UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON – PROGRAM CHANGE PROPOSAL
Electronically submit this completed form with attachments in one file to the Chair of the College Curriculum Committee.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COLLEGE (check one):</th>
<th>Arts and Sciences</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>Business</th>
<th>Education</th>
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Proposal Submitted By: Jennifer Polack
Date Prepared: 10/24/2014
Department /Program: Computer Science

Note: for any program change entailing the addition any new courses, or revisions to existing courses, separate proposal for those course actions must also be submitted.

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE EXISTING PROGRAM (check no than one of the following)

- Revise requirements for existing major
- Revise requirements for a concentration within an existing major
- Revise requirements for an existing degree program
- Revise requirements for existing certificate program
- Revise requirements for existing minor

Implementation Date: FALL semester, year:

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS FOR CHANGES TO EXISTING PROGRAMS:
1. Rationale statement (Why is this program change needed? What purposes will it serve?)
2. Impact Statement (Provide details about the Library, space, budget, technology, and impacts created by this program change. Supporting statements from the Library, IT Department, etc. evaluating the resource impact and feasibility of the program change are required.)
3. Catalog Copy (Provide the existing Catalog Description and the complete statement of the proposed new Catalog description that reflects the program changes)

PROPOSAL TO CREATE NEW PROGRAM NOT REQUIRING STATE ACTION
(check no more that one of the following)

- New concentration within existing major Name:
- New minor Name:
- New Major but NOT a new degree*

*Use ONLY for interdisciplinary majors that will be grouped as part of the “Special Majors/General Liberal Arts and Sciences” degree (CIP Code 24.0101) or reported as a BLS degree (CIP Code 24.0199)

Implementation Date (semester and year):

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS FOR NEW PROGRAMS NOT REQUIRING STATE APPROVAL:
1. Rationale statement (Why is this additional program needed? What purposes will it serve?)
2. Impact Statement (Provide details about the Library, space, budget, technology, and impacts created by this program change. Supporting statements from the Library, IT Department, etc. evaluating the resource impact and feasibility of adding the new program are required.)
3. Catalog Copy (Provide the complete Catalog Description for the proposed new program)

Jennifer Polack

Department Chair Approval: ________________ Date: ________________
CCC Chair Approval: ________________ Date: ________________
Dean Approval: ________________ Date: ________________
UCC Chair Approval: ________________ Date: ________________

*Provost Approval: ________________ Date: ________________
*Required only in cases of proposals for new concentrations, new minors, or new majors that do not involve a new degree

Program Change Proposal Cover Sheet (July 2013)
REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS FOR CHANGES TO EXISTING PROGRAMS:

1. Rationale statement (Why is this program change needed? What purposes will it serve?)

The department of computer science seeks to consolidate our major’s three existing concentrations (traditional, computer information systems, and geographic information systems) into a single concentration: the computer science major.

The computer information systems and geographic information systems concentrations grew from the original computer science major based on student interest and a desire to support interdisciplinary programs. These concentrations were created because at that time, UMW did not offer minors. At the time, students interested in pursuing careers blending computer science and business could double major in both fields, which was often difficult to achieve in four years. Alternatively, students could explore their own interests in the fields by selecting one as their major and taking a self-selected series of courses in the other discipline. The computer information systems major was designed to provide a more structured plan that was achievable within 4-5 semesters. The geographic information systems concentration grew from the computer science major in an effort to support the emerging program in GIS. Today students can accomplish the intent of three concentrations by majoring in Computer Science and minor in a concentration.

Since the creation of the three separate concentrations (tradition, computer information systems, and geographic information systems), we have noted the following:

1) While we originally anticipated that students in the three concentrations would be preparing for different types of computer science careers, we’ve observed that students within the three tracks are often hired for the same types of positions following graduation. Often they work side-by-side with students who graduated from the other concentrations.

2) Students have difficulty selecting a concentration because the coursework for the three concentrations is similar. Because all three concentrations feature the same core of courses and prepare students for the same careers, it’s difficult for faculty to verbalize reasons for students to choose one concentration rather than another. Students typically select their concentration primarily by based on the concentration that they can complete most quickly rather than based on personal interest or with career preparation in mind.

3) We feel that students interested in computer science and GIS would be better served by earning a traditional CPSC degree and supplementing this with the GIS concentration. This would allow them to gain a strong foundation in the computer science discipline and also learn the GIS content from the faculty in the Geography department. Similarly, we feel that students interested in both computer science and business applications would best be served by earning a traditional CPSC degree and supplementing this with the BUAD minor. Again, this would allow them to gain a strong foundation in the computer science discipline and learn the BUAD content from the faculty in the COB.

2. Impact Statement (Provide details about the Library, space, budget, technology, and impacts created by this program change. Supporting statements from the Library, IT Department, etc. evaluating the resource impact and feasibility of the program change are required.)

This change consolidates our major offerings and takes us back to our roots. The new consolidated major will not require any additional space, faculty positions, technology, or budget.

We anticipate that the demand for the major will remain constant. However, in the future, all CPSC majors will take the same core of courses supplemented with elective required for the major. Those students desiring a concentration in an outside field of study can pursue a minor or certificate.

3. Catalog Copy (Provide the existing Catalog Description and the complete statement of the proposed new Catalog description that reflects the program changes)

Because the department is proposing a rather sizable number of change requests including a change to the requirements for the (consolidated) Computer Science
major, we have not listed the updated catalog copy here. Please see updated catalog copy in the proposal to change the requirements to the major. The existing major requirements and proposed requirements are listed there.

The proposal to eliminate the Computer Information Systems concentration and Geographic Information Systems concentrations simply removes those concentrations from the catalog listing, leaving just the “traditional” concentration.