Geography MA – MS

Program changes 2018

Rationale

1. Require additional application materials. We would like more information as we screen applicants.

2. Minimum hours in Geography increased slightly from 32 to 34. We feel that students need additional subject matter exposure, knowledge of the discipline, and critical thinking, writing, and research skills. Requiring two more credits will mean one additional Geography course per student.

3. Require GEO601 Colloquium in Geography. We've added this course which will consist of presentations of Marshall faculty and student research, research of invited scholars, visits by alumni to explain applications of the discipline in their career fields, and other academic and career related activities. This course is beneficial for thesis-writing students to be exposed to published research in the field and for all students (thesis or non-thesis) for career preparation and networking.

4. Change the current requirement that all students complete GEO526 Principles of GIS to a new requirement that all students complete any GEO GIScience course, not limited to only GEO526 Principles of GIS. Many students complete GEO 426 Principles of GIS at the undergraduate level, a similar class at another institution, or a similar class from another department. With the current requirement in place, those students would not need a GIScience course at the graduate level. With the proposed new requirement, students who have completed a foundations course like GEO426 will further their education in this important area by selecting any GEO GIScience course, while beginning students will need to complete GEO526 Principles of GIS since it is a pre-requisite to most other GIScience courses in the department.

5. Delete from the catalog description possible substitutions for GEO540 Spatial Statistics and GIS. While we will still permit substitutions in exceptional circumstances, we'd prefer the students take GEO540. Students who completed GEO440 Spatial Statistics and GIS with at least a C at the undergraduate level need no additional graduate statistics.

6. Change the list of courses based on what has been added or no longer offered.