

5677: GEOGRAPHY & GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE: GENERAL GEOGRAPHY, BALAS

In Workflow

1. U Program Review (eastuby@illinois.edu; mhazen@illinois.edu; bv4@illinois.edu; jswen@illinois.edu)
2. Gen Ed Review (menewell@illinois.edu)
3. 1872-G_GIS Head (jcidell@illinois.edu)
4. SESE Head (tomkin@illinois.edu)
5. KV Dean (las-catalog@illinois.edu)
6. University Librarian (clairest@illinois.edu; tteper@illinois.edu)
7. COTE Programs (suzannel@illinois.edu)
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11. U Senate Conf (kakuntz@illinois.edu)
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15. Catalog Editor (bv4@illinois.edu; bsnewell@illinois.edu)
16. DMI (eastuby@illinois.edu; nnagy2@illinois.edu; bv4@illinois.edu; jswen@illinois.edu)

Approval Path

1. Mon, 18 May 2026 17:34:29 GMT
Emily Stuby (eastuby): Rollback to Initiator
2. Thu, 28 May 2026 18:28:41 GMT
Brianna Vargas-Gonzalez (bv4): Approved for U Program Review
3. Fri, 29 May 2026 15:54:26 GMT
Melissa Steinkoenig (menewell): Approved for Gen Ed Review
4. Fri, 29 May 2026 19:27:58 GMT
Julie Cidell (jcidell): Approved for 1872-G_GIS Head
5. Fri, 29 May 2026 19:53:13 GMT
Jonathan Tomkin (tomkin): Approved for SESE Head
6. Wed, 03 Jun 2026 13:52:04 GMT
Melissa Reedy (murray): Approved for KV Dean
7. Wed, 03 Jun 2026 14:09:36 GMT
Tom Teper (tteper): Approved for University Librarian
8. Wed, 03 Jun 2026 14:11:50 GMT
Suzanne Lee (suzannel): Approved for COTE Programs
9. Fri, 05 Jun 2026 19:34:48 GMT
Brooke Newell (bsnewell): Rollback to KV Dean for Provost
10. Wed, 10 Jun 2026 14:33:36 GMT
Melissa Reedy (murray): Approved for KV Dean
11. Wed, 10 Jun 2026 15:23:38 GMT
Tom Teper (tteper): Approved for University Librarian
12. Wed, 10 Jun 2026 15:46:20 GMT
Suzanne Lee (suzannel): Approved for COTE Programs

13. Mon, 17 Aug 2026 14:26:23 GMT
Brooke Newell (bsnewell): Approved for Provost

History

1. Dec 7, 2018 by Deb Forgacs (dforgacs)
2. Dec 7, 2018 by Deb Forgacs (dforgacs)
3. Mar 31, 2021 by Deb Forgacs (dforgacs)
4. Apr 5, 2022 by Andrea Ray (aray)
5. Nov 26, 2025 by Matthew Cohn (mcohn)

Deactivation Proposal

Date Submitted: Wed, 20 May 2026 19:41:50 GMT

Viewing: 5677 : Geography & Geographic Information Science: General Geography, BALAS

Last approved: Wed, 26 Nov 2025 16:23:37 GMT

Last edit: Wed, 26 Aug 2026 15:16:00 GMT

Changes proposed by: Matthew Cohn

Proposal Type:

Concentration (ex. Dietetics)

This proposal is for a:

Revision

Phase Down/Elimination

Administration Details

Official Program Name

Geography & Geographic Information Science: General Geography, BALAS

Sponsor College

Liberal Arts & Sciences

Sponsor Department

Geography & Geographic Information Science

Sponsor Name

Julie Cidell, Professor and Head

Sponsor Email

jcidell@illinois.edu

College Contact

Stephen R. Downie

College Contact Email

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College Budget Officer

Michael Wellens

College Budget Officer Email

wellens@illinois.edu

If additional stakeholders other than the Sponsor and College Contacts listed above should be contacted if questions during the review process arise, please list them here.

Matthew Cohn - mcohn@illinois.edu; Melissa Reedy - murray@illinois.edu

Does this program have inter-departmental administration?

No

Catalog Term

Desired Effective Catalog Term

Fall 2027

Effective Catalog

2027-2028

Proposal Title

Proposal Title (either Establish/Revise/Eliminate the Degree Name in Program Name in the College of XXXX, i.e., Establish the Bachelor of Science in Entomology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, include the Graduate College for Grad Programs)

Eliminate the Concentration in General Geography in the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Science in Geography & Geographic Information Science in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Are there other related proposals that should be considered simultaneously with this one? If yes, please list the program keys and/or titles. Consider Majors, Minors, Concentrations & Joint Programs in your department. Please know that this information is used administratively to move related proposals through workflow efficiently and together as needed. Format your response like the following "This BS proposal (key 567) is related to the Concentration A proposal (key 145)"

This BALAS proposal (key 510) is related to a proposal to eliminate the BALAS Human Geography concentration (key 512) and the revisions made to the major Geography & Geographic Information Science, BALAS (key 440).

Program Justification

Provide a brief description, using a numbered item list, of the proposed changes to the program.

removed this numbered point in anticipation of the simplification taking place in June and this box being removed

Provide a list of numbered items of what changed and why each change was necessary.

1. We've revised the Geography and Geographic Information Science, BALAS to be a stand alone major without concentrations. The concentration structure that separates the subdisciplines of geography into separate concentrations (human, general) is no longer reflective of current student needs and the interdisciplinarity of contemporary academic geography. Consolidation of the two BALAS concentrations into one flexible major without concentrations will make the degree requirements less confusing for students, less challenging to advise, and easier to maintain. This flexibility will promote student focus on strategic professional and research objectives rather than a narrow tactical focus on satisfaction of unnecessarily complex degree requirements.

Instructional Resources

Will there be any reduction in other course offerings, programs or concentrations by your department as a result of this new program/proposed change?

No

Does this new program/proposed change result in the replacement of another program?

No

Does the program include other courses/subjects outside of the sponsoring department impacted by the creation/revision of this program?

No

Program Features

Academic Level

Undergraduate

Does this program prepare graduates for entry into a career or profession that is regulated by the State of Illinois?

No

Program of Study

Statement for Programs of Study Catalog

Graduation Requirements

Minimum hours required for graduation: 120 hours

Minimum required major and supporting course work: A minimum of 35 credit hours of Geography & Geographic Information Science courses. Twelve (12) hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the major must be taken on this campus.

University Requirements

Minimum of 40 hours of upper-division coursework, generally at the 300 and 400 level. These hours can be drawn from all elements of the degree, including courses outside of GGIS. Students should consult their academic advisor for additional guidance in fulfilling this requirement. The university and residency requirements can be found in the Student Code (§ 3-801) and in the Academic Catalog.

General Education Requirements

Follows the campus General Education (Gen Ed) requirements (<https://courses.illinois.edu/gened/DEFAULT/DEFAULT/>). Some Gen Ed requirements may be met by courses required and/or electives in the program.

Code	Title	Hours
Composition I		4-6
Advanced Composition		3
Humanities & the Arts (6 hours)		6
Natural Sciences & Technology (6 hours)		6
Social & Behavioral Sciences (6 hours)		6
fulfilled by GGIS 101 or GGIS 104 or GGIS 106 or GGIS 210 or GGIS 221 or GGIS 254 and any other course approved as Social & Behavioral Sciences		
Cultural Studies: Non-Western Cultures (1 course)		3
Cultural Studies: US Minority Cultures (1 course)		3
Cultural Studies: Western/Comparative Cultures (1 course)		3
Quantitative Reasoning (2 courses, at least one course must be Quantitative Reasoning I)		6-10
Language Requirement (Completion of the fourth semester or equivalent of a language other than English, or completion of the third semester in two different languages other than English is required)		0-20
Code	Title	Hours
Orientation and Professional Development		
LAS 101	Design Your First Year Experience	1

OR

LAS 100 & LAS 101	Success in LAS for International Students and Design Your First Year Experience	3
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OR

LAS 102	Transfer Advantage	1
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Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Geography & GIS Core Requirements		10-12

Physical Geography Course (Select one):

ATMS/GGIS 100	Introduction to Meteorology
GGIS 103	Earth's Physical Systems
GGIS 220	Landscapes, Ecosystems and Environmental Change
GGIS 222	Big Rivers of the World

Human Geography Course (Select one):

GGIS 101	Global Development & Environment
GGIS 104	Social and Cultural Geography
GGIS 106	Geographies of Globalization
GGIS 210	Social & Environmental Issues
GGIS 221	Geographies of Global Conflict
GGIS 254	People, Places, and Environments of the US

GIS Course (Select one):

GGIS 371	Spatial Analysis
GGIS 379	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems

Code	Title	Hours
General Geography Concentration Requirements		25-27

200 to 400 level Geography & GIS Courses (at least 6 hours must be at the 300- or 400- level) chosen in consultation with an academic advisor (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/courses-of-instruction/ggis/>)

Course choice must be different than Core requirements chosen in the major

Program Relationships

Corresponding Program(s):

Corresponding Program(s)

Geography & Geographic Information Science, BALAS

Delivery Method

This program is available:

On Campus - Students are required to be on campus, they may take some online courses.

Enrollment

Phase Down/Elimination Enrollment

Does this program currently have enrollment?

Yes

If so, what is the anticipated term of completion?

Spring 2026

Describe how this revision or phase down/elimination will impact enrollment and degrees awarded. If this is an elimination/phase down proposal include the plans for the students left in the program.

We currently have one major in the general geography concentration, who will be transitioned to the non-concentration BALAS upon approval.

5-year enrollment data
Semester --- General concentration
Fall 2020 --- 6
Spring 2021 --- 8
Fall 2021 --- 4
Spring 2022 --- 4
Fall 2022 --- 1
Spring 2023 --- 2
Fall 2023 --- 2
Spring 2024 --- 3
Fall 2024 --- 2
Spring 2025 --- 1
Fall 2025 --- 1
Spring 2026 --- 1

Budget

Are there budgetary implications for this revision?

No

Attach File(s)

Library Resources

Describe your proposal's impact on the University Library's resources, collections, and services. If necessary please consult with the appropriate disciplinary specialist within the University Library.

This elimination is not expected to impact the University Library's resources, collections, or services.

EP Documentation

EP Control Number

EP:27.015

Attach Rollback/Approval Notices

Non-EP Documentation

U Program Review Comments

Rollback Documentation and Attachment

DMI Documentation

Attach Final Approval Notices

Banner/Codebook Name

General Geography

Program Code:

5677

Minor Code

Conc Code

5677

Degree Code

BALAS

Major Code

5330

Senate Approval Date

Senate Conference Approval Date

BOT Approval Date

IBHE Approval Date

HLC Approval Date

DOE Approval Date

n/a

Effective Date:

Attached Document

Justification for this request

Program Reviewer Comments

Emily Stuby (eastuby) (Mon, 18 May 2026 17:34:29 GMT): Rollback: College request

Brooke Newell (bsnewell) (Fri, 05 Jun 2026 19:34:48 GMT): Rollback: Per discussion.

Key: 510