



www.uwsp.edu/GIS

Geographic Information Systems Certificate Program



University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

College of Letters & Science

Department of Geography & Geology



What Is GIS?

Information about places, or geographic information, permeates our lives everyday. The six o'clock news uses maps to exhibit today's headlines. Our children take a safe route to school. We plan our next vacation. A medical doctor identifies the source of West Nile virus. A 911 operator dispatches an ambulance and fire trucks to a fire. Name any activity, object or event, no matter how simple or complex, and you will find that they are connected to a geographic location. A commonly accepted estimate is that **80 percent** of all information has a spatial or place-based component.

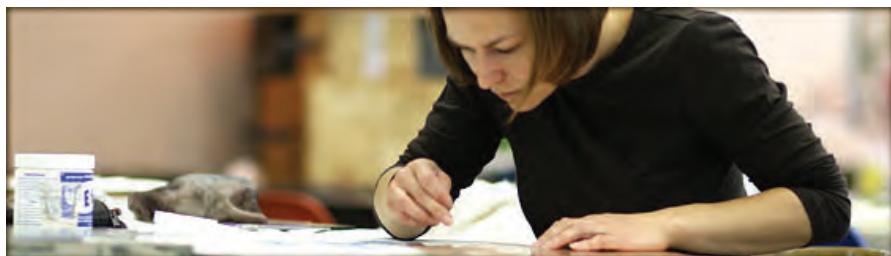
With that much spatial information it is important to understand the tools available to manage it – geographic information systems or GIS. GIS uses computer hardware and software to collect, maintain, analyze, visualize, and communicate spatial information. Whether you are a private citizen, a government employee or a businessperson, GIS is fundamental to helping utilize information efficiently and effectively.



Why Study GIS?

The U.S. Department of Labor recognizes geotechnology as one of the three most progressive professions today alongside nanotechnology and biotechnology. Over 500,000 professionals in fields ranging from environmental assessment to retail trade analysis are asked to use GIS in their jobs, with 50,000 using GIS full-time. GIS employment numbers are growing nationally at a rate of 15% per year and are anticipated to accelerate (U.S. Department of Labor).

In 2010, *Money Magazine* and *PayScale.com* listed geographic information system analyst on its list of the "Top 100 Best Jobs in America."





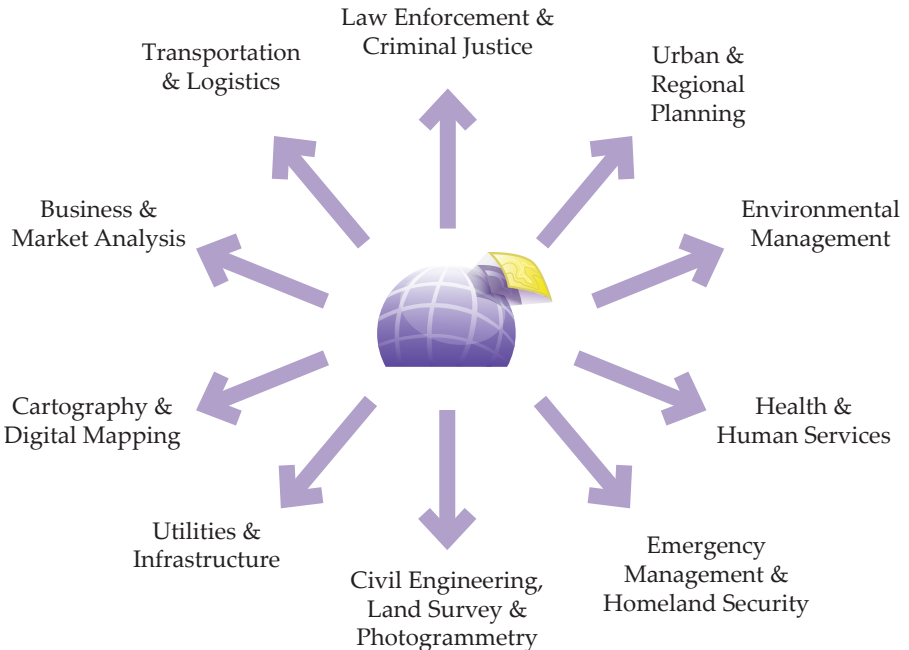
Careers in GIS

GIS is a multidisciplinary technology that has applications in many different professional fields. GIS specialists provide critical decision-support to help solve geospatial problems and address sophisticated place-based questions. University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point GIS graduates have advanced into a wide array of careers that include:

- GIS analysts and coordinators
- Land information officers and directors
- Registered land surveyors
- Photogrammetry technicians
- Route inventory and transportation coordinators
- Emergency managers
- Land and natural resources planners
- GIS systems engineers



Where Could GIS Take You?



GIS Certificate Program



The 18-credit (one-year) certificate program embraces the need to expand the use of technology by offering training accessible to:

- College undergraduate and graduate students,
- Associate or technical students,
- Professionals in the field, and
- Others interested in continuing their education or changing careers.

Learners have the option to earn a Professional GIS Certificate or one of several focal area certificates.

Professional GIS Certificate

The Professional GIS Certificate is designed for students that desire flexibility in selecting GIS coursework that fits their specific interest areas. All GIS courses are available to students enrolled in this certificate option.

Focal Area GIS Certificates

Focal GIS Certificates are designed for students that desire to concentrate on GIS coursework suited to a particular professional field or application area. Focal certificates include:

GIS Certificate in Cartography

Maps help us to effectively represent the world around us and communicate our place-centric ideas to others in ways that speech, writing, and numbers can't. A GIS Focal Certificate in Cartography will help learners to efficiently and effectively manipulate, analyze, and express spatial ideas, forms, patterns, and trends.

**Want more information? Call us at (715) 346-4788
or e-mail gis@uwsp.edu**

GIS Certificate in Emergency Management

Emergencies and disasters are geographic events and require geographic information. GIS tools and skills are critical to facilitate preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. A GIS Focal Certificate in Emergency Management will help students prepare, respond, and facilitate recovery for various emergency and disaster situations.

GIS Certificate in Environmental Management

Increasing populations on a static-sized planet equates to higher demand for scarce environmental resources. Well-informed solutions are mandatory that consider both environmental opportunities and threats. A GIS Focal Certificate in Environmental Management will equip learners with the tools and skills needed to manage scarce environmental resources at local, regional, and global scales.

GIS Certificate in Forestry

Professional foresters have long considered how to balance forest resource objectives and constraints in the context of economics, productivity, and ecological sustainability. Today, foresters are further challenged by complex regulations and increased pressures on limited resources. A GIS Focal Certificate in Forestry will help learners effectively utilize GIS and GPS best practices for integrated forest management.

GIS Certificate in Programming and Web Development

Modern computing tools and programming provides endless opportunity to customize the GIS interface in ways that are user friendly and help us share information globally. A GIS Focal Certificate in Programming and Web Development will expose learners to an array of programming functionality and web development platforms. Learners will augment their ability to use and share content-rich geographic information.

GIS Certificate in Urban and Regional Planning

The complex systems of and the interrelationships between the human and natural environments require better understanding to support well-informed decision-making, planning, and management. A GIS Focal Certificate in Urban and Regional Planning will help learners maximize the utility of GIS to:

- Analyze relationships among human populations, natural resources, and other land patterns and trends,
- Allocate limited and competing resources efficiently and equitably,
- Evaluate the consequences of decisions prior to implementation,
- Monitor progress toward reaching community goals and objectives, and
- Engage the public in the decision-making process.

Register for courses at www.uwsp.edu/conted/credit

For course registration questions call 1-800-898-9472

Program Benefits



Professional Credibility

Earning your GIS Certificate makes a statement. It demonstrates your commitment toward the GIS profession and proficiency in geospatial technology obtained from a world-class institution. The GIS Certificate is prominently displayed on University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Official Transcripts.



Rapidly Build Robust GIS Skills

Each 18-credit certificate option is designed for learners to complete within one year. Whether you're starting a career, changing professions, or augmenting existing skills and credentials, you can become a competent GIS professional quickly at UW-Stevens Point.

Academic Laddering

Make your credits work for you. Should you decide to continue your education, the credits you earn through the GIS Certificate Program can be applied to the university's degree-granting programs.



Additional Benefits

Once enrolled in the GIS Certificate Program, you have access to the significant academic and technological resources of the university's GIS Center. Additional benefits include:

- Eligibility for scholarships and awards
- Career services
- Internship opportunities and field experiences
- Attendance at professional conferences

Declare a GIS Certificate Option



Two Convenient Ways to Declare a GIS Certificate

1) By Mail

Complete this form and mail to:

UWSP GIS Center
2001 Fourth Avenue
Science Building
Stevens Point, WI 54481

2) By Fax

Complete this form and fax to:

(715) 346-3372

Indicate the certificate option(s) you are pursuing:

- Undecided
- Professional Certificate
- Focal Certificate in
 - Cartography
 - Emergency Management
 - Environmental Management
 - Forestry
 - Programming and Web Development
 - Urban and Regional Planning

Name (F/MI/L): _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone() _____ Fax () _____

E-mail: _____

Special needs, specify: _____

I am a UWSP Student: yes - undergraduate yes - graduate no

Major(s): _____

Minor(s): _____

In the Department of: _____

My UWSP ID# is: _____

I am a former graduate of UWSP: yes no

Major: _____

I am a professional:

Title/Organization: _____

I have received information pertaining to the GIS Certificate Program and am responsible for this information and information printed in UWSP Catalog and UWSP Continuing Education Registration. Consult with your GIS Center Advisor before enrolling in courses.

Your Signature Here

Tear Here



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