

3885: GEOGRAPHY & GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE: PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY, BSLAS

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)
8. Provost (bsnewell@illinois.edu)
9. Senate EPC (bjlehman@illinois.edu; bsnewell@illinois.edu)
10. Senate (jtempel@illinois.edu; bjlehman@illinois.edu)
11. U Senate Conf (kakuntz@illinois.edu)
12. Board of Trustees (kakuntz@illinois.edu)
13. IBHE (kakuntz@illinois.edu)
14. HLC (kakuntz@illinois.edu)
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 17:34:17 GMT
Emily Stuby (eastuby): Rollback to Initiator
2. Thu, 28 May 2026 18:27:07 GMT
Brianna Vargas-Gonzalez (bv4): Approved for U Program Review
3. Fri, 29 May 2026 15:53:57 GMT
Melissa Steinkoenig (menewell): Approved for Gen Ed Review
4. Fri, 29 May 2026 19:27:51 GMT
Julie Cidell (jcidell): Approved for 1872-G_GIS Head
5. Fri, 29 May 2026 19:53:07 GMT
Jonathan Tomkin (tomkin): Approved for SESE Head
6. Wed, 03 Jun 2026 13:52:00 GMT
Melissa Reedy (murray): Approved for KV Dean
7. Wed, 03 Jun 2026 14:09:50 GMT
Tom Teper (tteper): Approved for University Librarian
8. Wed, 03 Jun 2026 14:11:45 GMT
Suzanne Lee (suzannel): Approved for COTE Programs
9. Mon, 17 Aug 2026 14:26:43 GMT
Brooke Newell (bsnewell): Approved for Provost

History

1. Aug 2, 2019 by Deb Forgacs (dforgacs)
2. Aug 6, 2019 by Deb Forgacs (dforgacs)
3. Apr 5, 2022 by Andrea Ray (aray)

4. Sep 28, 2022 by Andrea Ray (aray)
5. Nov 26, 2025 by Matthew Cohn (mcohn)

Deactivation Proposal

Date Submitted: Wed, 20 May 2026 19:48:24 GMT

Viewing: 3885 : Geography & Geographic Information Science: Physical Geography, BSLAS

Last approved: Wed, 26 Nov 2025 16:24:19 GMT

Last edit: Wed, 26 Aug 2026 15:11:32 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: Physical Geography, BSLAS

Sponsor College

Liberal Arts & Sciences

Sponsor Department

Geography & Geographic Information Science

Sponsor Name

Julie Cidell, Professor and Head

Sponsor Email

jidell@illinois.edu

College Contact

Stephen R. Downie

College Contact Email

sdownie@illinois.edu

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.

mcohn@illinois.edu

Melissa Reedy, murray@illinois.edu (LAS Assistant Director Course & Cir Dvt)

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 Physical Geography in the Bachelor of Science 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 proposal (key 847) is related to a proposal to eliminate the BSLAS GIS concentration (key 846) and the revisions made to the major Geography & Geographic Information Science, BSLAS (key 227).

Program Justification

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

n/a due to CIM-P simplification

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, BSLAS to be a stand alone major without concentrations. The concentration structure that separates the subdisciplines of geography into separate concentrations (physical, GIS) is no longer reflective of current student needs and the interdisciplinarity of contemporary academic geography. Consolidation of the two BSLAS 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.

Note: There are five courses that were moved from both concentrations that are not owned by GGIS. These include: GGIS 280/SOC 280, GGIS 370/ESE 320, GGIS 401/NRES 401, GGIS 436/IB 439, and GGIS 459/CEE 459. Letters of acknowledgement were not obtained for these courses since they are moving from the concentrations into the major, the expected enrollment is not changing since they were present in both concentrations, and prior approval to use these courses has been granted.

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?

Yes

Please email the Department Head or a CIM User in the Department Head role of the units that own the courses that are impacted by the creation/revision/phase down or elimination of this program. For example, if you are adding a course, you will need support from the course owning unit to do so. Likewise, if you are removing a course or adding additional courses where enrollment in existing courses in the program of study could be impacted, you will need acknowledgement from the course owning unit. If the program has potential for perceived overlap with another unit on campus, you should have consultation with the other unit/stakeholders. Once this is complete, acknowledge that you have done so below.

Acknowledged

Indicate which departments/units/stakeholders were notified/consulted by listing the name of the department(s). For example, if you are adding a course owned by the Department of Philosophy and a course owned by the Department of Theatre and notified the units accordingly, you would include in the box below: 1. Department of Philosophy; 2. Department of Theatre.

1. Department of Climate, Meteorology & Atmospheric Sciences

Please attach any letters of support/acknowledgement for any Instructional Resources. Consider faculty, students, and/or other impacted units as appropriate.

ATMS acknowledge - GGIS Concentrations.pdf

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 coursework: 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 (<https://studentcode.illinois.edu/article3/part8/3-801/>) (§ 3-801) and in the Academic Catalog (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/general-information/degree-general-education-requirements/>).

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, GGIS 104, GGIS 106, GGIS 210, GGIS 221, or GGIS 254 and any other course approved 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
OR		
LAS 102	Transfer Advantage	1

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Geography & GIS Core Requirements		6-8
Physical Geography Course (Select 1):		
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 1):		
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	

Physical Geography Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Total Concentration Hours		29-31
GIS Courses (Select 1):		
GGIS 371	Spatial Analysis	4
GGIS 379	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems	4
200- to 400-level Geography and Geographic Information Science Courses (at least 8 hours must be at the 300- or 400-level) selected from the following:		25-27

GGIS 220	Landscapes, Ecosystems and Environmental Change (if not taken to satisfy the Physical Core course requirement in the major)
GGIS 222	Big Rivers of the World (if not taken to satisfy the Physical Core course requirement in the major)
GGIS 223	Geopolitics & Technology
GGIS 224	Environmental Data Science
SOC/GGIS 280	Intro to Social Statistics
ESE 320/GGIS 370	Water Planet, Water Crisis
GGIS 371	Spatial Analysis (if not taken to satisfy the GIS Core Course requirement in the major)
GGIS 379	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (if not taken to satisfy the GIS Core Course requirement in the major)
GGIS 380	Geographic Information Systems II
GGIS 381	Enterprise GIS
GGIS 390	Independent Study
GGIS 391	Honors Independent Study
NRES/GGIS 401	Watershed Hydrology
GGIS 403	Geographic Information Science and Systems
GGIS 405	Geography Field Course
GGIS 406	Fluvial Geomorphology
GGIS 407	CyberGIS & Geospatial Data Science
GGIS 408	Humans and River Systems
GGIS 412	Geospatial Technologies & Society
ATMS/GGIS 421	Earth Systems Modeling
IB 439/GGIS 436	Biogeography
GGIS 439	Health Applications of GIS
CEE/GGIS 459	Ecohydraulics
GGIS 460	Aerial Photo Analysis
GGIS 473	Digital Cartography & Map Design
GGIS 476	Environmental Remote Sensing
GGIS 477	Introduction to Remote Sensing
GGIS 478	Techniques of Remote Sensing
GGIS 479	Advanced Topics in GIS
GGIS 480	Principles of Geographic Information Science
GGIS 489	Programming for GIS

Program Relationships

Corresponding Program(s):

Corresponding Program(s)

Geography & Geographic Information Science, BSLAS

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 1 student who will graduate in May 2026 and 1 first-year student who is planning on changing to a major outside the department. Any new students who declare the physical geography concentration prior to its elimination will be offered the option of declaring the revised BSLAS or completing this concentration. Because we are planning to continue to regularly offer adequate courses needed to complete this concentration, any legacy students will be able to complete the concentration within 4 years.

5-year enrollment history:

Semester --- Physical concentration

Fall 2020 --- 0

Spring 2021 --- 3

Fall 2021 --- 0

Spring 2022 --- 0

Fall 2022 --- 0

Spring 2023 --- 0

Fall 2023 --- 0

Spring 2024 --- 1

Fall 2024 --- 2

Spring 2025 --- 4

Fall 2025 --- 2

Spring 2026 --- 2

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.27.017

Attach Rollback/Approval Notices

Non-EP Documentation

U Program Review Comments

Rollback Documentation and Attachment

DMI Documentation

Attach Final Approval Notices

Banner/Codebook Name

Physical Geography

Program Code:

3885

Minor Code

Conc Code

3885

Degree Code

BSLAS

Major Code

5694

Senate Approval Date

Senate Conference Approval Date

BOT Approval Date

IBHE Approval Date

HLC Approval Date

DOE Approval Date

NA

Effective Date:

Attached Document

Justification for this request

Program Reviewer Comments

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

Key: 847