

SPATIAL DATA SCIENCE

Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-admissions/how-to-apply/>). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions Policies (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>).

The language of instruction at Penn State is English. English proficiency test scores (TOEFL/IELTS) may be required for international applicants. See GCAC-305 Admission Requirements for International Students (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/gcac-305-admission-requirements-international-students/>) for more information.

Additional requirements imposed by the Department of Geography include:

- Statement of professional experience and goals. A résumé should be attached as a supplement, but the statement itself should be an essay (two to three pages) that demonstrates the applicant's written communication skills and clarifies the applicant's objectives in completing the degree program;
- Two letters of recommendation that attest to the applicant's readiness for graduate study;
- Official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended (<http://www.gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/new-applicants/requirements-for-graduate-admission/>), including the institution that conferred the applicant's baccalaureate degree (and any graduate degrees, if applicable);
- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score, if applicable;
- Nonrefundable application fee.

Applications will be evaluated by the SDS Admissions Committee based on the applicants' technical qualifications for the program relative to their previous educational experience, academic interests, and English Language proficiency. In general, successful applicants are expected to have earned an undergraduate grade-point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Applicants with a marginal record are encouraged to first complete a related Graduate Certificate before applying for admission to the SDS program. Exemplary performance in the Graduate Certificate will be taken into consideration for possible admission into the SDS program, but completion of a certificate does not imply or guarantee admission into a degree program.

Credits earned at other institutions but not used to earn a degree may be applied toward the requirements for a graduate degree, subject to restrictions outlined in GCAC-309 Transfer Credit (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/gcac-309-transfer-credit/>).