

# BAAS in GIS and Cartography (Revised)

Note on this revised proposal from Jeff Lash:

Dr. Matthew has edited the proposal and returned it to me to upload, which I have done. The edited version removes any mention of awarding competency-based credit. Everything else in the proposal has remained the same.

## Overview

The UHCL Geography Program proposes a new Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences (BAAS) degree in Geographic Information Science (GIS) and Cartography (CIP Code 45.0702). The proposed degree addresses a pressing need for accessible and practical academic pathways to train the next generation of GIS professionals and aligns with the university's mission to offer career-relevant, interdisciplinary education that serves diverse student populations.

## Why a BAAS?

While the BAAS structure will accommodate all students, it is particularly well-suited to students with technical or vocational backgrounds, such as those transferring from community colleges with Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degrees or military-affiliated students with occupational training. By offering a flexible and applied curriculum, the program will provide a pathway for these students to complete a four-year degree without redundant coursework and will facilitate upward mobility and career advancement.

## Curriculum

The 120-hour curriculum reflects a modern, applied approach to training GIS professionals. The curriculum consists of the 42-hour Texas Core Curriculum (including GEOG 1303 World Regional Geography), 33 hours of geography, GIS, and cartography coursework, 12 hours of upper-level interdisciplinary methods courses, 15 hours of minor coursework, and 18 hours of general electives.

## Catalog Description

The Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences (BAAS) degree in Geographic Information Science (GIS) and Cartography provides an accessible and practical academic pathway to a career in applied geospatial knowledge and skills. The degree is particularly well-suited to students with technical or vocational backgrounds, such as those transferring from community colleges with Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degrees or military-affiliated students with occupational training. With its flexible and applied curriculum, the program provides a pathway for students to complete a four-year degree without redundant

coursework and facilitates upward mobility and career advancement. Admission to the program is determined by the university's regular admission criteria.

## Curriculum Courses

1. GEOG - 1301 - Modern Physical Geography
2. GEOG - 1302 - Human Geography
3. GEOG - 1303 - World Regional Geography
4. GEOG - 2321 - Fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems
5. GEOG - 2322 - Maps and Mapmaking
6. GEOG - 3300 - Geography of North America
7. GEOG - 3301 - Urban Geography
8. GEOG - 3302 - Geography of Latin America
9. GEOG - 3303 - Geography of Texas
10. GEOG - 3323 - Data Analysis in Geography
11. GEOG - 3324 - Remote Sensing and Earth Observation
12. GEOG - 4306 - Service Learning
13. GEOG - 4311 - Historical Geography
14. GEOG - 4312 - Human Geography
15. GEOG - 4314 - Teaching Geography
16. GEOG - 4323 - Geographic Information Systems Design and Implementation
17. GEOG - 4325 - Advanced GIS Analysis and Applications
18. GEOG - 4326 - GIS Consulting Practicum
19. GEOG - 4379 - Internship in Geography
20. GEOG - 4389 - Independent Study in Geography

120 credits offered both 100% online and hybrid