GEOSPATIAL COMPUTER SCIENCE, PHD

Program Description
The Geospatial Computer Science (GSCS) doctoral program is an interdisciplinary program intended to train geospatially minded computer science scholars into accomplished researchers able to make significant contributions in geospatial computing. Students learn important fundamental theory in computation and geospatial science and apply it towards cutting-edge research in areas such as those listed below. The GSCS program is a unique combination of computer science and geospatial science able to position graduates as leaders in the field of geospatial computer science.

The Geospatial Computer Science Ph.D. program will:

• Develop students into experts in geospatial computer science.
• Train students to conduct and publish new research in geospatial computer science, including such topics as big data analytics for geocomputation, autonomous systems, remote sensing, structure from motion photogrammetry, machine learning-driven geospatial knowledge discovery, mobile computing for location-based services, and high-performance computing for spatial optimization.
• Produce researchers who will be able to pursue careers in higher education, government, or industry related to or affected by geospatial computer science.
• Educate students in the collecting, processing, analyzing, and visualizing of geospatial data, as well as the utilization of geospatial methods and data for developing new technologies.
• Provide students with a rigorous preparation to use computer science theoretical and applied techniques to pursue research and scholarship that will advance the state of knowledge in geospatial computer science.

Student Learning Outcomes
The program's student learning outcomes are for students to:

• Produce innovative research that advances theory or methodology in geospatial computing science.
• Participate at academic conferences and publish in peer-reviewed journals.
• Find employment in research departments of public and private organizations, in major academic institutions, and in industry.
• Advance the science of computing to create new algorithms and applications for geospatial challenges.
• Acquire the computer science and geospatial analysis skills necessary to advance the theory and methodology of geospatial computing science.
• Develop the professional skills necessary to present research outcomes orally to a professional or general audience as well as in writing for peer reviewed journals and conference proceedings.

For Additional Information
Website:
http://gradschool.tamucc.edu/degrees/science/geo_comp_sci.html

Campus Address:
Center for Instruction, Room 301

Phone: (361) 825-2474

Mailing Address:
Geospatial Computer Science Program, Unit 5825
College of Science and Engineering
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
6300 Ocean Drive
Corpus Christi, Texas 78412-5825

Admission Requirements
1. Persons seeking admission to the GSCS program should first contact the program to identify a faculty member willing to serve as their graduate advisor. Applicants will not be admitted to the program without a graduate faculty advisor.

2. In addition to meeting all University requirements, students seeking admission to the graduate degree program in Geospatial Computer Science must submit the following to the Office of Recruitment and Admissions:
   • An application and application fee,
   • Transcripts from regionally accredited institutions (international students will be required to submit relevant international transcripts),
   • An essay (500-1000 words) discussing why you are seeking admission to the program and what your research plans are,
   • A curriculum vitae,
   • GRE scores (within five years of the date of application), and
   • International students must submit TOEFL or IELTS scores and additional documents to the Office of Recruitment and Admissions. http://gradschool.tamucc.edu/international.htm

3. A student entering the program is expected to have adequate preparation in computer science, geographic information science, and mathematics. For computer science, this preparation must include successful completion of coursework in a high-level programming language. For geospatial science, students must have successfully completed course work in geospatial data analysis and visualization. In mathematics, students must have successfully completed course work in calculus plus one additional junior level or higher mathematics course such as linear algebra, numerical analysis, or applied probability and statistics.

Students who have not successfully completed the above courses may be required to take leveling courses in any missing subjects before being formally admitted into the program. Leveling coursework does not count towards the total credit hours required for the degree. All leveling courses must be completed with a grade of “B” or better. While taking leveling courses, a student can take regular courses that can be counted towards the degree once admitted into the program formally. However, the total credit hours of such courses must not exceed nine hours.

Program Requirements
There are two paths for students in the PhD in Geospatial Computer Science degree program, those coming in with

1. a bachelor's degree in a related field, and
2. a master's degree in a related field.

Students entering the program with a bachelor's degree are required to take a minimum of 75 semester credit hours beyond the bachelor's degree. Of these 75 hours, students must take the GSCS core courses
(12 hours), Graduate Seminar (3 hours), 27 hours or more of electives, and 30 hours or more of research and dissertation credits.

Students entering the program with a master’s degree are required to take a minimum of 57 semester credit hours beyond the master’s degree. Of these 57 hours, students must take the GSCS core courses (12 hours), Graduate Seminar (3 hours), 9 hours or more of electives, and 30 hours or more of research and dissertation credits.

Additional courses may be assigned depending on the student’s background. Students must file an approved degree plan by the end of their second semester in the program. A student’s graduate advisory committee must approve the degree plan. All students must pass a final dissertation defense, to be administered by their advisory committee, during their last semester before graduation.

### Additional Electives and/or Research if Needed

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 6344</td>
<td>Spatial Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GSEN 6390</td>
<td>Advanced Topics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GSEN 6386</td>
<td>Remote Sensing and Image Analysis</td>
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<td>GSCS 6319</td>
<td>Scientific Visualization</td>
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<td>GSCS 6344</td>
<td>Ubiquitous Positioning</td>
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<tr>
<td>GSCS 6390</td>
<td>Special Topics</td>
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<td>GSEN 6393</td>
<td>Research Methods in Computer Science</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>GSCS 6330</td>
<td>Spatial Systems Science</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>GSEN 6355</td>
<td>Geospatial Programming Techniques</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>GSEN 6365</td>
<td>Spatial Database Design</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>GSCS 6337</td>
<td>Geospatial Computing</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>GSEN 6384</td>
<td>Geospatial Visualization Design</td>
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<td>GSEN 6365</td>
<td>Photogrammetric Engineering and Lidar Scanning</td>
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<td>Remote Sensing and Image Analysis</td>
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<td>GSEN 6390</td>
<td>Advanced Topics</td>
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### Total Hours

| Total Hours | 57-75

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1. All students must master the same core knowledge, and this content must be mastered prior to their candidacy exam. The core knowledge can be mastered with the following courses listed below. Students entering with a master’s degree must take at least three (9 hours) of the core courses at Texas A&M University-Corpus (TAMU-CC). If any of the core courses have been previously taken by the student, one core course (3 hours) can be replaced by an approved transfer of credit and an additional 3 hours can be replaced by an elective at the discretion of the graduate advisory committee. Prior core classes must be equivalent and validated by syllabi and approved prior to enabling a transfer of credit or elective replacement.

2. Students entering with a bachelor’s degree must take at least 27 hours of electives, up to 6 hours can be from prior graduate coursework with approval. Students entering with a master’s degree must take at least 9 hours of electives at TAMU-CC. Electives will predominately come from COSC, GSCS, and GSEN graduate courses. Up to 6 hours can be from another graduate program at the university with approval.

3. Courses not listed can be taken with approval.

* Online offering

^ Blended offering

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### Courses

#### Computer Science Courses

**COSC 5300 Introductory Topics in Computer Science**

3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)

This course introduces students to the leveling topics in computer science. This course serves the needs of certain topics students lack for pursuing a Master’s degree in computer science. Grade assigned will be "credit" (CR) or "no credit" (NC).
COSC 5313  Foundations of Computer Organization and Architecture  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
A study of internal computer concepts with respect to the functioning of the hardware subsystems and their roles in the computing process. An in-depth study of machine and assembly language. (Does not count toward total hours required for MS in Computer Science.)

COSC 5320  Design and Implementation of Computerized Instructional Systems  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
Provides a broad introduction to the development of computer-based learning environments. Covers the theory and practice of using the computer both in the classroom and individually for learning. Covers a wide range of possibilities from multimedia presentation of material to constructive environments and computer-based instructional systems.

COSC 5321  Data Structures  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
A study of the logical structures used for the organization, storage and retrieval of data. These structures are addressed from both memory-resident and file-resident points of view. Algorithms for the creation, searching, and manipulation of standard data structures used in computing are stressed. (Does not count toward total hours required for MS in Computer Science.)

Co-requisite: COSC 5312, MATH 2305.

COSC 5324  Digital Image Processing  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)

COSC 5326  Computer Vision  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
Prerequisite: COSC 5324.

COSC 5327  Introduction to Computer Graphics  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER GRAPHICS This graduate course provides students with a foundation in basic principles and techniques for computer graphics on modern graphics hardware. Students will gain experience in interactive computer graphics using the OpenGL API. Topics include: graphics hardware, rendering, perspective, lighting, and geometry.

COSC 5328  Advanced Computer Graphics  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
ADVANCED COMPUTER GRAPHICS This course covers advanced computer graphics techniques. Students will be introduced to state-of-the-art methods in computer graphics. This course will focus on techniques for real-time rendering and animation.

Prerequisite: COSC 4328 or 5327.

COSC 5331  Foundations of Computer System Software  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
Introduction to operating systems concepts, principles, and design. Topics include: processes and threads, CPU scheduling, mutual exclusion and synchronization, deadlock, memory management, file systems, security and protection, networking, and distributed systems. Selected existing operating systems are discussed, compared, and contrasted. (Does not count toward total hours required for MS in computer science.)

Prerequisite: COSC 5313.

Co-requisite: COSC 5321.

COSC 5334  The Design and Analysis of Algorithms  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
THE DESIGN AND ANALYSIS OF ALGORITHMS An advanced course that concentrates on the design and analysis of algorithms used to solve a variety of problems. The methods of design covered include such topics as: divide-and-conquer, the greedy method, dynamic programming, search and traversal techniques, and backtracking.

Prerequisite: COSC 5321, MATH 2413 and 2305.

COSC 5336  Database Management Systems  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS A study of contemporary database management concepts. Performance (indexing, query optimization, update optimization), concurrency, security and recovery issues are discussed. Also includes the study of front-end environments that access the database.

Prerequisite: COSC 5335 and 5321.

COSC 5337  Data Mining  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)

COSC 5340  Human-Computer Interaction  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
HUMAN-COMPUTER INTERACTION Graduate-level survey of the field of Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) focusing on design strategies for making software usable by real-world people for doing real-world work. Topics include the role of HCI in the software product life cycle, task analysis of the user's work, architectures for human-computer dialogues, new and traditional approaches to user interface design, and user interface standards.

Prerequisite: COSC 5331.

COSC 5350  Advanced Topics in DBMS  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
ADVANCED TOPICS IN DBMS The study of emerging database technologies. Topics are chosen from data warehousing, distributed databases, spatial databases and web-based applications.

Prerequisite: COSC 5336.

COSC 5351  Advanced Computer Architecture  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
COMPUTER ARCHITECTURE An overview of computer architecture, which stresses the underlying design principles and the impact of these principles on computer performance. General topics include design methodology, processor design, control design, memory organization, system organization, and parallel processing.

Prerequisite: COSC 5331.

COSC 5352  Advanced Operating Systems  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
ADVANCED OPERATING SYSTEMS Introduction to advanced concepts in operating systems and distributed systems. Topics include distributed system architectures, interprocess communication, distributed mutual exclusion, distributed synchronization and deadlock, agreement protocols, distributed scheduling and process management, distributed shared memory, distributed file systems, multiprocessor system architectures and operating systems, recovery and fault tolerance.

Prerequisite: COSC 5331.
COSC 5353 PRINCIPLES OF COMPILER CONSTRUCTION
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
COMPILE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION This course introduces the basic concepts and mechanisms traditionally employed in language translators, with emphasis on compilers. Topics include strategies for syntactic and semantic analysis, techniques of code optimization and approaches toward code generation.
Prerequisite: COSC 5330 and MATH 2305.

COSC 5354 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Fundamental concepts and techniques for the design of computer-based, intelligent systems. Topics include: a brief history, methods for knowledge representation, heuristic search techniques, programming in LISP or Prolog.
Prerequisite: COSC 5321 and MATH 2305.

COSC 5355 DATA COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKING
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
DATA COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS Areas studied include principles of computer-based communication systems, analysis and design of computer networks, and distributed data processing.
Prerequisite: COSC 5331.

COSC 5356 THEOREY OF COMPUTATION
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
THEORETICAL ASPECTS OF COMPUTING An introduction to theoretical foundations of modern computing. Topics include finite state machine concepts, formal grammars, and basic computability concepts.
Prerequisite: COSC 5321 and MATH 2305.

COSC 5357 WIRELESS SENSOR NETWORKS
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This is a graduate level course on wireless sensor networks; one of the fastest developing areas in computer science and engineering. The focus of this course is on the design of optimized architectures and protocols for such unique networks. Topics include the design principles of wireless sensor networks, energy management, MAC protocols, naming and addressing, localization, routing protocols, applications of wireless sensor networks, and associated challenges and measures.

COSC 5360 CONCURRENCY: PARALLEL AND DISTRIBUTED PROCESSING
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
PARALLEL COMPUTING Introduction to the hardware and software issues in parallel computing. Topics include motivation and history, parallel architectures, parallel algorithm design, and parallel performance analysis. Students will be introduced to a variety of parallel computing paradigms including message passing systems and shared memory systems.
Prerequisite: COSC 5331.

COSC 5362 MOBILE SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Survey of software development on mobile platforms including both native and cross-platform applications with topics such as: prototyping, programming, testing, debugging, and deploying. Coverage of software life cycle on mobile platforms and how mobile hardware differs from traditional computers. COSC 5321

COSC 5370 ADVANCED SOFTWARE ENGINEERING
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Areas studied include engineering principles and their application to the design, development, testing, and maintenance of large software systems, tools and processes for managing the complexities inherent in creating and maintaining large software systems.
Prerequisite: COSC 5321.

COSC 5373 NETWORK SECURITY
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This course is a study of networking basics and security essentials with respect to information services provided over a computer network. The course covers the technical details of security threats, vulnerabilities, attacks, policies, and countermeasures such as firewalls, honeypots, intrusion detection systems, and cryptographic algorithms for confidentiality and authentication and the development of strategies to protect information services and resources accessible on a computer network.
Prerequisite: COSC 5375.

COSC 5376 APPLIED CRYPTOGRAPHY
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This course includes an introduction to cryptographic algorithms and protocols for encrypting information securely, techniques for analyzing vulnerabilities of protocols, approaches to digital signatures and information digests, and implementation approaches for the most significant cryptographic methodologies.
Prerequisite: COSC 5312.

COSC 5377 ADVANCED INFORMATION ASSURANCE
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This course encompasses a broad range of topics involving information security, communications security, network security, risk analysis, operational security, health information privacy, criminal justice digital forensics, homeland security, the human element and social engineering, and applicable national and international laws. An in-depth information assurance capstone project or research paper will be required of each student to satisfy the information assurance graduate option requirements.
Prerequisite: COSC 5375.
**COSC 5390 Internship**
3 Semester Credit Hours
Individual contract agreement involving student, faculty, and cooperating
agency (discipline-related business, nonprofit organization, or
government agency) to gain practical experience appropriate to computer
science in off-campus setting. Grade assigned will be “credit” (CR) or “no
credit” (NC).

**COSC 5393 RESEARCH METHODS IN COMP SCIEN**
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
RESEARCH METHODS IN COMPUTER SCIENCE This course provides
students with a range of experiences in conducting and communicating
research. Students will learn major research methods and techniques.
Experiences will be gained in all stages of research: reviewing literature,
writing a proposal, designing an approach, and reporting results. Critical-
reading/writing assignments and class discussions on state-of-the-art
research in Computer Science will provide students with major research
aspects. Fall, Spring

**COSC 5395 GRADUATE PROJECT AND TECHNICAL REPORT**
3 Semester Credit Hours
An applied research project in computing from problem definition to
implementation in an area of particular interest to the student that relates
to the course of study.
Prerequisite: COSC 5393 and 5370.

**COSC 5396 DIRECTED INDEPENDENT STUDY**
1-3 Semester Credit Hours
Study in areas of current interest. (A maximum of six hours may be
counted toward the MS degree.) Fall, Spring, Summer.

**COSC 5398 Thesis I**
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This course is for Computer Science MS students choosing the thesis
option. Upon choosing a thesis advisor, students will register for this
course. This course is only credit/no credit. Students will be given a grade
of In-Progress until successfully completing their thesis.
Prerequisite: COSC 6393.

**COSC 5399 Thesis II**
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This course is for Computer Science MS students choosing the thesis
option. Students will continually register for this course until successful
completion of their thesis. A grade of In-Progress will be assigned until
either successful completion or failing to register. If failing to register
students will receive a grade of No Credit for all 5399 and 5398 courses.
Prerequisite: COSC 5398.

**COSC 5590 SELECTED TOPICS**
1-5 Semester Credit Hours (1-5 Lecture Hours)
Variable content study of specific areas of computer and information
systems. May be repeated for credit when topics vary. Offered on
sufficient demand.

**COSC 5999 Advanced Research in Computer Science**
1-9 Semester Credit Hours (1-9 Lecture Hours)
Advanced work in a specialized area of computer science. Does not count
as credit toward a degree in computer science. Course is taken as credit/
non-credit.

**COSC 6324 Digital Image Processing**
3 Semester Credit Hours
This course introduces concepts and techniques for image processing.
The purpose of this course is to introduce the fundamental techniques
and algorithms used for processing and extracting useful information
from digital images. The students will learn how to apply the image
processing methods to solve real-world problems.

**COSC 6326 Computer Vision**
3 Semester Credit Hours
This graduate course introduces concepts and techniques for machine
vision. Particular emphasis will be placed on methods used for object
recognition, machine learning, content-based image retrieval, image
matching, 3D vision, tracking, and motion analysis.
Prerequisite: COSC 6324.

**COSC 6327 Introduction to Computer Graphics**
3 Semester Credit Hours
This graduate course provides students with a foundation in basic
principles and techniques for computer graphics on modern graphics
hardware. Students will gain experience in interactive computer graphics
using the OpenGL API. Topics include: graphics hardware, rendering,
perspective, lighting, and geometry.

**COSC 6328 Advanced Computer Graphics**
3 Semester Credit Hours
This course covers advanced computer graphics techniques. Students
will be introduced to state-of-the-art methods in computer graphics. This
course will focus on techniques for real-time rendering and animation.
Prerequisite: COSC 4328 or 6327.

**COSC 6334 Design and Analysis of Algorithms**
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
An advanced course that concentrates on the design and analysis of
algorithms used to solve a variety of problems. The methods of design
include topics such as: divide-and-conquer, the greedy method, dynamic
programming, search and traversal techniques, and backtracking.
Prerequisite: MATH 2413 and 2305.

**COSC 6336 Database Management Systems**
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
A study of contemporary database management concepts. Performance
(storage and indexing) and Big Data techniques (management,
processing, and analysis) are discussed. Also included is the study of
spatial data management.

**COSC 6337 Data Mining**
3 Semester Credit Hours
This course introduces fundamental strategies and methodologies for
data mining. Topics include data preprocessing, mining frequent data
patterns, classification, clustering, and outlier detection.

**COSC 6338 Machine Learning**
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
In this course, students will learn about the concepts as well as some
applications of machine learning (ML) algorithms. The course includes
many exercises on how these ML algorithms can be used in practical
applications in both industry and basic science. Topics include such
as artificial neural networks, fuzzy logic, hybrid systems, search and
optimization, classification, clustering, and deep learning. Students
will gain experiences on some programming tools and a variety
of applications of machine learning algorithms.
COSC 6375 Information Assurance
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
An introduction to information security and assurance. This course covers the basic notions of confidentiality, integrity, availability, authentication models, protection models, secure programming, audit, intrusion detection and response, operational security issues, physical security issues, personnel security, policy formation and enforcement, access controls, information flow, legal and social issues, classification, trust modeling, and risk assessment.

COSC 6376 Network Security
3 Semester Credit Hours
This course is a study of networking basics and security essentials with respect to information services provided over a computer network. The course covers the technical details of security threats, vulnerabilities, attacks, policies, and countermeasures such as firewalls, honeypots, intrusion detection systems, and cryptographic algorithms for confidentiality and authentication and the development of strategies to protect information services and resources accessible on a computer network.
Prerequisite: COSC 6375.

COSC 6377 Applied Cryptography
3 Semester Credit Hours
This course includes an introduction to cryptographic algorithms and protocols for encrypting information securely, techniques for analyzing vulnerabilities of protocols, approaches to digital signatures and information digests, and implementation approaches for the most significant cryptographic methodologies.

COSC 6379 Advanced Information Assurance
3 Semester Credit Hours
This course encompasses a broad range of topics involving information security, communications security, network security, risk analysis, operational security, health information privacy, criminal justice digital forensics, homeland security, the human element and social engineering, and applicable national and international laws. A project and/or research paper will be needed to satisfy the course requirements.
Prerequisite: COSC 6375.

COSC 6380 Data Analytics
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This course will introduce state-of-the-art techniques to process and analyze different types of data, generate insights and knowledge from data, and make data-based decisions and predictions. Real-world examples will be used to familiarize students with the theory and applications. Main topics include data preprocessing, probability theory, tests of hypothesis, and various data analysis techniques (e.g., clustering, classification, prediction/forecasting, etc.) for different types of data including static, time-series, spatial, and spatiotemporal.

COSC 6393 Research Methods in Computer Science
3 Semester Credit Hours
This course provides students with a range of experiences in conducting and communicating research. Students will learn major research methods and techniques. Experience will be gained in all stages of research: reviewing literature, writing a proposal, designing an approach, and reporting results. Critical-reading/writing assignments and class discussions on state-of-the-art research in Computer Science will provide students with major research aspects. Spring

COSC 6396 Directed Independent Study
3 Semester Credit Hours
This course is designed to provide an intensive, supervised professional experience in an approved counseling setting. Topics addressed in this course include counselor education, pedagogy, research, supervision, leadership and advocacy, consultation, and training. Students will be expected to earn a total of 300 clock hours and will receive supervision in the five core areas of counseling, supervision, teaching, research/scholarship, and leadership/advocacy. Students repeat the internship for another 300 clock hours and another 3 semester hours of credit. Students must earn a grade of ‘B’ or better to pass.

COSC 6590 Selected Topics
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Variable content study of specific areas of computer and information systems. May be repeated for credit when topics vary. Offered on sufficient demand.

Geospatial Computer Science Courses

GSCS 6102 Graduate Seminar
1 Semester Credit Hour (1 Lecture Hour)
Advanced topic study and presentation by students, faculty, or visiting scientists. Meets one hour weekly. Must be taken three times by all GSCS PhD students.

GSCS 6302 Graduate Seminar
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This is a 3-credit course that is intended to help facilitate the development of a student’s dissertation research ideas and to contribute to the student’s professional development as a doctoral level researcher in the field of geospatial computer science. The course focuses on developing professional research skills typically not provided in formal coursework such as methods for novel research, literature review, developing a research prospectus, presenting scientific research, research ethics, peer-review process, and professional society engagement. At the outcome, students will have a better understanding of the research process and a foundation to aid their development as a doctoral student and professional scientific researcher.

GSCS 6321 Geospatial Data Structures
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
The representation of spatial data is an important issue in diverse areas including computer graphics, geographic information systems (GIS), robotics, and many others. Choosing an appropriate representation is a key to facilitate operations such as spatial search. This course will focus on representation of point data and object data, which are the important types of spatial data. Various fundamental data structures on spatial data, such as quadtrees, kd-trees, grid structures, kd-trees, and R-trees will be explored. The use of these structures to address some important problems will also be covered.

GSCS 6329 Scientific Visualization
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This course presents principles and methods for visualizing data resulting from measurements and calculations in both the physical sciences and the life sciences. The emphasis is on using 2D and 3D computer graphics to garner insight into multi-dimensional data sets for understanding and solving scientific problems. Topics include visualization software and techniques, human vision attributes and limitations, data encoding, data representation, volume rendering, flow visualization, and information visualization.
Prerequisite: COSC 5327 and GSCS 6321.
GSCS 6331 Advanced Geospatial Computing
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Seminar in reading and critical evaluation of academic literature in the field of and fields relating to geospatial computing. Student will design, implement, and evaluate an advanced, contemporary geospatial computing technology to solve a geospatial problem.

GSCS 6344 Ubiquitous Positioning
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
The aim of this course is to introduce the principle of positioning indoors/outdoors using sensors and short-range radio frequency signals in smartphones. These sensors will include a GNSS receiver, an accelerometer, a gyroscope, a magnetometer, a barometer, and a camera, why short-range RF signals will include WiFi and Bluetooth signals. The course will concentrate on various positioning algorithms for fusing sensor measurements and RF signal measurements.
Prerequisite: GSCS 5321.

GSCS 6390 Special Topics
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Variable content study of specific areas of geospatial computing science. May be repeated for credit when topics vary. Offered on sufficient demand.

GSCS 6996 Research
1-9 Semester Credit Hours
Independent research conducted under supervision of an advisor. Open to Geospatial Computing Science students who have not yet passed the qualifying exam and with consent of their graduate advisor. The course is graded with an S or U, and may be repeated.

GSCS 6998 Dissertation Research
1-9 Semester Credit Hours
Research related to PhD dissertation. Open only to degree candidates having passed the qualifying exam in Geospatial Computing Science with consent of their graduate advisor. The course is graded with an S or U, and may be repeated.

GSCS 6999 Dissertation Defense
1-9 Semester Credit Hours
Open only to degree candidates in Geospatial Computing Science with consent of their graduate advisor. Students should enroll in this course during their last semester of the GSCS PhD program. To successfully complete this course the student must pass the dissertation defense as well as have a final copy of the dissertation signed by the full graduate committee and approved for binding and distribution. A grade of Credit/No Credit will be assigned for the class with the possibility to assign the grade of IP or In Progress. If a grade of IP is assigned, the course must be repeated the following semester(s) until the course is passed.

Geospatial Systems Engineering Courses

GSEN 5355 DESIGN-ANALYS GIS APPLICATIONS
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
DESIGN-ANALYSIS GIS APPLICATIONS Programming course focusing on the design and implementation of GIS scripts. Topics covered include GIS scripts, GIS tool creation, and user interface design and implementation.

GSEN 5365 SPATIAL DATABASE DESIGN
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
An introduction to spatial database principles and the practical skills of design implement, and use of spatial databases. Topics covered include basic database model, spatial database design and management, spatial indexes, and spatial data mining. Advanced knowledge and skills in spatial databases are also covered.

GSEN 5381 CADAstral INFOSYSTEMS DESIGN
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
A review of the evolution of European cadastral systems and land records traditions and alternatives. Examination of the goals and purposes of land tenure systems with attention to social, political, legal, economic, organizational, and technical issues. Exploration of U.S. modernization efforts and the problems of developing countries.

GSEN 5382 PLCY-LEGL ASPECT SPATIAL INFOSYS
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
POLICY AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF SPATIAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS A study of the current and emerging status of computer law in electronic environments. Covers issues related to: privacy, freedom of information, confidentiality, copyright, and legal liability; the impact of statute and case law on use of digital databases and spatial databases; and research of legal options of conflicts related to spatial data.

GSEN 5383 ADV GEOSPATIAL ANALYSIS DESIGN
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
ADVANCED GEOSPATIAL ANALYSIS AND DESIGN An advanced course that focuses on spatial analysis and modeling in GIS. Topics covered include exploratory analysis of spatial data, network analysis, exploring spatial point patterns, area objects and spatial autocorrelation, spatial interpolation, and spatial regression. New approaches to spatial analysis are also covered.

GSEN 5384 GEOSPATIAL VISUALIZATION DESIGN
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
GEOSPATIAL VISUALIZATION DESIGN Basic elements of thematic cartography, cartographic theory, and cartographic projections. Integration of cartographic principles with GIS visualization. Principles of map design with GIS data.

GSEN 5385 ANALY-DIGITAL PHOTOGRAMMET ENG
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
ANALYTICAL AND DIGITAL PHOTOGRAMMETRIC ENGINEERING A study of the mathematical and geometric models of modern photogrammetry. Covers principles of stereoscopic vision, collinearity, coplanarity, epipolar geometry, ground control densification and extension by analytical aetraingulation. Explores automation in photogrammetric procedures - digital aetraingulation, automated data capture.

GSEN 5386 PROBLEMS -REMOTE SENSING ENVIR
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
PROBLEMS-REMOTE SENSING OF THE ENVIRONMENT Advanced problems in photo interpretation, photogrammetry and remote sensing within a GIS. Topics include utilization of expert computer systems, knowledge based environmental modeling, macro languages and spatial modeling languages. Operations and laboratories will cover mathematical operations on raster layers, convolution filtering, neighborhood analysis, principal components, proximity, contiguity and descriptor table manipulation. Final project includes the development of a remote sensing of the environment software program with a graphical user interface.

GSEN 5393 Graduate Creative Project
1-3 Semester Credit Hours
An applied research group project in geospatial surveying engineering from problem definition to implementation in an area provided by faculty in the course of study. Fall, Spring, and Summer.

GSEN 5397 Thesis I: Thesis Proposal
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This course is for Geospatial Systems Engineering MS students choosing the thesis option.
GSEN 5398 Thesis II: Thesis Research
3 Semester Credit Hours
This course is for Geospatial Systems Engineering MS students choosing the thesis option. Students will register for this course after completing GSEN 5397 Thesis I: Thesis Proposal. This course is only credit/no credit.

GSEN 5399 Thesis III: Thesis Defense
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This course is for Geospatial Systems Engineering MS students choosing the thesis option. Students will register for this course after completing GSEN 5398 Thesis II: Thesis Research. This course is only offered on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory (S/U) basis only, with grade of IP until completed. Credit will not be recorded until thesis is accepted by the Graduate Project Committee. May be repeated for credit. Offered Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters.

Prerequisite: GSEN 5398.

GSEN 6330 Spatial Systems Science
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Introduction and advanced usages of mapping datums, coordinate systems, and accuracy requirements for geographic information systems (GIS). Use of GIS tools to investigate statistical patterns and relationships among maps and geo-databases. Derivation of new maps and analysis based on spatial context, patterns, surface configuration, proximity, connectivity and flows.

GSEN 6355 Geospatial Programming Techniques
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Course teaches programming techniques in geospatial fields, such as how to automate GIS tasks using Python and other scripting languages. Automation can make your work easier, faster, and more accurate, and knowledge of a scripting language is a highly desired skill in GIS analysts.

Fall.

GSEN 6356 Programming for Geospatial Data Science
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Handling, processing and analyzing spatial data in an open and reproducible way is critical in the emergence of geospatial data science. Various open source packages and tools for geospatial data and process are available and they provide an effective solution for flexibility, reproducibility and transparency in geospatial research and analysis. This course focuses on various programming skills in handling and manipulating spatial data through open source environments. Creating spatial database and queries, exploring spatial data, modeling spatial data, and visualizing spatial data through open source packages will be covered.

GSEN 6365 Spatial Database Design
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This course will focus on spatial database principles and the practical skills of design, implementation, and use of spatial databases. This course will first cover fundamentals of relational database design, and then focus on design and management of spatial databases utilizing geodatabase models. In addition, case studies of geodatabase design models in several applications will also be covered. This course is intended for students who want to design, create, maintain and manipulate data from a geospatial database.

Spring.

GSEN 6367 Geospatial Data Mining
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Geospatial data mining is the process of automatically discovering interesting and useful spatial patterns in large geospatial datasets. This course begins by covering fundamental concepts and techniques in data mining. Specific topics covered include classification, association analysis, and cluster analysis. It then focuses on using these data mining techniques for handling spatial, temporal and spatial-temporal data. In addition, the data mining tools to implement applications in geoscience will also be covered. Spring.

GSEN 6370 UAS for Surveying and Mapping
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Introduces the fundamentals of mapping with small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) using digital imaging sensors to produce high resolution, accurate geospatial surveying products. The course will cover the full spectrum of UAS mapping including technology, current regulations, operational factors, flight design, photogrammetric data processing, and data fidelity. Supporting concepts will include georeferencing and ground control, 3D reconstruction with structure-from-motion photogrammetry, orthorectification and image mosaicking, accuracy assessment, and current developments in UAS for geomatics. Processing and analysis workflows using commercial and open-source software will be conducted to transform UAS image sequences into geospatial data products, extract analytics, assess results, and optimize output.

Spring.

GSEN 6371 Geopositioning Systems and Autonomous Navigation
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Addresses the foundations and computational techniques of Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) and inertial measurement units (IMUs) for autonomous navigation applications. Specifically, the course will cover concepts and principles of GNSS signal structures and the derivation of observables; error sources and corrections; point, differential, and kinetic positioning techniques; IMU linear and angular dynamics modeling; mechanization of inertial navigation and error propagation; global/local coordinate frames and conversion; and filtering techniques for GNSS/IMU integration. The course also covers current and future capabilities of emerging geopositioning systems as they relate to autonomous navigation and mobile devices.

Fall.

GSEN 6380 Applied Geospatial Statistics
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This course will focus on geospatial statistics methods particularly multivariate statistics and applications of the statistical procedures to research geospatial problems. Research on geospatial problems often requires the application of multivariate statistical methods to produce new insight. Various existing statistic software is available to conduct multivariate statistical analysis, however, the interpretation of the results rely on solid understanding of statistic principles and theories. This course is intended for students who want to apply statistical methods to research geospatial problems.

GSEN 6381 Cadastral Information Systems Design
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
A review of the evolution of European cadastral systems and land records traditions and alternatives. Examination of the goals and purposes of land tenure systems with attention to social, political, legal, economic, organizational, and technical issues. Exploration of U.S. modernization efforts and the problems of developing countries.

Spring odd years.
GSEN 6382 Policy and Legal Aspects of Spatial Information Systems  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
A study of the current and emerging status of computer law in electronic environments. Covers issues related to: privacy, freedom of information, confidentiality, copyright, and legal liability; the impact of statute and case law on use of digital databases and spatial databases; and research of legal options of conflicts related to spatial data. Additional description: study of specific court cases specific to Texas boundary law. Introduction into International Boundaries and Treaties. Fall.

GSEN 6383 Advanced Geospatial Analytics  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
This course will focus on the theory, techniques, and applications of advanced geospatial analytics. Topics covered include spatial point patterns, network analysis, area objects and spatial autocorrelation, and spatial interpolation. New approaches to geospatial analytics will also be covered. This course emphasizes the methods and the applied side of geospatial analytics that can be useful in students' own theses or projects for their current or potential employers.

GSEN 6384 Geospatial Visualization Design  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
This course will ensure that students understand and apply cartographic theory for visual communication and visual thinking, and be able to create, evaluate, and critique reference and thematic maps using GIS software. Fall.

GSEN 6385 Photogrammetric Engineering and Lidar Scanning  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
A study of the analytical and systems engineering foundations of airborne photogrammetry and geodetic imaging technologies for 2D and 3D mapping of natural and built environments. The course covers principles of digital imaging, camera calibration, stereo and multi-view photogrammetry, analytical photogrammetry, structure-from-motion, light detection and ranging (lidar) systems, and emergent scanning and imaging approaches. The course also details photogrammetric and lidar data processing, point cloud analysis, and applications.

GSEN 6386 Remote Sensing and Image Analysis  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
Addresses the interpretation, processing and analysis techniques of remotely sensed data acquired by orbital and sub-orbital platforms. Physical principles and imaging mechanisms, remote sensing systems, data characteristics, image processing, and information extraction methods will be covered. Topics include passive optical imaging with multispectral, hyperspectral, and thermal sensing; active imaging with radar sensing; image corrections and rectification; spatial/frequency transforms and image filtering; image classification and feature extraction; and image processing with machine learning techniques. Applications in the course will be focused on geomatics and monitoring of natural and built environments. Fall.

GSEN 6390 Advanced Topics  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
Variable content study of specific areas of geospatial surveying engineering. May be repeated for credit when topics vary. Offered on sufficient demand.

GSEN 6395 Geospatial Engineering Research  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
Seminar in reading and critical evaluation of academic literature in the fields relating to geospatial engineering. Research methods for geospatial engineering will be introduced. Student will design, implement, and evaluate an advanced, contemporary geospatial engineering technology to solve a geospatial problem.