



The Graduate School
600 Lincoln Avenue
Charleston, IL 61920

Graduate Certificate Program Proposal

Part 1: Catalog: Information appearing in this section of the proposal will be published in the Graduate Catalog.

Name of Department or School: Department of Political Science

Title of the Certificate Program: Certificate in Public Planning

Certificate Program Mission:

This 18-hour certificate program is designed to provide students and professionals working in the public sector with advanced decision making tools. The theoretical and scientific training included in the certificate program will allow students to enhance their skill sets in public planning.

Certificate Admission Requirements:

To be eligible for admission to the certificate program, applicants must meet all of the requirements for admission to the Graduate School (see "Admission to Graduate Degree and Certificate Programs"). In addition, applicants should have a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher. Applicants whose GPA falls below 3.00 should submit a GRE score. Preference will be given to applicants with a score of 1000 or higher on the verbal and quantitative sections. All applicants must submit a statement of personal goals and two letters of recommendation from persons familiar with the applicant's academic training and potential for success in graduate school to the department's coordinator of graduate studies.

Certificate Study Plan:

A certificate study plan must be approved by the Coordinator of Graduate Study and be filed with the Graduate School no later than the 10th day of classes during the candidate's final term of study. Programs submitting proposals should provide any alternate approval or timeline statements.

Certificate Course/Curriculum Requirements:

Total Semester Hours: 18

A. Nine semester hours in:

GEG 5810 – Geographic Information Systems I
GEG 5860 – Geographic Information Systems II
GEG 5820 – Remote Sensing

B. Nine semester hours from the following:

PLS 4793 – Public Organization Theory

PLS 4893 – Government Budgeting and Politics
PLS 5153 – Cities, Politics and Urban Policy
PLS 5543 – Proseminar in Public Administration
PLS 5843 – Topical Seminar in Public Policy

Courses Applicable Toward a Specific Concurrent or Future Degree

Program: Within parameters set by the Graduate school and Department of Political Science, courses taken toward completion of the Certificate Program in Public Planning may be counted toward the MA degree in Political Science or other related degree programs. However, acceptance into the certificate program does not guarantee placement into an MA program. Students in the certificate program will be required to apply separately to any MA program.

Part II: Rationale: Information appearing in this section of the proposal will be used for Council review, but will not appear in the Graduate Catalog.

Program Rationale and Justification: Training in geographical information systems has become increasingly important to public administration and public planning. The purpose of this certificate program is to provide an avenue for working professionals to revamp their skill sets in order to remain competitive in a changing field.

Impact on Existing Programs: We expect that there will be minimal impact on existing degree programs. The anticipated number of students enrolling in the program will increase class size, in some cases, but not to the point that course quality will be diminished in any way.

Existing Courses that Apply to the Certificate: All of the courses listed are existing classes.

New Courses Required for the Certificate Program: none

Number of Students Expected to Enroll Each Year: 5-10

Department Contact: Dr. Ryan Hendrickson or Dr. Jeffrey Ashley

Part III: Approvals:

Geology-Geography Curriculum Committee: Nov 11, 2009

Political Science Curriculum Committee: Dec 2, 2009

College Curriculum Committee: December 11, 2009

Council on Graduate Studies: _____