Integration of Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Geographic Information Science (BS) and GIScience and Geoenvironment (MS)

Admission Requirements
- The applicant should apply to the Western Illinois University School of Graduate Studies for admission to an integrated program in GIScience and Geoenvironment.
- The applicant must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 and a major GPA of 3.25, or a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 with a minimum 3.3 GPA in the last 30 s.h. taken at WIU.
- The applicant should provide a personal statement of purpose and request three letters of recommendation if applying for a graduate assistantship.
- Official transcripts will be obtained from the applicant’s WIU record by the School of Graduate Studies.

Degree Requirements
The integrated degree program offers three degree options: (1) thesis, (2) applied project, or (3) professional plan. The thesis option (3 s.h.) seeks to answer a question relevant to an area of geographic inquiry. The applied project option (3 s.h.) is intended for students whose career aspirations are best served by gaining practical experience in the design and solution of a geographical or planning problem and presentation of the results. Both options require a research proposal to be presented and the completed thesis/applied project to be defended to faculty and students. The professional plan requires students to complete an internship (3 s.h.) and extended courses. The minimum required hours are 32 to 36 s.h.
- The thesis option consists of 3 s.h. of thesis research (GEOG 698) and 14 s.h. of directed electives.
- The applied project consists of 3 s.h. of practical experience (GEOG 697) and 14 s.h. of directed electives.
- The professional plan consists of 3 s.h. of internship (GEOG 596 or 597) and 18 s.h. of directed electives.

Undergraduate students will be required to complete 120 s.h. of coursework. As part of the integrated master’s degree program, students may take up to 9 s.h. as “bridge” courses, which count toward both the bachelor’s and master’s degrees. A student must be a senior and accepted into the integrated program before taking bridge courses.

Career Opportunities
GIScience students have marketable skills and broad perspectives on the environment and society that enable them to pursue a wide variety of career paths. A growing number of industries and organizations are turning to geography and GIScience to predict flood paths, analyze crop planting sites, identify locations for retail expansion and much more. As a result, the employment outlook for geographers—especially those with training in GIS, remote sensing and other geospatial technologies—is positive. Potential career paths include:
- Digital Cartography
- Disaster Response
- Natural Resource Management
- Urban Planning
- International Business
- Transportation, Land Use and Tourism Planning
- Economic Development
- Market Research
- Public Health Planning

Contact Information
Questions about the program:
Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Geographic Information Sciences Graduate Coordinator
(309) 298-1648
eagis@wiu.edu
wiu.edu/cas/eagis

General admission questions:
School of Graduate Studies
(309) 298-1806 or (877) WIU GRAD
Grad-Office@wiu.edu
wiu.edu/grad

Western Illinois University
**Integrated Degree Course Requirements**

Students must complete a minimum of 120 s.h. of credits to meet the BS degree requirements, including the following:

**University General Education Requirements** ................................................................................. 55 s.h.

**Undergraduate Core Courses** ........................................................................................................ 15 s.h.
GEOG 301, 405†; GIS 202, 309, 405

**Options of Study (select A or B)**

**A. Geospatial Science**
1. Complete the following: GIS 108#, 402, 403, 404, 410 .... 16 s.h.
2. Choose 407 or 408 ................................................................. 3 s.h.
3. Choose two from the following: GEOG 426, 430, 440, 445, 497, 499 ................................................................. 6 s.h.
4. Choose two from the following: CS 114#, CS 214; GIS 201, 407 or 408 ................................................................. 6 s.h.
5. Any Minor ......................................................................................... 16 s.h.
6. Open Electives .................................................................................. 3 s.h.

**B. Geoenvironment and Planning**
1. Choose one of the following: GEOG 100# or 110# ................. 3 s.h.
2. Choose one of the following: GEOG 121 or METR 120 .......... 4 s.h.
3. Choose seven courses (200 level and above) from the Human group and/or Physical group ................................. 21 s.h.
4. Choose one from the Geospatial group ........................................ 3 s.h.
5. Any Minor ......................................................................................... 16 s.h.
6. Open Electives .................................................................................. 3 s.h.

**Graduate Core Courses** .................................................................................................................. 15 s.h.
GEOG 505 Research Methods I ....................................................... 3 s.h.
GIS 405 Advanced GIS Analysis ..................................................... 3 s.h.
GIS 509 Fundamentals of GIS Analysis ........................................... 3 s.h.
GIS 511 Examination of GIS Data .................................................... 3 s.h.
One graduate seminar (GEOG 610, 630, 650) ................................ 3 s.h.

Select one of the following exit options ........................................... 17-21 s.h.

**A. Thesis**
GEOG 698 Thesis ......................................................................................... 3 s.h.
Directed Electives (includes up to 9 s.h. of bridge courses) .................. 14 s.h.

**B. Applied Project**
GEOG 697 Applied Project ................................................................. 3 s.h.
Directed Electives (includes up to 9 s.h. of bridge courses) .................. 14 s.h.

**C. Professional Plan**
Internship (GEOG 596 or 597) ............................................................ 3 s.h.
Directed Electives (includes up to 9 s.h. of bridge courses) .................. 18 s.h.

**Total Program** ............................................................................................................................... 32-36 s.h.