

# GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

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## 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 including documentation of a minimum two years of professional experience, preferably (but not necessarily) related to geographic information technologies. A résumé may be attached as a supplement, but the statement itself should be an essay (two to three pages) that demonstrates the applicant's verbal communication skills;
- Three letters of recommendation that attest to the applicant's readiness for graduate study and that he or she has the requisite minimum of two years of professional experience;
- Official transcripts from all post-secondary institution 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).
- Official Graduate Records Examinations (GRE) score reported directly from the testing center to Penn State. GRE scores are required; however, this requirement may be waived at the discretion of the program. Please contact the graduate program directly ([info@gis.psu.edu](mailto:info@gis.psu.edu)) for information on obtaining a waiver of the GRE requirement.

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. (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/transfer-credit/>)