



TO: Council on Graduate Studies

FROM: Interim Dean Hendrickson, Graduate School and Dean Omes, College of Sciences

RE: PSM Degree Addition

Dean Harold Omes

DATE: July 27, 2015

The Graduate School requests approval to add the Professional Science Master's (PSM) degree designation to our current lineup of graduate degrees (MS; MA; MSED; EDS; SSP; MBA) with a formal request of the IBHE. Currently, graduate programs at EIU who have secured the trademarked Professional Science Master's designation with the Keck Graduate Institute and the Council of Graduate Schools have only the option of being offered as a Master of Science, rather than as a PSM degree. The offering of an official PSM degree distinction will add clarity to student transcripts and assist in a graduate's job search where employers are looking for a Professional Science Master's degree. Other evidence supporting this change includes:

- Graduate degrees most likely to qualify for the PSM are Sustainable Energy and the new Bio Chem/Bio Tech. As new programs qualify with the CGS and KGI, the EIU degree classifications will become even less clear on transcripts and diplomas without a distinct degree name.
- Southern Illinois University- Carbondale currently offers the PSM as a degree distinction.
- The Higher Learning Commission supports the PSM degree distinction.
- Professional master's degrees are in high demand. Just as an MBA is more prestigious than an MS in Business, the PSM in GISci, (or any other EIU program), is more prestigious than an MS in GISci, offering better promotional opportunities.



Professional Science Masters in GISci

600 Lincoln Avenue
Charleston, Illinois 61920-3099

August 20, 2015

To Whom It May Concern;

On behalf of the Professional Science Master's Curriculum Committee and Program Committee, we formally request that the Graduate School at Eastern Illinois University pursue the addition of the degree distinction of PSM. We are proud of our program quality and being formally recognized as a Professional Science Masters by the NPSMA. Please let us know how we can expedite the process.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen F. Gaines".

Dr. Karen F. Gaines

Co-Coordinator PSM GISci

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dr. Michael Cornebise".

Dr. Michael Cornebise

Co-Coordinator PSM GISci

cc: Dean Ryan Hendrickson
Dean Harold Ornes

