The Postbaccalaureate Certificate Program in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) helps professionals in a variety of fields become knowledgeable and skillful users of geographic information systems. The program was designed specifically for experienced GIS practitioners who lack formal education in geography and GIS and wish to advance their careers, and for those who seek to make career changes. The program is offered through Penn State World Campus.

Students subsequently admitted to the Department of Geography Master of Geographic Information Systems degree program may count up to 15 credits of certificate program courses toward the M.G.I.S. degree, subject to restrictions outlined in GCAC-309 Transfer Credit. Certificate students who wish to have certificate courses applied towards a graduate degree in Geographic Information Systems must apply and be admitted to that degree program. Admission to the Geographic Information Systems graduate degree program is a separate step and is not guaranteed.

Effective Date: Fall 2017
Expiration Date: Fall 2022

Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission. Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions. International applicants may be required to satisfy an English proficiency requirement; see GCAC-305 Admission Requirements for International Students for more information.

Certificate Requirements

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in Graduate Council policy GCAC-212 Postbaccalaureate Credit Certificate Programs. Students earn the Postbaccalaureate Certificate by completing four instructor-led online courses — three required and one elective. Students who successfully complete the program earn 12 academic credits.