We thank you for your tireless dedication to your profession, students and the community as you’ve created, maintained and improved the outstanding quality of the disciplines of Geography and Geographic Information Systems.

Your presentations were thoughtful, thorough and well organized. We appreciate the interactive presentation and the opportunity to learn more about the benefits of both Geography and GIS.

This response contains 4 sections: 1) Commendations, 2) suggestions/observations, 3) response to recommendations/areas of SAC needs and 4) Closing comments.

1. Commendations
   • The creation of the 44-credit GIS Certificate based on the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration's Geospatial Technology Competency Model (GTCM) to address industry needs, student interests, and BLS information
   • Continued use of distance learning, including increasing the number of faculty trained, along with your on-going efforts to monitor their quality and success rates
   • The adoption of the 6 themes established by the National Geography Standards along with the mapping of these themes to course offerings
   • Creation of an Advisory Committee to help guide the GIS Certificate along with the attendance of a committee member at the review
   • The updating and reapplication of various courses to continue their standing as general education and/or Cultural Literacy
   • Assessment driven changes to the curriculum including the creation of new class activities to accommodate different learning styles along with activities to connect geographic concepts to the real world
   • The mapping of courses to Core Outcomes
   • The creation of an assessment rubric to assess Cultural Awareness and Self-Reflection
   • The inclusion of service-learning through work with the Cultural Atlas of Portland
   • The use and analysis of data in your review, including course success rates, student demographics, enrollments, and enrollment patterns by county and zip code
   • Use of student feedback to revise courses
   • Connections with PSU, OSU, Lane CC, Central Oregon CC, Clackamas CC and U of O to discuss curriculum compatibility
2. Suggestions and Observations

In your review you note, "Our greatest barrier to expanding GIS course offerings, at this given time, is computer lab access." *We suggest a couple thoughts.* Given the limited availability of facilities we urge that you work with your respective division dean to establish relationships with and potentially to gain improved access to existing computer labs. We realize that doing so isn’t the optimal answer given issues such as heavily scheduled facilities and the demands of high end software. We urge that your respective division dean engage TSS to explore ways for existing computers in our labs to more effectively run various high end software. And, finally, if you haven’t already, we recommend that you make your needs known to your campus bond team, thus enabling them to explore possible solutions through remodel and build-out activities.

Computer deficiencies were noted, specifically, in the HT 301 lab. *We recommend that your work with the Sylvania Division Deans associated with this room along with TSS to determine and price the needed upgrades to this lab to present to the campus DOI for consideration for future margin dollars.*

You noted the limitations of the GIS certificate for students receiving financial aid unless they are enrolled in a degree program. *We commend you for identifying this as an issue and suggest you invite Bert Logan, Director of Financial Aid, to a SAC meeting to explore alternatives.* ([bert.logan@pcc.edu](mailto:bert.logan@pcc.edu) or by phone at X4490)

GEO/GIS submitted its first report, focused on Core Outcomes assessment in 2012. *We appreciate the added complexity that applies to a program that has a strong LDC*
component as well as a CTE certificate. Since accreditation requires us to demonstrate that students have met the outcomes of their courses, degrees and programs, the GEO faculty need to also to assess the certificate outcomes (there would be also a requirement for Technical Skill Assessment if the program choses to pursue the Program of Study designation for Perkins eligibility). This may seem like a formidable enterprise, but thoughtful alignment of outcomes and layering assessments in key courses will help. Please work with your Assessment Coach, and with Kendra Cawley, to design a viable schedule of assessment that supports accreditation needs, is useful to the GEO SAC and GIS program.

3. Recommendations

Teaching and Learning

"We recommend that the GIS Certificate Program be considered an official Career and Technical Education (CTE) program." As noted during the presentation, there is some confusion regarding the status of GIS. We suggest you work with Kendra Cawley, Dean, Academic Affairs and the Curriculum Office. Additionally, we suggest you work with Lynn Wilson-Dean, from PACTEC regarding your interests in being a Perkins Program of Study. lynn.wilsondean@pcc.edu or by phone at X7735.

Your recommendation to evaluate 'Geography as a Social Science' is intriguing. We urge that the issue of where Geography should be housed not be confused with access to resources, but rather suggest that you work within your existing structure to identify which resources you have access to versus those you need and can't access. Once these needs are identified we ask that you work with the respective division deans to develop a multi-year plan to address them.

We commend you for the inclusion of the other recommendations in this section: the creation of new permanent courses, improvements to assessment, and the revision of General Electives for the GIS Certificate Program.

Recommendations requiring funding

The creation of a dedicated GIS lab, provide additional technological support, increase classroom and faculty capacity and expand instructional support systems: We understand the importance of these, along with the difficulties not having them creates. Both the availability of space and resources vary significantly by campus, consequently, we ask that you identify needs specific to each campus and then work with the respective leadership teams to explore ways to address them. In some instances, this may include discussions relative to the Bond buildout.

4. Closing Comments

It was immediately obvious to us that you take great pride in your offerings and GIS certificate and have dedicated countless hours to continuously improve them.
In closing, we want to thank you for a very thoughtful Program Review and engaging presentation.

Administrative Response submitted by Jeff S. Triplett on behalf of the Deans of Instruction and Dean of Academic Affairs.

Cheryl Scott
Jeff Triplett
Craig Kolins
Kurt Simonds
Kendra Cawley

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