University of Maryland Master's in GIS & GEOINT

Frequently Asked Questions

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

GIS
- Curriculum is focused on Geospatial technology (GIS, remote sensing and computing), instead of on specific applications.
- Students become GIS developers, not just GIS users. Program focuses on enterprise GIS, emphasizing programming and app development (web, mobile, and online databases).
- Graduates can apply their knowledge and skills in a wide range of fields and sectors, from federal agencies to nonprofit organizations to private corporations.

GEOINT
- Curriculum is focused on providing a foundation for analyzing and understanding geospatial intelligence, especially as it relates to national security and related fields.
- Students utilize and develop geospatial data and methods about human activties on Earth to capture patterns and trends, understand risk, and provide decision support.
- GEOINT graduates work in GIS, imagery intelligence, socio-cultural intelligence, and artificial intelligence in addition to U.S. government or military agencies.

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

No. As an Esri Innovation Program (EIP), 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.

What calendar system does the MS/GC Program use?

Our program utilizes four 12-week terms on a year-round basis. 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. The 12-week courses are short but intensive, which allows students to achieve improved learning outcomes.

Does the MS/GC Program offer an online option?

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

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

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN
GEOSPATIAL INTELLIGENCE

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN
GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION SCIENCES

What are the admissions criteria?

To be admitted into the MS/GC 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)
- 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/GC program. However, applicants should meet the prerequisite requirements (listed to the right) before they begin the program.

Can I earn the Graduate Certificate on my way to getting my Master of Science degree?

Yes! You are able to complete and obtain the Graduate Certificate in either GIS or Remote Sensing and then apply for and pursue the Master's degree. The credits you earn from the Graduate Certificate will go towards the Master's degree.

What are the application deadlines?

Please check the specific program website for the most updated dates.
- Fall Priority Deadline: early May
- Fall Firm Deadline: late July
- Fall International Deadline for hybrid program: mid March

- Spring Priority Deadline: early December
- Spring Firm Deadline: early February

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.

What are prerequisite requirements?

Prior to starting the program, students must have GIS experience either through completing an Introduction to GIS course with at least a "B" OR having professional GIS experience as demonstrated on a resume. Those applicants who lack an introductory background in GIS should apply by the priority deadline to allow time to enroll in and complete the prerequisite course at UMD or another institution prior to the start of the term.

Do you accept international applicants?

Yes, the MS/GC program is able to accept international students. For international applicants seeking a UMD sponsored VISA, students must apply for the hybrid MS program for the Fall term only and are required to attend courses on campus.

How long does it take to complete the MS/GC Programs?

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

Are there differences in tuition for the online and in-person programs?

Tuition is the same rate for in-state, out of state and international students.

Tuition is also the same for our hybrid program and our online program. Mandatory fees are assessed according to location, delivery type, and term.