

## The Accelerated Admissions Process for Applying to the MGIS Degree

Applicants to the MGIS Program qualify for the [Accelerated Admissions](#) process by earning at least a 3.67 GPA in their first three Certificate program courses. If you're not sure if you qualify, drop us a line at [info@gis.psu.edu](mailto:info@gis.psu.edu) so that we can help explore your options.

1. Visit <http://gradschool.psu.edu/apply/> to begin your MGIS Degree application. Use the choices shown below to select the MGIS degree. Make sure you choose the correct Semester – it should be a term that has not begun yet (e.g. Fall 2018 if you're filling it out in Summer 2018).

The screenshot shows the Penn State Graduate School Application interface. The header includes the Penn State logo, the text "PennState The Graduate School", and a "LOGOUT" button. Below the header is a blue bar with "Graduate School Application". The main content area is titled "Select Admission Type" and includes a sidebar with "APPLICATION STEPS" and "INFORMATION". The "ENROLLMENT TYPE" section has a dropdown menu set to "Degree Admission". The "CAMPUS, MAJOR, DEGREE & SEMESTER" section has dropdown menus for "Campus" (World Campus), "Major" (Geographic Information Systems), "Degree" (Master of Geographic Information Systems (MGIS)), and "Semester" (Fall 2018). The "FOREIGN STUDENT, INTEGRATED, OR JOINT DEGREE PROGRAMS" section has two unchecked checkboxes. A green "SAVE AND CONTINUE" button is visible. A footer contains navigation links and social media icons.

**PennState**  
The Graduate School

LOGOUT

Graduate School Application

HOME

**APPLICATION STEPS**

- Select Admission Type
- Biographical Information
- Contact Information
- Citizenship
- Education
- Test Scores
- Coursework...
- Scholarships, Awards...
- References
- Work & U.S. Military
- Additional Information
- Program-Specific Questions

**ENROLLMENT TYPE**

*Degree Admission examples: Master's or Doctoral Degree, Integrated Undergraduate/Graduate Degree, Joint Medical/Graduate Degree, Joint Law/Graduate Degree, Level I Teacher/Administrative Certification for PA Educators, Provisional No Time Limit Exchange Status. Degree Admission application fee: \$65*

Please SELECT the appropriate choice below:

Enrollment Type\* Degree Admission

**CAMPUS, MAJOR, DEGREE & SEMESTER**

Campus\* World Campus

Major\* Geographic Information Systems

Degree\* Master of Geographic Information Systems (MGIS)

Options I don't want to choose an option at this time

Semester\* Fall 2018

**FOREIGN STUDENT, INTEGRATED, OR JOINT DEGREE PROGRAMS**

- I am participating in a cooperative, exchange, or other specialized foreign student program.
- I am applying to an [Integrated Undergraduate/Graduate](#) (IUG) program, or joint degree program, for example, [J.D./M.B.A.](#) or [M.D./Ph.D.](#)

SAVE AND CONTINUE

A checkmark on the left-hand menu indicates a completed section. You may edit any section even after it is completed, as long as the application has not been submitted.

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2. Click "Save and Continue" and provide the required Biographical, Contact, Citizenship, and Education information on the subsequent pages.

3. For Test Scores leave the fields blank, since you are applying for Accelerated Admission which does not require test scores.

4. You may provide Coursework and Scholarships/Awards information if you choose to do so, but it is not required.

5. For the References page you are not required to provide references for the Accelerated Admissions path. The Penn State Application requires this page to come up but you can leave it completely blank and continue.

6. Continue onward, completing the Work & U.S. Military and Additional Information pages.

7. On the Program-Specific Questions page you will need to submit the following:

1. **Statement of Professional Experience and Goals** –The professional statement is a 1-2 page statement where you can highlight your strengths, achievements and career aspirations. As you highlight your achievements and aspirations also think about what you hope to gain from taking part in the MGIS program. Are there specific courses that you want to take that will enable you to achieve your goals? As part of the MGIS program you will have to develop your own capstone project. Although the topic may change as you learn new things, tell us about a capstone project you would like to tackle. Your resume may be used as a supplement, but the essay itself should demonstrate your verbal communication skills.
2. **Resume** – 4 pages maximum.

8. Make sure you select “YES” from the “Are you applying for Accelerated Admission?” question.

The screenshot shows the Penn State Graduate School application portal. The page title is "Program-Specific Questions". On the left is a navigation menu with "APPLICATION STEPS" and "INFORMATION". The "APPLICATION STEPS" section includes: Select Admission Type (checked), Biographical Information (checked), Contact Information (checked), Citizenship (checked), Education (checked), Test Scores (checked), Coursework... (checked), Scholarships, Awards... (checked), References (checked), Work & U.S. Military (checked), Additional Information (checked), Program-Specific Questions (highlighted), Check for Completeness (warning icon), Review & Print Application, and Submit Application. The "INFORMATION" section includes: Admissions Information, FAQs, Application Features, Accessibility Help, The Graduate School List of Graduate Programs, and Log Out. The main content area is titled "GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS" and contains "Important Instructions" and a link to "graduate program's application requirements". Below this is a "DOCUMENTS" table with columns: Document, Required?, Status, Action, and Last Activity. The table lists "Statement of Professional Experience and Goals" and "Resume", both marked as "Required?". A "SAVE AND CONTINUE" button is visible. Below the button is a question: "Are you applying for Accelerated Admission to the MGIS program? To qualify you must have earned at least a 3.67 GPA after taking three classes in an online Geospatial Education Certificate Program at Penn State." with a "YES" dropdown menu. A note at the bottom states: "A checkmark on the left-hand menu indicates a completed section. You may edit any section even after it is completed, as long as the application has not been submitted."

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LOGOUT

Graduate School Application to Change Major

HOME

**APPLICATION STEPS**

- Select Admission Type
- Biographical Information
- Contact Information
- Citizenship
- Education
- Test Scores
- Coursework...
- Scholarships, Awards...
- References
- Work & U.S. Military
- Additional Information
- Program-Specific Questions
- Check for Completeness
- Review & Print Application
- Submit Application

**INFORMATION**

- Admissions Information
- FAQs
- Application Features
- Accessibility Help
- The Graduate School List of Graduate Programs
- Log Out

**Program-Specific Questions**

**GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

**Important Instructions:** You may submit your application after you complete the questions below and can return later to upload any documents that were not uploaded prior to submission of your application.

If you are unsure of your [graduate program's application requirements](#), please review the requirements and return to the application.

**DOCUMENTS**

Requested by your program

Document	Required?	Status	Action	Last Activity
Statement of Professional Experience and Goals	Yes		Upload Document	
Resume	Yes		Upload Document	

**PROGRAM-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS**

Are you applying for Accelerated Admission to the MGIS program? To qualify you must have earned at least a 3.67 GPA after taking three classes in an online Geospatial Education Certificate Program at Penn State.

YES

**SAVE AND CONTINUE**

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8. That's it – once you've submitted the application you're good to go.

If you have any questions along the way, or want to check on the status of your application, contact us at [info@gis.psu.edu](mailto:info@gis.psu.edu) for help.