



PROFESSIONAL SCIENCE MASTER'S IN GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

PSM in GIS 4+1 Frequently Asked Questions

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Application Materials:

What will I need to do in order to apply?

Undergraduate application into the 4+1

A complete application consists of several parts:

Step 1: Make sure you meet the following criteria

- Cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher
- Completed 60 credits or will have 60 credits when courses in progress are completed
- Passed both GUS/ENST 3062: Fundamentals of GIS **and** GUS/ENST 3161: Spatial Statistics (or cognate) with a B or higher

Step 2: Meet with an advisor

- Meet with an advisor **in your primary college** to confirm that you can use up to 12 graduate-level credits toward graduation Approval should be emailed to gusadmissions@temple.edu.

Step 3:

- Two letters of recommendation from faculty (GIS and statistics instructors recommended)
- Statement of Goals (500-1,000 words)

Application Deadline:

- Fall Admission: April 15
- Spring Admission: Dec. 1

Graduate application to the PSM in GIS during senior year:

4+1 students must formally apply to the PSM in GIS during their senior year. They should apply for the semester following their graduation (Fall, Spring, or Summer entry). Applicants must submit the application, all supplemental materials and pay the deposit. The application is online and progress can be tracked in TUPortal. Requirements include:

- Online application: [reference reports](https://prd-wlssb.temple.edu/prod8/bwskalog.P_Dis>LoginNon• Official transcripts from all schools attended including Temple and all transfer documents. We can accept electronic transcripts sent from a school's registrar to our Administrator.• 3 Letters of recommendation or <a href=) from faculty who can speak to your individual strengths and interests. If appropriate, two letters can be reused from your 4+1 application. GIS and Statistics faculty recommended.
- Resume

Standardized tests:

- TOEFL: 88iBT or 575 PBT (international students only)
 - International students awarded a Bachelor's degree from Temple University will not have to take the TOEFL
- No GRE requirement

Application Specifics:

Q: Where should I send my supplementary application materials?

Application materials should be emailed to GUSAdmissions@temple.edu or delivered in person to the Admissions Coordinator.

Q: Who should I ask to write my letters of recommendation?

Your letters of recommendation come from faculty who can speak your strengths as a student. 4+1 students are encouraged to send letters from GIS and Statistics faculty.

Q: Is there a GPA requirement in order to be considered for admission?

Yes, you must have 3.25 GPA

Q: Is there any prerequisite coursework?

Yes, you must have completed GUS/ENST 3062: Fundamentals of GIS and GUS/ENST 3161: Spatial Statistics (or cognate) with a B or higher, including courses that were transferred in to Temple. Email psmgis@temple.edu with questions about approved stats cognates.

Q: What is the difference between a PSM and an MA/MS degree?

A Professional Science Master's is different from an MA or MS because it is specifically geared toward professional development and placement. We are affiliated with National Professional Science Master's Association, and have integrated certain curricular components to achieve that affiliation including coursework on business ethics and professional development, a hands-on capstone experience, and the creation of an advisory board of professionals in the field. The goal of the Professional Science Master's is to provide advanced technical training that is gearing students toward the job market, rather than toward academia.

Important Dates:

Q: When are applications to apply for the 4+1?

Applications are due April 15 for consideration for Fall admission. Applications are due December 1 for consideration for Spring admission.

Q: When are applications due for the +1 year?

Applications are due November 1 for consideration for Spring admission. Applications are due April 15 for consideration for Summer admission. Applications are due March 1 for consideration for Fall admission, but are reviewed on a rolling basis after the March 1st deadline. Students graduating in May will have the option to apply for Summer or Fall entry for the +1 year.

Coursework:

Q: What coursework is required for the Professional Science Master's in GIS?

The PSM in GIS consists of 10 classes, six required courses and four electives, for a total of 30 credits. The six required courses are in spatial database design, application development, advanced statistics, technical cartography, ethics and professional practice, and a hands-on capstone experience. 4+1 students can complete up to four graduate courses during their Bachelor's degree that will count toward the PSM in GIS in their plus 1 year.

Q: Where, and when, are these courses offered?

All courses are taught in the evening on Temple University Main Campus.

Q: What kinds of electives do you offer?

We offer a wide range of electives, including remote sensing, geovisualization, web mapping and map servers, and topical electives such as urban or environmental applications of GIS, or GIS for health data analysis. Students in the 4+1 may not retake a course at the graduate level that they have already completed at the undergraduate level (e.g. a student who has taken GUS 4065: Urban GIS may not take GUS 5065: Urban GIS)

Q: What will I have to take in the +1 year?

The number of courses required in the +1 year will depend on the number of graduate credits completed during the bachelor's degree. A student who has taken four graduate courses during their bachelor's will have to take six classes in their +1 year (e.g. two in Fall, two in Spring and two in Summer).

We currently offer two required courses for the PSM in GIS during the summer session. Students starting the 4+1 have the option to take these electives the summer immediately following graduation or the following year.

Capstone:

Q: Will the PSM in GIS program help me find a capstone placement?

Yes! We work with students in the final semesters to place them into a capstone that fits their interest. Students should discuss their interests with the program's Assistant Director.

Q: I did an undergrad internship. Do I still need to fulfill the capstone requirement?

Yes! All students are required to complete the capstone experience. Should a student start a GIS job during the +1 year, they will have the option to identify a capstone project with their employer. The capstone project should be discussed with the program's Assistant Director and the student's supervisor.

Tuition and Financing:

Q: How expensive is tuition?

One of Temple University's greatest strengths is our ability to give you the best possible education for a reasonable price. For the 2017-18 academic year, graduate tuition is \$898 per credit-hour for in-state graduate students, and \$1,231 for out of state graduate students. PSM in GIS courses are three credit hours each. To calculate the estimated cost, Temple has a tuition estimator available through the Bursar.

<https://bursar.temple.edu/tuition-and-fees/tuition-rates>

Select College Graduate > Pennsylvania or Out-of-State/International > College of Liberal Arts > Graduate > Number of credits (3 per course).

Q: Are there grants or scholarships for the PSM in GIS?

At this time, we regret to say that we do not have scholarships or other assistantships for the PSM in GIS. We do try to share open positions with our students in the program, as we hear about them. However, the cost of our program is very competitive when compared to that of other similar degrees in the region. If you are interested, you can find information about academic aid at:

<http://sfs.temple.edu/>

Academic Support and Advising:

Q: How should I decide which courses to take?

PSM in GIS Assistant Director advises all graduate and 4+1 students. Students should meet with him to discuss their program requirements and goals. +1 students will have to be manually enrolled in graduate-level classes by a staff or CLA advisor.

Q: How can I get all the software needed for this program?

All PSM in GIS students are issued a personal laptop that comes with much of the necessary software already installed. Students in the 4+1 will be issued laptops for individual semesters, if they are enrolled in classes that are not taught in a lab and require a laptop to participate each week. One a 4+1 student is enrolled in the +1 year, they will be issued a laptop for duration of the program. Temple University has purchased the licenses for the required proprietary software, and many courses also use open source programs. When they complete the program, the returned laptops will be wiped clean and reused for the next cohort. Additionally, CLA IT provides technical support for these laptops.

Q: Is there space to work with fellow students in the program?

Yes! Students will have keycard access to our GIS studio and conference room, located on the 1st floor of Gladfelter Hall. This is a space where students can work independently or in groups with no

interruption from classes. Students are also welcome to use the 3rd floor common space in the GUS/ES Student Lounge.

International Students:

Information about applying to Temple as an international graduate student can be found at:
<http://bulletin.temple.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#te>

Contact us!

The PSM in GIS Program

e-mail: psmgis@temple.edu
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