Master of Science in Geospatial Information Sciences (GIS)

The Master of Science in geospatial information sciences is a program offered jointly by the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences and the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. The first track is professional in nature and allows students to earn a non-thesis degree in 21 months. The second track is a classic thesis-based masters program that prepares students for a doctoral program.

The program provides students a rigorous understanding of the technologies, quantitative techniques, models and theories used to acquire and manage spatially referenced information and to analyze spatial processes.

Program Description
The program focuses on the use of geographical information systems, which combine software and hardware capabilities for managing spatially referenced information, and quantitative spatial data analysis techniques. Students are provided with the concepts underlying GIS, the skills for implementing GIS projects and the ability to use GIS in pure or applied research in substantive areas.

Students must complete 30 credit hours of coursework with at least a 3.0 grade point average to earn a Master of Science in geospatial information sciences.

This includes:
- Nine hours of required base courses
- Nine hours of required core courses
- Three hours of a research project requirement
- Nine hours of prescribed elective courses

Career Paths
Graduates of the program can apply their skills in multiple areas including public administration and policy analysis; public safety, criminology, and emergency preparedness management; environmental management; public works management; urban, regional, social service and transportation planning and analysis; private sector business, especially marketing, site selection and logistics; geophysical exploration, including petroleum; and real estate.

Admission Requirements
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score of at least 1000 or equivalent score on Graduate Management Aptitude Test (GMAT)
- Baccalaureate degree from an accredited university
- 3.0 undergraduate grade point average
- University’s graduate application form
- Three letters of recommendation
- Personal statement outlining background and educational and professional objectives

School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences (EPPS)

Every new generation inherits a world more complex than that of their forefathers, which prompts a need for new thinking about public policies that impact people’s daily lives. While our colleagues in the School of Management or the Jonsson School of Engineering are creating new managerial or technological systems, we in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences (EPPS) examine the implications of innovation and change for individuals and communities.

As an undergraduate in EPPS, you will have the chance to work with professors who are probing issues that will affect your future. You will develop the vital skills you need to thrive in a rapidly evolving, highly competitive job market. EPPS will prepare you for careers in government, non-profits and the private sector that enable you to make a real difference in the world of today and tomorrow.

Consider the following example of exciting work under way in EPPS. One of the most complex issues of our time is undoubtedly the question of how to improve public education. You hear rival opinions everywhere about the right way to
fix our educational system. But researchers from a variety of disciplines within EPPS are working collaboratively to examine the hard data and measure efficiency, and their research could lead to improvements in educational practice and improve our children’s ability to compete in a dynamic society.

EPPS is at the forefront of leadership, ethics and innovation in the public and nonprofit sectors. Our students and faculty look forward to new opportunities to study and address the complex and evolving issues of the future.

Research informs much of the instruction. The school has eight centers of excellence:

- Center for Behavioral and Experimental Economic Science
- Center for Crime and Justice Studies
- Center for Global Collective Action
- Center for the Study of Texas Politics
- Institute of Public Affairs
- Institute for Urban Policy Research
- Texas Schools Project
- The Negotiations Center

**Degrees Offered**

**Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts:** Criminology, economics, geography, geospatial information sciences, international political economy, public affairs, political science, sociology

**Master of Science:** Criminology, economics, geospatial information sciences, international political economy, applied sociology, justice administration and leadership

**Master of Arts:** Political science, political science-constitutional law, political science-legislative studies

**Master of Public Affairs:** Public affairs

**Master of Public Policy:** Public policy

**Doctor of Philosophy:** Criminology, economics, geospatial information sciences, public affairs, public policy and political economy, political science

**Certificates**

The certificates offered through EPPS are:

- Geographic Information Systems (GISc): a 15-hour graduate-level certificate focusing on the application of GIS in government, private sector and scientific areas, which can be completed in one year of part-time evening classes.

- Remote Sensing: a 15-hour for-credit graduate certificate focusing on remote sensing and digital image processing, which can be completed in one year of part-time evening study.

- Geospatial Intelligence: a 15-hour graduate certificate focusing on the application of geospatial ideas and techniques to national security and other intelligence activity.

- Public Affairs: 15-hour graduate-level certificates in homeland security, local government management, city planning and nonprofit management.

**Contact Information**

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