

Interdepartmental Cooperation in GIS Certificate Programs at Universities in the U.S.

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There are growing activities towards developing Geographic Information Science (GIScience) curricula both in Japan and abroad. GIScience is an interdisciplinary field including the fields of geography, information science, environmental studies, and humanities and social sciences. It is therefore important to cooperate among different fields to develop successful GIScience curricula. In this paper we investigated interdepartmental cooperation in GIS certificate programs at Universities in the U.S. for the 2006-2007 academic year. We found that of 113 GIS certificate programs with department information, 42 (37%) programs featured interdepartmental curricula that were comprised of classes from multiple departments. Interestingly, 25 of these programs were based on cooperation among four or more departments. There were 38 curricula with cooperation between the geography-related department and other departments, and 28 curricula with cooperation between the geography-related department and engineering/information science-related departments. The data from this investigation are useful for developing GIScience curricula in Japan.