrane, provost

Approved
 Opposed
 Abstained



Western Oregon University

Steve Scheck, provost

Approved
 Opposed
 Abstained

