

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 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. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Penn State logo, the text "PennState The Graduate School", and a "LOGOUT" button. Below this is a blue banner with the text "Graduate School Application".

The main content area is titled "Select Admission Type" and includes a sidebar on the left with "APPLICATION STEPS". The sidebar has a green checkmark next to "Select Admission Type" and a yellow warning icon next to "Check for Completeness".

The "ENROLLMENT TYPE" section has a dropdown menu for "Enrollment Type" set to "Degree Admission". Below this is the "CAMPUS, MAJOR, DEGREE & SEMESTER" section with dropdown menus for "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), and "Semester" (Fall 2018).

The "FOREIGN STUDENT, INTEGRATED, OR JOINT DEGREE PROGRAMS" section has two checkboxes, both of which are unchecked. A green "SAVE AND CONTINUE" button is located below this section.

At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with "Privacy & Legal", "Accessibility", "Copyright", "Hotlines", "Site Index", "The Graduate School", and "©2018 The Graduate School at Penn State". There are also social media icons for Facebook and LinkedIn.

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 header includes the Penn State logo, the text 'Penn State The Graduate School', and a 'LOGOUT' button. Below the header is a blue navigation bar with the text 'Graduate School Application to Change Major'. The main content area is titled 'Program-Specific Questions' and is divided into several sections:

- APPLICATION STEPS:** A vertical list of steps with checkmarks indicating completion. The steps are: Select Admission Type, Biographical Information, Contact Information, Citizenship, Education, Test Scores, Coursework..., Scholarships, Awards..., References, Work & U.S. Military, and Additional Information. The 'Program-Specific Questions' step is currently active and highlighted.
- GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS:** A section with 'Important Instructions' and a link to 'graduate program's application requirements'.
- DOCUMENTS:** A table titled 'Requested by your program' with columns for Document, Required?, Status, Action, and Last Activity. The table lists 'Statement of Professional Experience and Goals' and 'Resume', both marked as 'Required? Yes' and with 'Upload Document' buttons in the Action column.
- PROGRAM-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS:** A section with 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.' Below the question is a dropdown menu with 'YES' selected.

At the bottom of the main content area is a green button labeled 'SAVE AND CONTINUE'. Below this button is a note: '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.'

The footer of the page contains links for 'Privacy & Legal', 'Accessibility', 'Copyright', 'Hotlines', 'Site Index', and 'The Graduate School'. It also includes the copyright notice '©2018 The Graduate School at Penn State' and social media links for Facebook and LinkedIn.

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 for help.