

10KV5694BSLA: GEOGRAPHY & GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE, 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 17:34:05 GMT
Emily Stuby (eastuby): Rollback to Initiator
2. Thu, 28 May 2026 18:22:42 GMT
Brianna Vargas-Gonzalez (bv4): Approved for U Program Review
3. Fri, 29 May 2026 15:53:41 GMT
Melissa Steinkoenig (menewell): Approved for Gen Ed Review
4. Fri, 29 May 2026 19:28:12 GMT
Julie Cidell (jcidell): Approved for 1872-G_GIS Head
5. Fri, 29 May 2026 19:52:59 GMT
Jonathan Tomkin (tomkin): Approved for SESE Head
6. Wed, 03 Jun 2026 13:51:55 GMT
Melissa Reedy (murray): Approved for KV Dean
7. Wed, 03 Jun 2026 14:10:24 GMT
Tom Teper (tteper): Approved for University Librarian
8. Wed, 03 Jun 2026 14:11:40 GMT
Suzanne Lee (suzannel): Approved for COTE Programs
9. Fri, 05 Jun 2026 19:37:26 GMT
Brooke Newell (bsnewell): Rollback to KV Dean for Provost
10. Wed, 10 Jun 2026 14:38:08 GMT
Melissa Reedy (murray): Approved for KV Dean
11. Wed, 10 Jun 2026 15:23:29 GMT
Tom Teper (tteper): Approved for University Librarian
12. Wed, 10 Jun 2026 15:46:13 GMT
Suzanne Lee (suzannel): Approved for COTE Programs

13. Mon, 17 Aug 2026 14:26:58 GMT
Brooke Newell (bsnewell): Approved for Provost

History

1. Jan 18, 2019 by Deb Forgacs (dforgacs)
2. Apr 5, 2022 by Andrea Ray (aray)
3. Nov 26, 2025 by Matthew Cohn (mcohn)

Date Submitted: Wed, 20 May 2026 19:44:32 GMT

Viewing: 10KV5694BSLA : Geography & Geographic Information Science, BSLAS

Last approved: Wed, 26 Nov 2025 16:25:53 GMT

Last edit: Fri, 28 Aug 2026 20:45:58 GMT

Changes proposed by: Matthew Cohn

Proposal Type:

Major (ex. Special Education)

This proposal is for a:

Revision

Administration Details

Official Program Name

Geography & Geographic Information Science, 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.

Matthew Cohn (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)

Revise 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 227) is related to the proposals to eliminate the BSLAS concentrations in Physical Geography (key 847) and Geographic Information Science (key 846).

Program Justification

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

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.

2. Language throughout this proposal that referenced concentrations has been removed to reflect only the major. This included the Program Features being changed to reflect no transcriptable concentrations and the Program of Study that once linked out to the two concentrations.

3. The Program of Study table that once linked to the two concentrations has been replaced with a heading "Geography & GIS Elective Coursework". The total number of hours has not changed in this section when the core course (see item 4 below) is taken into account as it was moved as a standalone category. Students achieve this requirement by taking 200-400 level Geography courses (8 hours at the 300-/400-level) chosen from a list of courses that were previously in the GIS concentration.

4. Courses from the GIS (Key 846) and Physical (Key 847) concentrations have been moved to the BSLAS (Key 227).
- a. Courses moved that were in both concentrations include: GGIS 220 and GGIS 222 (both owned by GGIS)
 - b. 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. New letters of support were not obtained for these courses since the expected enrollment is not changing and prior approval to use these courses has been granted.
 - c. The remaining GGIS Courses added to the BSLAS are owned by GGIS and moved from the Physical (Key 847 concentration). These include: GGIS 371, GGIS 379, GGIS 223, GGIS 224, GGIS 380, GGIS 381, GGIS 390, GGIS 391, GGIS 403, GGIS 405, GGIS 406, GGIS 407, GGIS 408, GGIS 412, GGIS 427, GGIS 439, GGIS 460, GGIS 473, GGIS 476, GGIS 477, GGIS 478, GGIS 479, GGIS 480, GGIS 489
5. Added GGIS 427: GeoAI Literacy is a new course that was approved for [FA25]. Artificial intelligence has been a part of remote sensing for many years, and with emerging advances in AI technology, AI is seeing new applications in all sciences, including geographic information science. GGIS 427 covers topics that promote critical understanding of the strengths and limitations of the technology that are essential for responsible and effective use of this emerging technology in rigorous geographic research.

General Justification—

Contemporary academic geography is broadly separated into physical geography (an earth science), human geography (a social science and/or humanities), and geographic information systems/science (a technology for working with geospatial data and performing scientific research). While faculty and students commonly have a primary identity in one of the subdisciplines, the boundaries between the subdisciplines are generally blurred in actual practice. Accordingly, the existing GGIS concentration structure that rigidly separates students into discrete concentration identities is unreflective of current student needs and works against the interdisciplinarity that is a core strength of contemporary academic geography.

Physical geography and GIS are especially convergent in contemporary practice. Additionally, the GIS concentration encodes the traditional proprietary information technology focus of GISystems that can be less relevant to students than a GIScience focus on research that is a better fit for a research department at a research university. Consolidation of the two BSLAS concentrations into one STEM-focused major without a concentration will make the degree requirements less confusing for students, less challenging to advise, and easier to maintain. The upper division coursework requirements list is composed of rigorous science and technology oriented courses: geospatial data science/statistics (GGIS 224, 280, 403, 407, 480, 489), geographic information systems and science (GGIS 371, 379, 380, 381, 439, 473, 479), remote sensing (GGIS 460, 476, 477, 478), river science and ecosystems (GGIS 220, 222, 270, 401, 406, 408, 421, 459), and social dimensions of science and technology (GGIS 223, 412, 427). This broad range of STEM courses provides BSALAS students with the flexibility needed to pursue individual professional and research interests while maintaining the rigor needed for a bachelor of science degree. 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 major have transcripted concentrations?

No ~~Yes~~

What is the longest/maximum time to completion of this program?

4 years

What are the minimum Total Credit Hours required for this program?

120

CIP Code

450702 - Geographic Information Science and Cartography.

SOC Code(s) (Should be completed only for Certificates:)

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

No

Program of Study

Provide detailed information (course rubrics, numbers, and credit hours) of how a student could obtain 40 credit hours of upper-division coursework.

GGIS 371 or GGIS 371: 4 hours

300-/400- level GGIS courses chosen from list: 8 hours

LOTE level 3 and 4: 8-10 hours

The remaining 18-20 hours can be fulfilled by Free Electives of which there are 37 in the sample sequence. Geography & Geographic Information Science: Geographic Information Science, BSLAS (key 846) GGIS 379 Intro to GIS (4 hours) GGIS 371 Spatial Analysis (4 hours) GGIS 380 GIS II (4 hours) GIS Electives (9-12 hours if taken at 300-/400-level) Human and/or Physical Geography Courses (6-8 hours if taken at 300-/400-level) LOTE level 3 and 4 (8-10 hours) Free Electives (9-13 hours) of which there are 39 hours noted in the sample sequence Geography & Geographic Information Science: Physical Geography (key 847) GGIS 371 Spatial Analysis or GGIS 379 Intro to GIS (4 hours) 300-/400- level GGIS Courses (8 hours) LOTE level 3 and 4 (8-10 hours) Free electives (18-20 hours) of which there are 32 noted in the sample sequence

Revised programs

Key227_GGIS_BSLAS_SampleSequence.docx

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. 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
General Education Requirements		
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		10-12
Physical Geography Core Course (Select one):		
ATMS/GGIS 100	Introduction to Meteorology	3
GGIS 103	Earth's Physical Systems	4
GGIS 220	Landscapes, Ecosystems and Environmental Change	3
GGIS 222	Big Rivers of the World	3
Human Geography Core Course (Select one):		
GGIS 101	Global Development & Environment	3
GGIS 104	Social and Cultural Geography	4
GGIS 106	Geographies of Globalization	3
GGIS 210	Social & Environmental Issues	3
GGIS 221	Geographies of Global Conflict	3
GGIS 254	People, Places, and Environments of the US	3
<u>GIS Core Course (Select one)</u>		
<u>GGIS 371</u>	<u>Spatial Analysis</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>GGIS 379</u>	<u>Introduction to Geographic Information Systems</u>	<u>4</u>

Code	Title	Hours
Students must choose one of the following concentrations:		
Geographic Information Science (http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/las/geography-geographic-information-science-bslas/geographic-information-science/)		30-35

Physical Geography (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/las/geography-geographic-information-science-bslas/physical-geography/>)

29-31

Concentration Credit Hours Required

29-35

Geography & GIS Elective Coursework

25-27

200- to 400-level Geography courses, at least 8 hours of which must be at the 300- or 400- level, selected from the following:

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

<u>GGIS 220</u>	<u>Landscapes, Ecosystems and Environmental Change</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>GGIS 222</u>	<u>Big Rivers of the World</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>GGIS 223</u>	<u>Geopolitics & Technology</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>GGIS 224</u>	<u>Environmental Data Science</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>GGIS 280</u>	<u>Intro to Social Statistics</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>GGIS 370</u>	<u>Water Planet, Water Crisis</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>GGIS 380</u>	<u>Geographic Information Systems II</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>GGIS 381</u>	<u>Enterprise GIS</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>GGIS 390</u>	<u>Independent Study</u>	<u>2 to 4</u>
<u>GGIS 391</u>	<u>Honors Independent Study</u>	<u>2 to 4</u>
<u>GGIS 401</u>	<u>Watershed Hydrology</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>GGIS 403</u>	<u>Geographic Information Science and Systems</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>GGIS 405</u>	<u>Geography Field Course</u>	<u>1 to 4</u>
<u>GGIS 406</u>	<u>Fluvial Geomorphology</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>GGIS 407</u>	<u>CyberGIS & Geospatial Data Science</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>GGIS 408</u>	<u>Humans and River Systems</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>GGIS 412</u>	<u>Geospatial Technologies & Society</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>GGIS 427</u>	<u>Geospatial AI Literacy</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>GGIS 436</u>	<u>Biogeography</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>GGIS 439</u>	<u>Health Applications of GIS</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>GGIS 459</u>	<u>Ecohydraulics</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>GGIS 460</u>	<u>Aerial Photo Analysis</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>GGIS 473</u>	<u>Digital Cartography & Map Design</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>GGIS 476</u>	<u>Environmental Remote Sensing</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>GGIS 477</u>	<u>Introduction to Remote Sensing</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>GGIS 478</u>	<u>Techniques of Remote Sensing</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>GGIS 479</u>	<u>Advanced Topics in GIS</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>GGIS 480</u>	<u>Principles of Geographic Information Science</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>GGIS 489</u>	<u>Programming for GIS</u>	<u>4</u>

Corresponding Degree

BSLAS Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences

Program Regulation and Assessment

Plan to Assess and Improve Student Learning

Illinois Administrative Code: 1050.30(b)(1)(D) Provision is made for guidance and counseling of students, evaluations of student performance, continuous monitoring of progress of students toward their degree objectives and appropriate academic record keeping.

Are the learning outcomes for the program listed in the Academic Catalog?

Yes

Student Learning Outcomes

Geographic Understanding

GGIS students will understand the interconnectedness of places and scales in human-environmental systems, including the sustainability of those systems.

Spatial Patterns and Processes

GGIS students will be able to analyze spatial patterns, distributions, processes, and connections within and among different human-environmental systems, using qualitative, quantitative, computational, and/or spatial methods of research appropriate to their level of training and their field of geographic inquiry.

Problem-Solving and Communication

GGIS students will be able to formulate and conduct geographic analyses and communicate the results in verbal, written, and visual form.

Did you make any revisions to the learning outcomes you copied and pasted from the current academic catalog?

No

Program Description and Requirements Attach Documents

Delivery Method

This program is available:

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

Admission Requirements

Is this revision a change to the admission status of the program?

No

Provide a brief narrative description of the admission requirements for this program. Where relevant, include information about licensure requirements, student background checks, GRE and TOEFL scores, and admission requirements for transfer students.

Enrollment

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.

This revision is not expected to impact enrollment or degrees awarded. No new letters of support were sought because the total number of majors is not expected to change. Courses brought into the BSLAS, owned outside of GGIS, that were previously supported in the concentrations (being deactivated) should not be affected either.

What is the matriculation term for this program?

Fall ONLY

Budget

Are there budgetary implications for this revision?

No

Will the program or revision require staffing (faculty, advisors, etc.) beyond what is currently available?

No

Additional Budget Information

This revision is not expected to impact budget.

Attach File(s)

Financial Resources

What tuition rate do you expect to charge for this program? e.g, Undergraduate Base Tuition, or Engineering Differential, or Social Work Online (no dollar amounts necessary)

Undergrad Base Rate

Are you seeking a change in the tuition rate or differential for this program?

No

Attach letters and self-supporting documents as applicable

Program Support

Provide a brief description of the support for this program, including the financial, faculty, space, advisors/staff. Discuss plans to acquire any additional support that will be needed. If new or additional facilities or significant improvements to already existing facilities is needed, describe the Facility Need, Year 1 and 5 cost, and any other applicable notes.

No additional physical space or faculty/staff resources will be needed with this revision. In fact, GGIS recently expanded our advising team and this revision will simplify workflow for them and for our students as they progress through the major.

Attach any supporting documents as applicable.

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.

The proposal team consulted with Jessica Hagman and, based upon their input, determined that the Library's resources, collections, and services are sufficient to meet the needs of the program outlined in this proposal.

EP Documentation

EP Control Number

EP:27.019

Attach Rollback/Approval Notices

Non-EP Documentation

U Program Review Comments

Rollback Documentation and Attachment

DMI Documentation

Attach Final Approval Notices

Banner/Codebook Name

BSLAS: Geography & GIS - UIUC

Program Code:

10KV5694BSLA

Minor Code

Conc Code

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

n/a

Effective Date:

Program Reviewer Comments

Emily Stuby (eastuby) (Mon, 18 May 2026 17:34:05 GMT): Rollback: College request

Brooke Newell (bsnewell) (Fri, 05 Jun 2026 19:37:26 GMT): Rollback: Per discussion with Melissa R

Brianna Vargas-Gonzalez (bv4) (Mon, 15 Jun 2026 15:39:08 GMT): Tuition rate added to proposal for data storing purposes. NO changes have been made to the tuition rate.

Key: 227