Students who complete Western Michigan University’s Geographic Information Science graduate certificate will be able to:

- Collect, assemble, organize, and manipulate spatial data using Geographic Information System (GIS) software;
- Analyze and interpret patterns and trends in spatial data to aid decision-making; and
- Use GIS and image analysis software to model, design, and analyze geographic problems and produce professional cartographic products such as maps and charts to aid solutions of those problems.

Students must complete a total of 18-19 credit hours, including course work in GIS, remote sensing, spatial analysis, and surveying.

The certificate can be completed in as little as 10 months (September - June).

Western Michigan University’s Department of Geography is the 2nd largest department of geography in Michigan, and ranked 9th among the 89 institutions in the United States that award M.A. theses-based degrees in geography.

Facilities include state-of-the-art hardware and software in 6 computer labs to support GIS, community and regional planning, remote sensing, physical geography and meteorology.
Geographic Information Science (Certificate)

Teaching, Research, and Program Focus Areas
Research in WMU’s Department of Geography emphasizes application geographic techniques and community planning to environmental problems at every scale. Much of our research is international and interdisciplinary in nature.

The students who pursue the GIS certificate are quite diverse, ranging from M.A. Geography students to current graduate students in anthropology, biology, urban planning, business, and engineering, as well as non-traditional students returning to enhance their marketable skills.

Admissions
To apply for admission to the GIS Certificate Program, an on-line application must be completed, as found at: wmich.edu/apply/graduate

Although Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores are not required, official transcripts from all undergraduate institutions, including the institution that granted the baccalaureate degree must be sent to WMU.

Graduate Assistantships/Associateships
WMU graduate assistantships are generally not available for certificates, but depending on advisor approval, courses taken toward the GIS certificate may be applied to master’s or Ph.D. level plans of study.

Contacts
Dr. Charles Emerson, Associate Professor and Certificate Advisor charles.emerson@wmich.edu

Department of Geography
(269) 387-3410

Western Michigan University
One of the top-100 public universities in the United States, Western Michigan University offers many nationally known graduate programs, including 29 doctoral and 64 master’s degrees. More than 20 percent of its 25,000 students are enrolled in graduate course work.

Kalamazoo
With a population of more than 325,000, Kalamazoo is the sixth largest metropolitan area in Michigan and among the 150 largest in the country. Kalamazoo is rated one of the 25 best cities in the country for young college graduates, and is located midway between Chicago and Detroit.

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