



Item: AS: A- 5

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM – MASTER OF SCIENCE IN GEOSCIENCE

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve the addition of the Master of Science in Geoscience (40.0699).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Department of Geosciences currently houses bachelors and masters programs in geography, geology, and a doctoral in geosciences which combines certain subfield of geography and geology into an applied teaching and research focus. Feedback from CAVP and an external review team led the department to combine the Masters in Geography and the Masters in Geology into one single degree program that will mimic the teaching and research focus of the current doctoral program.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE

The new degree program will be effective Fall 2016.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The new degree program will not require changes in curriculum, any additional faculty, or financial resources.

Supporting Documentation: Program CIP Change Form

Presented by: Dr. Russell Ivy, Associate Provost for Programs and Assessment

Phone: 561-297-2353

PROGRAM CIP CHANGE REQUEST FORM
Board of Governors, State University System of Florida

UNIVERSITY: Florida Atlantic University

PROGRAM NAME: Geology

DEGREE LEVEL(S): M.S.

OLD/CURRENT CIP CODE: 40.0601

NEW/REQUESTED CIP CODE: 40.0699

NEW CIP CODE EFFECTIVE TERM: Spring 2016
(First term for students in the program using the new CIP code)

Please use this form to notify the Board of Governors, State University System of Florida that an institution intends to change the CIP code for an already existing degree program and begin reporting enrollments and degrees data under the new CIP code. This action will allow for more accurate data analysis of enrollment and degree productivity as well as it will initiate any necessary changes to the articulation manuals and online search tools.

1. Provide a short background and rationale for the CIP change request.

The Department of Geosciences currently houses bachelors and masters programs in geography, geology and a doctorate in geosciences which combines certain subfields of geography and geology into an applied teaching and research focus. Feedback from a recent external program review coupled with the recent degree productivity review by the BOG have led the department to develop a plan to combine the Masters in Geography and the Masters in Geology into one single degree program that will mimic the teaching and research focus of the current doctoral program. **As an initial step in this process, the Department is requesting that the CIP for the M.S. in Geology be changed to the current CIP used by the Ph.D. in Geosciences.** This will be followed by a termination of the current M.A. in Geography (with teachout plan) and a curriculum revision of the M.S. in Geology such as described above along with a name change of the degree to M.S. in Geosciences – basically a roll up of the M.A. in Geography and the M.S. in Geology to the M.S. in Geosciences.

2. Explain the impact of the proposed change on the current faculty and current and future students.

There will be no impact on the current faculty as most of the coursework offered in the department will be the same. The degree requirements will simply be repackaged where students will be able to get an M.S. in Geosciences with either a slightly more geology focus or a slightly more geography focus (as is done with the doctoral degree). Current students in the geography and geology masters will be considered with a teach out plan as the final changes discussed in #1 have been rolled out. As identified in our external program review of Spring 2015, we feel that the future students will be better prepared for the South Florida geoscience/environmental job market and, for those who have the interest, certainly better prepared as potential candidates for our doctoral program.

- 3. Provide evidence that considerations have been given to the impact of this CIP change on existing programs at the university, and the possibility that the program using the new CIP will duplicate already existing programs at other SUS institutions.**

As the requested CIP change only impacts the programs housed in Geosciences, we see no negative impact on any other programs or departments at FAU. A positive change (when the entire plan in #1 is rolled out) will be to make the masters program in the Department of Geosciences more productive by combining students with an interest in geography with the students interested in geology into a single rolled up degree program (M.S. in Geosciences). As far as within the SUS, we see no impacts. FAU is the only university in the SUS that offers a combined geography/geology teaching and research focus in a degree program.

- 4. If applicable, please explain how the CIP change will impact the program's listing in a Programs of Strategic Emphasis (PSE) category. Please provide a rationale to support the need for the program to be included in a PSE category, if it is not already included in a PSE category.**

Both the current CIP for our Masters in Geology and the proposed CIP for the reworked Masters are in Programs of Strategic Emphasis categories.

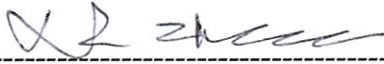
- 5. For baccalaureate programs please identify any related changes to the approved common prerequisites and degree program length.**

Not applicable.

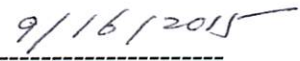
- 6. If this is a baccalaureate program, please list the common prerequisites for the current CIP code as listed in the program's curriculum and the common prerequisites associated with the new CIP code.**

Not applicable.

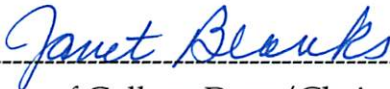
CIP Change Request Form - Signatures Page



Signature of Requestor/Initiator



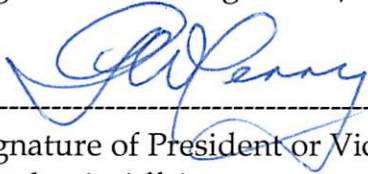
Date



Signature of College Dean/Chair



Date



Signature of President or Vice President for
Academic Affairs



Date