

Date: 02/28/2020

To: John Stalvey, Interim Provost

From: Caixia Wang, Associate Professor & Department Chair, Program Committee Chair

Cc: Kenrick Mock, Interim Dean, College of Engineering  
Gennady Gienko, Professor  
David Brock, Term Assistant Professor

Re: AY20 Expedited Program Review: Optional Program Response to Dean's Recommendation

**Program/s in this review: Geomatics (AAS-BS)**

**Program response to dean's findings:**

Thank you for the comments and recognition of the Geomatics program. This response intends to add the following facts of the program.

Program curriculum

The Geomatics program curriculum is continually reviewed and frequently revised to meet changing demands and changing technologies. One example is the ongoing effort of the program to complete the online-delivery transition for all core courses in addition to their traditional face-to-face delivery. Our goal is to draw out of state students to enroll in the program remotely while still serve the local students with face-to-face delivery. Remote student demand for our program is steadily increasing since the program launched the online development effort in 2017. Examples include students from Soldotna, AK and out-of-state such as CA, TX, and CO. The online delivery option has also supported the Geomatics program to develop 2+2 partnerships with out-of-state community colleges to draw students to its BS program. Currently, the program is working on a 2+2 partnership with Bellingham Technology College at the State of Washington. Course changes in this transition effort primarily include:

- Revising course content and breaking up each course (3 credits, 3+0 contact hours) into a lecture course (2 credits, 2+0 contact hours) and a lab course (1 credit, 2 contact hours) such as GEO A466, GEO A256, and GEO A266;
- Revising course contents using Quality Matters to be able to deliver online and face-to-face at the same time, such as GEO A157, GIS A366, GIS A458, and GIS A351.

The program currently has achieved over 95% courses transitioned completely, with a goal to complete all courses in spring 2021. In turn, course changes from the transition effort pave the way for the curriculum revisions that will follow by taking into account the relatively small number of faculty and its current instructional staff.

AAS

The course requirements in our Associate of Applied Science in Geomatics are a subset of those required for our BS program. The lower division core courses for the BS and AAS have been aligned since the curriculum overhaul in 2014. The development of distance delivery will also promote the enrollment in AAS because it is a subset of the BS in Geomatics.

By offering the AAS in Geomatics, we are providing another program offering and therefore capitalize on economies of scale by attracting students into the discipline of Geomatics that may not be fully committed to a BS degree. The majority of AAS students have chosen to continue their education in our BS program after completing AAS. Because BS is their ultimately pursued degree for undergraduate study, many of them are not interested in applying for the graduation of AAS, leading to the relatively low number of degree awards and completion rates in AAS. Starting in spring 2020, the program is expanding its mandatory advising to include AAS students to monitor their progress and to ensure students' success in completing their degree.