

April 23, 2026

TO: Ken Barish, Chair
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

FROM: Evangelos (Vagelis) Christidis, Chair 
BCOE Executive Committee

RE: GIS and Public Policy BS

The BCOE Executive Committee met on April 23rd, 2026. Regarding the GIS and Public Policy BS, the committee supports it, but has some suggestions.

First, we suggest that CS009B is included in the required courses, in addition to CS009A, as these courses are intended to be taken together to provide an intro to programming background to non-CS majors.

Second, CS 105 (Data Analysis Methods), which requires CS 009B as a prerequisite, could be added to the elective courses. CS 105 covers data analysis methods, including data statistics, simple data storage types, data acquisition from the web and public APIs, data cleaning, crowdsourcing for data collection and cleaning, supervised and unsupervised learning techniques, and data visualization. The laboratory includes hands-on exercises on the aforementioned topics in Python. This can complement the required PBPL 60A and 60B courses (Data Analysis for Public Policy).

The CSE department invites SPP to discuss more on possible CS courses inclusion.