

CGSP Resolution 2005-06A
Resolution for Establishment of a Doctoral Degree (Ph.D.) in Geospatial and Environmental
Analysis in the College of Natural Resources

Approved by the Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies:	October 21, 2005
First Reading by University Council:	November 14, 2005
Approved by University Council:	December 5, 2005
Approved by the President:	December 5, 2005
Approved by the Board of Visitors:	March 27, 2006
Effective:	Following approval by SCHEV, anticipated for Fall 2006

WHEREAS, demand for increasingly sophisticated geospatial research is growing significantly in education, industry, and government; and

WHEREAS, the geospatial industry is one of the fastest growing segments of the United States economy and thus offers enormous potential for well-trained students; and

WHEREAS, geospatial research on a broad range of environmental issues related to the sustainable management and conservation of natural resources is crucial to the Commonwealth of Virginia, the nation, and internationally; and

WHEREAS, this proposed doctoral program will combine advanced training and research in the theory and application of geospatial science with environmental analysis to enhance research on a broad range of contemporary natural resource and environmental issues; and

WHEREAS, there is an absence of interdisciplinary doctoral programs that focus on the application of geospatial analysis to environmental and natural resource issues; and

WHEREAS, the College of Natural Resources has a long tradition of excellence in teaching and research in geospatial and environmental analysis; and

WHEREAS, substantial student interest has been demonstrated for the doctoral program in Geospatial and Environmental Analysis; and

WHEREAS, the proposed doctoral program is consistent with and supportive of the College of Natural Resources Mission Statement, which embraces the Land Grant mission of Virginia Tech; and

WHEREAS, the proposed doctoral program in Geospatial and Environmental Analysis will contribute to Virginia Tech's goal of increasing the number and breadth of doctoral programs;

THEREFORE be it resolved, that the proposal to establish the Ph.D. degree program in Geospatial and Environmental Analysis be approved by University Council and forwarded to the Board of Visitors and the State Council for Higher Education for their subsequent review and approval.