

June 19, 2008

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION**

ACTION REQUEST

SUBJECT: A new undergraduate certificate program for the Department of Natural Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, University of Michigan-Dearborn

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval of a new undergraduate certificate program, "Spatial Analysis and Geographic Information System," to be offered by the Earth Sciences Program, Department of Natural Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, University of Michigan-Dearborn

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2008


The College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters at the University of Michigan-Dearborn wishes to offer an undergraduate certificate program in spatial analysis and geographic information system (GIS) for degree seeking and post-baccalaureate level students. The proposed program targets undergraduates majoring in earth science, environmental studies and environmental science, as well as geography students in the Department of Behavioral Sciences, and will be multidisciplinary in scope, incorporating a wide variety of GIS technology and software applications.

The 16-hour program will give students the opportunity to understand the theory and practice underlying the acquisition and interpretation of geographic data, including spatial relationships, statistical spatial analysis, and basic modeling. They will then be able to apply this information to acquire and analyze geospatial data, integrate Earth imagery with other data to solve geographic problems, and display results using tables, charts, visualizations and animations. As a result, this program will train students to serve as technical professionals and support staff responsible for managing and using GIS. Students completing the program will earn a credential in the form of a certificate in GIS and Spatial Analysis and receive a notation on their transcript warranting this achievement.

The Undergraduate Certificate Program in Spatial Analysis and Geographic Information System has been approved by the Earth Sciences Program Committee, the Department of Natural Sciences, the dean, Executive Committee and governing faculty of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, and endorsed by the provost and vice-chancellor for Academic Affairs. The Presidents Council, State Universities of Michigan approved it on January 25, 2008.

I am pleased to present this proposal for your approval.

Recommended by:



Daniel Little, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Dearborn

June 2008