



GeoPRISMS
Draft Science Plan
1 1. Program Management

11. Program Management

11.1. Program Structure

The successful MARGINS program provides a strong model upon which to outline the program structure for GeoPRISMS. Key elements will include

- A national Office to coordinate meetings and workshops, to disseminate information (by way of newsletters, listserv announcements, etc.) including workshop summaries and reports on funded research, to manage educational and database activities, and to assist with logistics and scientific efforts not supported by funding to PIs. The GeoPRISMS Office will be directed by the GeoPRISMS Steering and Oversight Committee Chair, and hosted at his/her institution, rotating every 3-4 years; proposed activities are listed in Section 11.2.
- A GeoPRISMS Steering and Oversight Committee (GSOC), composed of ~12 members representing the community, to help guide program activities. The GeoPRISMS Chair will oversee the GSOC:
 - o Similar to the MARGINS Steering Committee (MSC), GSOC's activities will include reviewing progress toward scientific goals, organizing and running workshops, preparing white papers and initiative summaries, promoting national and international collaborations and opportunities, fostering communication within the broader community, and providing advice and feedback to NSF program managers and GeoPRISMS chairs.
 - o Upon the recommendation of the DRC, GSOC also will continually monitor and review progress towards the stated goals within each Initiative's science plan, and encourage attempts to integrate and synthesize results. The GSOC will also have one or more members who

represent the perspectives of industry, the climate and geohazards community, and state or national surveys.

- A GeoPRISMS Education Advisory Committee (GEAC), which will provide advice and guidance on educational programs coordinated by GeoPRISMS (see Section 9), with 1-2 members also serving on the GSOC. GEAC will help to oversee the activities of the educational coordinator housed in the GeoPRISMS Office.
- An annual NSF solicitation for GeoPRISMS proposals, each of which should address priorities outlined within the community-approved Science Plan. To avoid potential conflicts of interest, the GSOC will have no direct input into the proposal evaluation.
- An independent NSF review panel, with expertise spanning the EAR and OCE communities, to evaluate proposals in the context of the GeoPRISMS Science Plan.

11.2. Proposed Office Activities

The GeoPRISMS Office, operating under the direction of the Chair of the GSOC and subject to the advice of that body, will serve to facilitate and coordinate the research program, including the following activities (again modeled after the MARGINS Office):

- 1. Program Planning and Coordination.** The Office will schedule, organize and provide logistical support for regular GSOC meetings, twice yearly, along with gatherings at AGU and smaller working groups. The Office will prepare pre-meeting materials, produce and distribute meeting minutes, arrange travel, and invite relevant visitors to provide content. The Chair of the Office will also be available to attend meetings and workshops to aid in program planning, internationally, at NSF and elsewhere in the U.S.

2. **Workshop Support.** The Office will provide encouragement, guidance and logistical support to proponents willing to organize major conferences within the purview of PRISMS, and will organize smaller meetings necessary to attain GeoPRISMS objectives. These workshops have been the cornerstone of the MARGINS effort at building large, new interdisciplinary science communities, and nurturing creative new proposals, and will continue into GeoPRISMS. To ensure that these workshops focus on programmatic goals, at least 1-2 GSOC members will be encouraged to serve as Conveners for any major workshop.
3. **Communication.** While research is done at individual institutions, integration and synthesis requires a good understanding of all other aspects of the program, and requires an informed community. One primary vehicle is the program web site (see for example, www.nsf-margins.org), and the associated e-mail list server, which will be maintained and moderated by the GeoPRISMS Office. These vehicles provide information on science planning, research, job opportunities, funding, meetings, and documents, both nationally and internationally. The web site will also continue to serve as an easily-found portal to science planning documents, database servers, reports on Initiative progress, and educational resources. A twice-yearly Newsletter will continue to provide summaries of GeoPRISMS-related activities and to alert the community to events, new opportunities and other issues of interest. Finally, GeoPRISMS will host receptions, forums and town-hall meetings at major international functions such as Fall AGU.
4. **International Collaboration.** As in the past, the Office will facilitate international collaborations by co-sponsoring workshops with international participants, by assisting in coordination of collaborative agreements, and by participation of the GeoPRISMS Chair or GSOC members in international planning committees. One priority will be to foster a replacement for the now defunct InterMARGINS consortium.
5. **Event Response.** The GeoPRISMS Office will follow MARGINS lead by serving as a point of contact to facilitate rapid response when critical events occur. In the past, rapid responses were supported through the MARGINS Office and NSF, after a short informal written request and approval by both MSC and NSF. GeoPRISMS proposes that this approach continue into the new program, allowing the rapid turnaround needed for sudden events, and the proactive engagement of a broad range of scientists through Office coordination. The NSF “RAPID” program facilitates such activities.
6. **Data Management.** Broad, cross-disciplinary scientific syntheses depend on easy data archival, retrieval and exchange between many communities. The MARGINS database hosted by MGDS is now well-populated and will transfer into the GeoPRISMS Program, while retaining the MARGINS label. The Office will continue to assist in efforts to improve both the access and completeness of the collection, as outlined in Section 10.4. The Office will also foster interaction between the scientific community and the database developers.
7. **Education and Outreach.** The MARGINS Office currently operates several components of the Education program, in consultation of the MARGINS Education Advisory Committee. The Education and Outreach component of GeoPRISMS includes some enhancements, detailed in Section 9, and will be overseen by GEAC as described above. All program elements also will be coordinated largely through the GeoPRISMS Office, and the Education Coordinator who works there. In many cases the programs will be operated elsewhere in cooperation with other well-established programs and funded separately, as outlined in Section 9, but close coordination within the Office will be needed to ensure that

educational and research priorities are well integrated.

Office Operations

Since 2003, the MARGINS Office has had two full-time equivalent (FTE) staff members, typically a full-time Administrator who handles operations and a full-time PhD-level Science Coordinator who deals with larger-scale issues. If the enhanced E&O activities (Section 9) are approved, the currently half-time education-related staff position should be increased to a full-time Education Coordinator to manage these operations, under the advisement of the GEAC. The Office will continue to be supported by a 3-year grant to the Chair that covers salaries and routine operating costs, including GSOC meetings. The Office will manage supplemental funding requests through proposals or a Cooperative Agreement, in order to support workshops and related activities.

