Twin Cities Campus

Geographic Information Science M.G.I.S.

Geography, Environment, Society

College of Liberal Arts

Link to a list of faculty for this program.

Contact Information:
Department of Geography, 414 Social Sciences Building, 267 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455 (612-624-1498; fax: 612-624-1044)
Email: mgis@umn.edu
Website: http://cla.umn.edu/mgis

- Program Type: Master's
- Requirements for this program are current for Fall 2019
- Length of program in credits: 35
- This program does not require summer semesters for timely completion.
- Degree: Master of Geographic Information Science

Along with the program-specific requirements listed below, please read the General Information section of the catalog website for requirements that apply to all major fields.

The professional master of geographic information science (MGIS), administered by the Department of Geography, provides graduate-level work in the theory, applications, and technology of geographic information science (GIS). Courses for the program are divided into three broad categories. Core courses provide the conceptual and theoretical underpinnings for a comprehensive, well-rounded knowledge of GIS, including an introductory seminar for entering students (GIS 8501). A set of technology courses focuses on specific software and techniques of GIS. Elective courses provide additional breadth to the program by allowing students to take courses related to their area of interest.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Prerequisites for Admission

Special Application Requirements:
Applicants must submit an application form; a M.G.I.S. supplemental application form; transcripts; a clearly written personal statement of career interests and goals; and three letters of recommendation from persons familiar with their academic and/or employment background. The GRE is not required. All materials must be submitted by January 30 for fall semester entrance and by September 1 for spring semester entrance.

International applicants must submit score(s) from one of the following tests:

- TOEFL
  - Internet Based - Total Score: 100
  - Internet Based - Writing Score: 24
  - Internet Based - Reading Score: 22
- IELTS
  - Total Score: 7.5
- MELAB
  - Final score: 84

The preferred English language test is Test of English as Foreign Language

Key to test abbreviations(TOEFL, IELTS, MELAB).

For an online application or for more information about graduate education admissions, see the General Information section of the catalog website.

Program Requirements

Plan C: Plan C requires 29 major credits and 6 credits outside the major.The is no final exam.

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Information current as of March 29, 2024

This program may be completed with a minor.

Use of 4xxx courses toward program requirements is permitted under certain conditions with adviser approval.

A minimum GPA of 3.00 is required for students to remain in good standing.

At least 2 semesters must be completed before filing a Degree Program Form.

Students must complete a professional portfolio, and a set of concluding experiences including a public presentation, an exit survey, and a final meeting with an advisor.

Required Courses

GEOG 5561 - Principles of Geographic Information Science (4.0 cr)
or FNRM 5131 - Geographical Information Systems (GIS) for Natural Resources (4.0 cr)
GIS 8501 - GIS Project Management and Professional Development (3.0 cr)
GIS 5571 - ArcGIS I (3.0 cr)
GIS 5572 - ArcGIS II (3.0 cr)

Advanced GIS Focus Courses

5xxx-level Requirement

Take 3 credits from the following:
GEOG 5562 - GIS Development Practicum (3.0 cr)
GEOG 5563 - Advanced Geographic Information Science (3.0 cr)
ESPM 5295 - GIS in Environmental Science and Management (4.0 cr)
FNRM 5462 - Advanced Remote Sensing and Geospatial Analysis (3.0 cr)
GIS 5577 - Spatial Database Design and Administration (3.0 cr)
GIS 5574 - Web GIS and Services (3.0 cr)
GIS 5578 - GIS Programming (3.0 cr)
CSCI 5715 - From GPS, Google Maps, and Uber to Spatial Data Science (3.0 cr)

8xxx-Level Requirement

Take 3 credits from the following:
GEOG 8290 - Seminar in GIS and Cartography (3.0 cr)
GEOG 8291 - Seminar in GIS, Technology, and Society (3.0 cr)
GEOG 8292 - Seminar in GIS: Spatial Analysis and Modeling (3.0 cr)
GIS 8990 - Research Problems in GIS (1.0 - 6.0 cr)
FNRM 8205 - Research Problems: Spatial Data Analysis (1.0 - 5.0 cr)
CSCI 8715 - Spatial Data Science Research (3.0 cr)

Electives

Take remaining credits from the following list to meet the 35-credit minimum. At least 6 elective credits must be other than those with GEOG or GIS course designators.

Take 16 or more credit(s) from the following:

- GEOG 3362 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
- GEOG 5511 - Principles of Cartography (4.0 cr)
- GEOG 5531 - Numerical Spatial Analysis (4.0 cr)
- GEOG 5562 - GIS Development Practicum (3.0 cr)
- GEOG 5563 - Advanced Geographic Information Science (3.0 cr)
- GEOG 5564 - Urban Geographic Information Science and Analysis (3.0 cr)
- GEOG 8280 - Biogeography (3.0 cr)
- GEOG 8290 - Seminar in GIS and Cartography (3.0 cr)
- GEOG 8291 - Seminar in GIS, Technology, and Society (3.0 cr)
- GEOG 8292 - Seminar in GIS: Spatial Analysis and Modeling (3.0 cr)
- GIS 5530 - GIS Internship (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
- GIS 5555 - Basic Spatial Analysis (3.0 cr)
- GIS 5573 - Introduction to Digital Mapping: ArcGIS Basics (2.0 cr)
- GIS 5574 - Web GIS and Services (3.0 cr)
- GIS 5577 - Spatial Database Design and Administration (3.0 cr)
- GIS 5578 - GIS Programming (3.0 cr)
- GIS 5590 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
- GIS 8990 - Research Problems in GIS (1.0 - 6.0 cr)
- CSCI 4041 - Algorithms and Data Structures (4.0 cr)
- CSCI 4131 - Internet Programming (3.0 cr)
- CSCI 4707 - Practice of Database Systems (3.0 cr)
- CSCI 5715 - From GPS, Google Maps, and Uber to Spatial Data Science (3.0 cr)
- CSCI 8715 - Spatial Data Science Research (3.0 cr)
- ESPM 5031 - Applied Global Positioning Systems for Geographic Information Systems (3.0 cr)
- ESPM 5295 - GIS in Environmental Science and Management (4.0 cr)

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- FNRM 5114 - Hydrology and Watershed Management (3.0 cr)
- FNRM 5228 - Advanced Topics in Assessment and Modeling of Forests (3.0 cr)
- FNRM 5262 - Remote Sensing and Geospatial Analysis of Natural Resources and Environment (3.0 cr)
- FNRM 5462 - Advanced Remote Sensing and Geospatial Analysis (3.0 cr)
- FNRM 8205 - Research Problems: Spatial Data Analysis (1.0 - 5.0 cr)
- PA 5231 - Transit Planning and Management (3.0 cr)
- VMED 5181 - Spatial Analysis in Infectious Disease Epidemiology (3.0 cr)

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