

Program Merger: Lunar and Planetary Science with Soil, Water and Environmental Science

As part of the ongoing plan to strengthen the University of Arizona, the next steps of Focused Excellence call for eight program mergers, 19 program reconstructions and five opportunities for large-scale theme-based strategic planning.

The Lunar and Planetary Laboratory is dedicated toward the understanding of the properties of all the bodies in the Solar System. In view of the continuing discoveries of Martian and Lunar subsurface water, and LPL's focus on geological features and composition of extraterrestrial dirt rather than astronomy, this mission will be best met as a sub-unit of the Department of Soil, Water and Environmental Science.

All students will become part of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, effective immediately. Continuation of faculty and staff appointments from LPL to the new department will be made on a case-by-case basis. Due to this reduction in teaching staff, a number of current courses will be merged:

PTY549 - Image Processing For Scientific Discovery
SWES553 - Remote Sensing

PTY507 - Chemistry Of The Solar System
ANS472 - Dairy Herd Management

The two departments are expected to form a strong synergistic unit. LPL Mars Rover soil sample return projects are to be subcontracted to the John Deere Tractor Company, who have also agreed to donate ten model 5520 tractors to the UA motor pool, thereby increasing the motor pool's mean fuel efficiency. In addition, the Mars rock garden will be incorporated into the new cactus garden.

Thank you for your understanding in these times of reorganization, which will help strengthen our university by eliminating unnecessary waste.