F A Q
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

geospatial.umd.edu

What are the major differences between the GIS and GEOINT Programs?

GIS

- The MS GIS curriculum is focused on Geospatial technology (GIS, remote sensing and computing), instead of on specific applications.
- Graduates can apply their knowledge and skills in a wide range of fields and sectors.
- The MS GIS Program focuses on enterprise GIS, emphasizing programming and app development (web, mobile, and online databases). The program helps students to become GIS developers, not just GIS users.

GEOINT

- The MS GEOINT Program develops and utilizes intelligence about the human activity on Earth, derived from the deployment and analysis of spatial information.
- We feature a GEOINT-focused curriculum that describes, assesses, and visually depicts physical features and geographically referenced activities on Earth.
- Job placement is not confined to U.S. government or military agencies. GEOINT graduates are working in GIS, imagery intelligence, socio-cultural intelligence, artificial intelligence, computational intelligence, and more.

Does the MS program offer an online option?

Yes, the MS program is an on campus program that provides students the option of attending online or in person. All courses are offered in traditional classrooms or GIS labs and simultaneously broadcast online. The online teaching is interactive and dynamic through WebEx. Entire lectures (lecture slides, presentations, and Q&A interactions) are video-archived for reviewing.

Do I need to buy software for the courses in this program?

No. As an ESRI Development Center, a free student edition of ESRI's ArcGIS software is provided to all students. Free access to other software is provided through our VMWare server.

Why is the MS program on a term system, while the rest of the university uses the semester system?

Most students in the program work part-time or full-time. The term system allows students to better spread out course work over the entire calendar year, rather than be restricted to the traditional academic calendar. The 12-week term-based courses are short but intensive, which allows students to achieve improved learning outcomes.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN **GEOSPATIAL INTELLIGENCE**

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN **GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION SCIENCES**

What are the admission criteria?

To be admitted into the MS program, a candidate usually has to meet the following criteria:

- A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution
- A GPA of 3.0 or above (exceptions can be made)
- Applicants are encourage to contact the program regarding GPA requirements
- Strong motivation and interest in studying geospatial information sciences or geointelligence

While previous work or an intention to work in GIS/GEOINT is desirable, applicants are not required to have any prior GIS or GEOINT background to apply to the MS program. However, applicants should meet the prerequisite requirements (listed at right) before they begin the program.

Can I switch from Graduate Certificate track to Master degree track?

Yes, it is possible to switch from the Graduate Certificate track to the MS track after you take some classes. You will need to submit a new application through the Graduate School; however, you can use the same application materials. Many GC students switch into the MS track.

What are the application deadlines?

Fall Domestic Priority Deadline: May 16
Fall Domestic Firm: July 28
Spring Domestic Priority: December 14
Spring Domestic Firm: February 18
Fall International Deadline: March 13
*Please check the program website for updates on admission deadlines: **geospatial.umd.edu/landing/Education**

What documents are required for the application?

Besides the standard Graduate School Application Form, applicants are required to submit the official transcripts from previous colleges or universities. Applicants will electronically submit through the application portal a cover letter or personal statement, resume, and at least two recommendation letters.

Can students take additional courses outside of the Plan of Study?

Yes, with prior approval from your advisor. There is also the possibility for students to take courses after they graduate as alumni.

What are prerequisite requirements?

Prior to starting the program, students must meet the following prerequisite requirements:

MS Students

MS students must have had course work in GIS with final grades of at least a "B." Students without course work who do have practical knowledge of GIS may submit examples to demonstrate proficiency.

GC Students

GC students must have had course work in GIS while getting grades of at least "B" in each course.

Do you accept international applicants?

Yes, the MS program is able to accept international students. International students are required to attend courses on campus in real time.

How long does it take to complete the Graduate Certificate?

Students can complete the Graduate Certificate in one year or less, usually taking one course per term.

How long does it take to complete the MS degree?

Students who study full-time (two courses per term) can finish the program in 15 months, while the part-time students (one course per term) finish in about two and a half years.

Learn more at **geospatial.umd.edu**