

DESCRIPTION OF CERTIFICATE

The Biology Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Graduate Certificate provides the specialized education and training that students need to understand GIS methodology and technology as applied to diverse fields of the biological sciences. This certificate is intended to prepare graduates to meet the growing demand for GIS skills in the biological sciences, both in academic research and other employment. The certificate is an option only for students with graduate standing in the Ph.D. and M.S. programs, including all sequences, in the School of Biological Sciences. Candidates for the certificate must complete GEO 303, GEO 304, and GEO 305 for a total of 9 hours. This may or may not add hours to the current required coursework dependent on the specific biological sciences degree program and sequence.

CERTIFICATE REQUIRED COURSES (9 CREDIT HOURS TOTAL)

GEO 303, Geographic Information Systems, 3 credit hours (lecture + lab)

GEO 304, Geographic Information Systems Applications, 3 credit hours (lecture + lab)

GEO 305, Remote Sensing, 3 credit hours (lecture + lab)

STEPS FOR ADMISSION

1. Student applies for admission into the Biology GIS Graduate Certificate curriculum to the Graduate School. This application, which is on the standard graduate admissions form, can be completed online. Because the certificate application is separate from any application for admission to one of the School's graduate programs/sequences, students must fill out a separate admission form for the certificate even if they have already been accepted into a degree program. The certificate application can be initiated at any time during the student's enrollment at ISU. They are exempted from paying the \$40 admission application fee because we require that they be already admitted to a School of Biological Sciences graduate program to be eligible. Students do not need to send any new supporting materials with the certificate application.

2. Admissions will forward the application to the School of Biological Sciences for their confirmation of eligibility for admission into the Certificate. The School has established that eligibility consists only of prior admission into one of the School's graduate programs/sequences.

3. Notify the Director of the Biology GIS Graduate Certification that you have enrolled. That person is Dr. Angelo Capparella, School of Biological Sciences.

4. In order for a graduate student to register for any of the 300-level GEO courses in the Certificate, you first have to contact the Chair of the Geography-Geology department and request an override. After receiving the override, you can register during the time period allowed for regular course registration. We recommend that you request the override shortly before your registration time period as classes do fill up. The Interim Chair of Geography-Geology for the Fall 2010 semester is Dr. Eric Peterson. Starting again in the Spring 2011 semester, the Chair will once again be Dr. David Malone.

STEPS FOR MATRICULATION (OBTAINING THE CERTIFICATE)

1. Upon completion of the Certificate requirements, the student will file an Application for Completion of a Non-Degree Graduate Certificate with the Graduate School. It can be filed before filing for graduation from one of the department's graduate programs/sequences and is not dependent on eventual graduation from such programs/sequences. This Application for Completion is therefore separate from the Application for Degree Completion and Plan of Study filed regarding completion of their requirements in one of the School's graduate programs/sequences. They will have to pay a fee of \$30 for the preparation of the paper Certificate (this is separate from any other fees for graduating from programs/sequences).

2. The Graduate School prepares and awards a Certificate that is separate from the Diploma. The Certificate does not appear on the Diploma, but it does appear on the Transcript. Certificates are mailed to the student after completion and are not announced at commencement; only degree recipients may participate in commencement.