

**IDAHO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**ACADEMIC/PROFESSIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION**  
**NOTICE OF INTENT**

To initiate a  
**New, Expanded, Cooperative, Discontinued, program component or Off-Campus Instructional Program or Instructional/Research Unit**

Institution Submitting Proposal: University of Idaho  
Name of College, School, or Division: College of Engineering  
Name of Department(s) or Area(s): Geological Engineering

Indicate if this Notice of Intent (NOI) is for an Academic or Professional Technical Program  
Academic X Professional - Technical \_\_\_\_\_

This is a New, Expanded, Cooperative, Contract, or Off-Campus Instructional Program, or Administrative/Research Unit (circle one) leading to:

Not applicable **Discontinue M.S. in Geological Engineering.**

(Degree or Certificate)

Proposed Starting Date: July 1, 2009

**For New Programs:**

**For Other Activity:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Program (i.e., degree) Title & CIP 2000

- Program Component (major/minor/option/emphasis)
- Off-Campus Activity/Resident Center
- Instructional/Research Unit
- Addition/Expansion
- Discontinuance/consolidation**
- Contract Program
- Other

**Dean's signature on file** **2/4/09**

Donald M. Blackketter, Dean (UI) \_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
VP Research & Graduate Studies \_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Fiscal Officer (Institution) \_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State Administrator, SDPTE \_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Academic Officer (Institution) \_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Academic Officer, OSBE \_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
President \_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
SBOE/OSBE Approval \_\_\_\_\_ Date

**Before completing this form, refer to Board Policy Section III.G., Program Approval and Discontinuance.**

1. *Briefly describe the nature of the request e.g., is this a new program (degree, program, or certificate) or program component (e.g., new, discontinued, modified, addition to an existing program or option).*

This request is for permission to discontinue the Master of Science degree in Geological Engineering and consolidate the subject matter for that program into a related Civil Engineering program. Geological Engineering will remain an emphasis area in the Civil Engineering Department with graduate students earning an M.S. in Civil Engineering with emphasis in geological engineering. Current emphasis areas in Civil Engineering include structures, environmental, water resources, transportation, ecohydraulics, and geotechnical engineering.

2. *Provide a statement of need for program or a program modification. Include student and state need, demand, and employment potential. **Attach a Scope and Sequence, SDPTE Form Attachment B, for professional-technical education requests.** (Use additional sheets if necessary.).*

Geological Engineering was originally an undergraduate and graduate program in the College of Mines and Earth Resources. During reorganization at the University of Idaho in 2002-2003, the program was transferred to the College of Engineering. In 2004 the SBOE approved an NOI from the College of Engineering to discontinue the undergraduate program in Geological Engineering with the condition that the Master of Science program be retained in the Civil Engineering Department along with an undergraduate minor. Currently, nine students are enrolled in the MS program, seven of whom are taking classes through Engineering Outreach. Two students, both majoring in Civil Engineering, are currently pursuing the undergraduate minor in geological engineering. In addition, five students currently are pursuing the post-baccalaureate certificate in Applied Geotechnics with the intention of continuing into the M.S. Geological Engineering degree program.

Because most of the students enrolled in this M.S. program participate through Engineering Outreach media and concurrently work full-time in professional positions, they typically only enroll in one 3-credit class per semester. Thus, the time frame for them to complete the degree usually is 8 to 10 semesters (i.e., four or five years). Therefore, because these students were attracted to this program due to its uniqueness and differentiation from a Master's program in Civil Engineering, the official closure date for the M.S. Geological Engineering program shall be no earlier than June 30, 2014. However, consolidation and integration of the subject matter into the Civil Engineering program will begin this year, and any new M.S. applicants interested in geological engineering will apply to a M.S. Civil Engineering program with an emphasis in geological engineering, beginning June 1, 2009.

Both the NWCCU and the Yardley Report were critical of the number of graduate degrees offered by the U of I. The intent of this is to eliminate one of the degree designations while maintaining an avenue for students to pursue the subject matter under the general Civil Engineering degree program. Entry requirements for the Geological Engineering emphasis will not change significantly. The undergraduate minor will not be affected.

3. *Briefly describe how the institution will ensure the quality of the program (e.g., accreditation, professional societies, licensing boards, etc.).*

The College of Engineering maintains rigorous planning, assessment and evaluation processes to ensure that its programs maintain high quality and meet the needs of its constituents and maintain quality. The Civil Engineering Advisory Board, which has representation from the Geological Engineering profession, helps the department maintain relevance in its undergraduate program and graduate programs. ABET does not normally accredit graduate programs. However, the University of Idaho is accredited by the Northwest Council of Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) and all programs, undergraduate and graduate, are periodically reviewed by this organization. The University of Idaho has instituted a rigorous process for identifying and assessing learning outcomes in all academic programs at the university. The graduate programs in Civil Engineering, along with all other graduate engineering programs, are expected to comply

with this university mandate and to use the results for continuous quality improvement.

4. *Identify similar programs offered within the state of Idaho or in the region by other colleges/universities. If the proposed request is similar to another program, provide a rationale for the duplication. This may not apply to PTE programs if workforce needs within the respective region have been established.*

There are no Geological Engineering programs at other Idaho institutions. Geological Engineering programs in neighboring states are offered at Montana Tech of the University of Montana (B.S. and M.S.), the University of Nevada-Reno (B.S., M.S., and Ph.D.), and the University of Utah (B.S., M.S., and Ph.D.).

Enrollment and Graduates (i.e., number of majors or other relevant data)  
 By Institution for the Proposed Program  
 Last three years beginning with the current year and the 2 previous years

Institution	Relevant Enrollment Data			Number of Graduates		
	Current	Previous Year	Previous Year	Current	Previous Year	Previous Year
BSU	None	None	None	None	None	None
CSI	None	None	None	None	None	None
CWI	None	None	None	None	None	None
EITC	None	None	None	None	None	None
ISU	None	None	None	None	None	None
LCSC	None	None	None	None	None	None
NIC	None	None	None	None	None	None
UI	9 7 by EO 1 full time	7 5 by EO 1 full time	6 5 by EO 1 full time	0	0	0

As noted in the table above, most students pursue this degree on a part-time basis by distant education through Engineering Outreach. Since these students usually take five to seven years to complete the degree, the number of graduates is highly variable and is often quite low.

Degrees offered by school/college or program(s) within disciplinary area under review.

Institution and Degree name	Level	Specializations within the discipline (to reflect a national perspective)	Specializations offered within the degree at the institution
UI	M.S.	Mining & mine construction, petroleum & hydrocarbon extraction, excavation, ground water supply and quality, environmental clean-up foundations, slope stability, rock mechanics, geological hazard mitigation.	Applied rock mechanics, foundations, slope stability, geological hazard mitigation, geotechnical site investigations, environmental site characterization.

5. Describe how this request is consistent with the State Board of Education's policy or role and mission of the institution. (i.e., centrality).

Since the M.S. in Geological Engineering will be maintained as an emphasis area in Civil Engineering, there is no change in the institutions role and mission.

6. Is the proposed program in the 8-year Plan? Indicate below.

Yes  X  No

If not on 8-year plan, provide a justification for adding the program.

7. Resources--Faculty/Staff/Space Needs/Capital Outlay. (Use additional sheets if necessary.):

Not applicable.

Estimated Fiscal Impact	FY <u> 09 </u>	FY <u> 10 </u>	FY <u> 11 </u>	<u> Total </u>
<b>A. Expenditures</b>				
1. Personnel				
2. Operating				
3. Capital Outlay				
4. Facilities				
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>
<b>B. Source of Funds</b>				
1. Appropriated-reallocation				
2. Appropriated – New				
3. Federal				
4. Other:				
<b>TOTAL:</b>				
<b>B. Nature of Funds</b>				
1. Recurring *				
2. Non-recurring **				
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>

\* Recurring is defined as ongoing operating budget for the program, which will become of the base.

\*\* Non-recurring is defined as one-time funding in a fiscal year and not part of the base.

**HISTORY AND COMMITTEE APPROVAL  
of the  
NOI TO ELIMINATE  
the  
GEOLOGICAL ENGINEERING  
MASTERS DEGREE PROGRAM**

The NOI to eliminate the Masters Degree Program and incorporate the subject matter as an emphasis area in the Master of Science/Master of Engineering program was reviewed by the Civil Engineering Department. The pros and cons were discussed and there was not a clear consensus that developed either in support of or opposed to the NOI. This was communicated to the College of Engineering Curriculum Committee on January 30, 2009, by the Civil Engineering representative to the committee. With little discussion, the College Committee voted unanimously to approve the NOI.

*Submitted by the University of Idaho College of Engineering.*

## Notice of Intent (NOI) Approval Tracking Form

*Committee Chairs please append this document to the relevant NOI and send it forward to the next committee for review.*

**Committee: Graduate Council**

**Program/Degree: Master of Science in Geological Engineering**

**Discussion:** NOI was presented by Associate Dean Howard Peavy

Peavy indicated that there was considerable discussion of the NOI at the department level with a consensus being reached to support the NOI. At the College level, very little discussion was held and the vote was unanimous.

The reason the NOI was approved is because of low enrollment and upon recommendations made via Yardley. The department was encouraged to work with the two faculty involved in the program. Students should work with department for easy transition.

Questions:

Question: What was the vote at the department level?

Answer: Not sure what the vote was but the consensus was reached according to the chair.

Question: What will happen to the 9 students in the program now?

Answer: There are some who are ready to graduate now. CE is willing to work with interested students regarding completion.

Question: Would the elimination of this program eliminate the program for the entire state – a state with such a rich mining history?

Answer: Yes. However, most of this program's graduates go to work with IDT; very few in mining industry.

Question: Does this change in the name of the major from GeoE to CE cause the students problems with employment possibilities?

Answer: Student would need to explain why the degree is in CE when all the classes are in GeoE but is manageable.

Question: Does this cause an ABET problem?

Answer: No, graduate programs are under ABET accreditation.

**Vote: \_\_\_7\_\_\_ In Favor**

**\_\_\_3\_\_\_ Opposed**

# Notice of Intent (NOI) Approval Tracking Form

*Committee Chairs please append this document to the relevant NOI and send it forward to the next committee for review.*

**Committee:** University Curriculum Committee Date: 2/19/09

**Present:** Richard Battaglia, Jill Dacey (Chair), Gail Eckwright, Walter Hesford, Allen Kitchel, Mark Secrist, Richard Wells, Jeanne Christiansen, Rod Hill, Nancy Krogh, Heidi Anderson, Garrett Holbrook, Joel Zwainz.

**Absent:** Lauren Fins, Ruprecht Machleidt, Bob Stone, Jean Henscheid.

**Others Present:** Debbie Storrs, Margrit Von Braun, Mark Nielsen (substitute for Ruprecht Machleidt), Charles Tibbals, Dwaine Hubbard

**Program/Degree: Discontinue M.S. major in Geological Engineering**

## Discussion:

**UCC-09-068** College of Engineering

Committee member Wells introduced the proposed Notice of Intent (NOI) from the College of Engineering to discontinue the Master of Science (M.S.) major in Geological Engineering. Wells indicated that despite his initial impressions that this NOI would have no controversy there is in actuality some with the Department of Civil Engineering. The Department of Civil Engineering was unable to reach a consensus to either support or deny this NOI. The Department of Civil Engineering feels that it can optimize its operation through some internal reorganization and be able to continue to offer this program without negatively impacting their other programs. Margrit Von Braun conveyed some of the discussion that went on at Graduate Council regarding this proposed NOI. Committee member Wells feels that if this NOI is not approved there will be a significant number of curricular updates from Civil Engineering in the near future specifically reducing the number of Geological Engineering courses. When asked where most of the Geological Engineering students are coming from, Wells indicated that they are primarily Engineering Outreach students. Wells added that the chair of Civil Engineering does not feel that the department will be able to continue to attract the 4 to 5 Engineering outreach students a year that enroll for this program without the Geological Engineering major name. Mark Nielsen asked why there are no graduates listed if this program continually attracts 4 to 5 students a year. The committee discussed the ability of a department, college or dean to stop an NOI from proceeding forward. The committee **Denied** the proposed NOI 1 to 9, and will forward the proposed NOI to Faculty Council for review.

**Vote: 1 Approve, 9 Deny, 0 Abstain**