

The Accelerated Admissions Process for Applying to the MS in Spatial Data Science Degree

Applicants to the MS SDS 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 MS SDS 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 2021 if you're filling it out in Summer 2021).

The screenshot shows the 'Graduate School Application' page for Penn State The Graduate School. The user is logged in as Anthony Robinson. The page title is 'Select Admission Type'. The left sidebar shows the 'APPLICATION STEPS' with 'Select Admission Type' marked as completed. The main content area has three sections: 'ENROLLMENT TYPE' with a dropdown for 'Degree Admission'; 'CAMPUS, MAJOR, DEGREE & SEMESTER' with dropdowns for 'World Campus', 'Spatial Data Science', 'Master of Science (MS)', and 'Fall 2020'; and 'FOREIGN STUDENT, INTEGRATED, OR JOINT DEGREE PROGRAMS' with two unchecked checkboxes. A green 'SAVE AND CONTINUE' button is visible. The footer contains navigation links and social media icons.

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. This program does not require GRE 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 MS SDS program. Are there specific courses that you want to take that will enable you to achieve your goals? As part of the MS SDS program you will have to develop your own scholarly paper project or thesis. Although the topic may change as you learn new things, tell us about a 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.

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

SPATIAL DATA SCIENCE

Program-Specific Questions

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 Admissions to the SDS 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
 No

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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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.