

Master of Science in GIScience and Geoinformatics



Admission Requirements

Applicants must meet regular admission requirements of the Western Illinois University School of Graduate Studies and have at least a cumulative GPA of 2.75 for all undergraduate coursework, or a GPA of 3.0 or higher for the last two years of undergraduate coursework, to be considered for a graduate assistantship. Students must have a working knowledge of the fundamentals of geospatial systems and geoenvironment. If deficiencies are identified, the graduate program coordinator will work with the student to address any additional coursework prior to starting the master's program or during the first semester in the program. The master's in GIScience and Geoenvironment is one of the integrated baccalaureate and master's degree programs on campus.

Degree Requirements

A minimum of 32 sh of graduate credit is required for the master's degree, 9 sh of which may be electives from outside the department. Completion of the GIScience and Geoenvironment master's program is contingent upon the fulfillment of specific course requirements and the completion of one of three degree options: (1) thesis, (2) applied project, or (3) professional plan. The thesis option (3 sh) seeks to answer a question relevant to an area of geographic inquiry. The applied project option (3 sh) is intended for students whose career aspirations are best served by gaining practical experience in the design and solution of a geographical, environmental, or planning problem and presentation of the results. Both options require a research proposal to be presented and the completed thesis/applied project to be defended to faculty and students. The

professional plan requires students to complete an internship and extended courses.

Career Opportunities

For more than 50 years, department graduates have pursued career paths in education, business and government. The growing demand for professionals with Geographic Information Science (GIScience) training has resulted in strong career opportunities for geographers with the ability to use geospatial technology to process, analyze and represent data in maps and images. Today, public and private organizations are turning to geography and GIScience to predict flood paths, analyze c(ocess, dTu 311.io to siMC ltuod pedn-US)/N

distinguished universities across the United States and are actively engaged in research published and presented in venues of national and international significance. Since 2010, department members have been awarded \$522,000 in highly competitive National Science Foundation grants, which have given students opportunities to conduct guided, hands-on scientific research. Faculty members have also been published in a wide range of peer-reviewed journals, individually and jointly with

Program Location:
Macomb

Contact Information

Questions about the program:
Department of Earth, Atmospheric,
and Geographic Information Sciences
Graduate Coordinator
(309) 298-1648
eagis@wiu.edu
wiu.edu/cas/eagis

General admission questions:
School of Graduate Studies
(309) 298-1806 or (877) WIU GRAD
Grad-Office@wiu.edu
wiu.edu/grad

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students. Given the global nature of geography, the department prides itself in its diversity and broad range of competencies.

G a d a e A i a h i

The department offers multiple graduate assistantships to accepted students, providing tuition waivers and monthly stipends in return for work under the supervision of faculty mentors. Applicants with GIS experience may have the opportunity to work in the GIS Center, where they can build strong portfolios working on real-world GIS projects. Graduate assistants are not required to teach, and all degree-seeking domestic and international students can apply. Multiple scholarships are