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).

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.


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.

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.