

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - BS

The BS degree in Geographic Information Science and Technology (GIST) provides students a rigorous and modern-day education and training in GIST with applications in physical and human geography. Employers require problem solvers not button pushers, to address problems in various application domains. The degree requires 53 hours of course work, which is designed to:

- Provide modern-day exposure to the rapidly changing field of GIST
- Balance education and training with a focus on competency
- Provide application and problem-solving experiences
- Support student activities and research
- Provide students with professional experience
- Produce high-quality geographers with strong GIST knowledge and skills

Geospatial technology graduates are in extremely high demand and, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, are one of the highest growth areas in the federal government, particularly in homeland security activities, as well as in energy, software and engineering firms, biomedical and biohazard research, among many others. A 35% annual rate of growth in geospatial technology-related degrees are projected by the U.S. Department of Labor. Students have employment opportunities with the following corporate and government entities:

- Government agencies (federal, state, county, and city): management and planning of urban infrastructure, inventory and assessment of natural resources including agriculture, forestry, and water resources.
- Energy industry: assessing biofuel production and identifying locations suitable for renewable energy resources and mineral exploration.
- Health science industry: determine hotspots of health events and explore causes.
- Military and intelligence community: numerous opportunities exist in military branches and agencies such as the Central Intelligence Agency, National Security Agency, and other intelligence organizations.
- Commercial industries: business analytics and marketing, as spatial information can be used to target marketing campaigns, and suitable site assessment to locate companies.
- Geospatial industries: software development, geotechnical engineering, and technology development.

Program Requirements

First Year

Fall		Semester Credit Hours
GEOG 203 & GEOG 213	Planet Earth and Planet Earth Lab	4
GEOG 215	Geospatial Cornerstone	1
MATH 140	Mathematics for Business and Social Sciences	3

Life and physical sciences ¹		4
Select from the following:		
ATMO 201 & ATMO 202	Weather and Climate and Weather and Climate Laboratory	
BIOL 101	Botany	
BIOL 111	Introductory Biology I	
CHEM 119	Fundamentals of Chemistry I	
GEOG 101 & GEOG 102	Principles of Geology and Principles of Geology Laboratory	
PHYS 201	College Physics	
Communication (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#communication)		3

Semester Credit Hours 15

Spring		
GEOG 201	Introduction to Human Geography	3
MATH 142	Business Calculus	3
POLS 206	American National Government	3
Life and physical sciences ¹		4
Select from the following:		
BIOL 107	Zoology	
BIOL 112	Introductory Biology II	
CHEM 120	Fundamentals of Chemistry II	
GEOG 106	Historical Geology	
PHYS 202	College Physics	
OCNG 251 & OCNG 252	Oceanography and Oceanography Laboratory	
Communication (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#communication)		3

Semester Credit Hours 16

Second Year		
Fall		
GEOG 232	Cartography and Visualization	3
CSCE 110 or CSCE 111	Programming I or Introduction to Computer Science Concepts and Programming	4
POLS 207	State and Local Government	3
American history (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#american-history)		3
Social and behavioral sciences (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#social-behavioral-sciences)		3

Semester Credit Hours 16

Spring		
GEOG 352/ GEOG 352	GNSS in the Geosciences	3
STAT 303	Statistical Methods	3
American history (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#american-history)		3
Language, philosophy and culture (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#language-philosophy-culture)		3

Human or physical geography elective ²	3
Semester Credit Hours	15
Third Year	
Fall	
GEOG 361 Remote Sensing in Geosciences	4
GEOG 390 Principles of Geographic Information Systems	4
Creative arts (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#creative-arts)	3
General elective ³	3
Semester Credit Hours	14
Spring	
GEOG 312 Data Analysis in Geography	3
GIST techniques elective ⁴	4
General electives ³	8
Semester Credit Hours	15
Fourth Year	
Fall	
GEOG 450 Field Geography	3
GIST techniques elective ⁴	4
General electives ³	7
Semester Credit Hours	14
Spring	
GEOG 476 GIS Practicum	3
Advanced GIST elective ⁵	4
General electives ³	8
Semester Credit Hours	15
Total Semester Credit Hours	120

hours of International and Cultural Diversity (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/degree-information/international-cultural-diversity-requirements/>) and 3 hours of Cultural Discourse (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/degree-information/cultural-discourse-requirements/>) must be incorporated into the degree.

¹ 8 hours required. Department requires that you take two in the same discipline to meet this requirement.

² Select from GEOG 301, GEOG 304, GEOG 305, GEOG 306, GEOG 309, GEOG 311, GEOG 320, GEOG 323, GEOG 324, GEOG 325, GEOG 327, GEOG 330, GEOG 331, GEOG 335, GEOG 355, GEOG 360, GEOG 370/ MARS 370, GEOG 380, GEOG 400, GEOG 401, GEOG 404, GEOG 406, GEOG 420, GEOG 430, GEOG 434, GEOG 435, GEOG 440, GEOG 442/ GEOS 442, GEOG 467.

³ Select any courses from 100-499 not used elsewhere. (Except AERS 100-499 (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/aers/>); ASCC 100-499 (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/ascc/>); ENGL 103; KINE 198, KINE 199; MATH 102; MATH 142, MATH 150, MATH 151, MATH 168, MATH 171; MLSC 100-499 (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/mlsc/>); NVSC 100-499 (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/nvsc/>); SOMS 100-499 (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/soms/>); STAT 211, STAT 302, STAT 303).

⁴ Select from GEOG 391, GEOG 392, GEOG 398, GEOG 461, GEOG 475, GEOG 477, GEOG 478, GEOG 479.

⁵ Select from GEOG 461, GEOG 475, GEOG 479. A course used to fulfill this requirement cannot also be counted as fulfilling a GIST techniques elective.