GRADUATE HANDBOOK
FOR
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Updated Spring 2020
GRADUATE STUDENT CONTRACT

I, _________________________________ have received a copy of the Graduate Student Handbook from the Department of Geography and Geology. I understand that I am expected to abide by all policies, deadlines, and time lines set forth both in this handbook and those found in the Graduate Catalogue, Guidelines for Admission to Candidacy, Schedule of Classes, and Thesis Requirements. I also acknowledge that it is my responsibility, and not the Graduate Coordinator nor members of the department, to see that I meet these obligations and deadlines. Additionally, I agree that my admission status as well as any financial support by the Department of Geography and Geology may be withdrawn should it be found that I have not followed these policies in good faith.

Signed: _______________________________    Date _____________________

Expected Graduation (Semester, Year): _________________________________

Contact Information:

Student ID: _______________________

Email: ___________________________ Local Phone Number: ________________

Cell Phone Number: _____________ Permanent Phone Number: ____________

Permanent Address: ________________________________

_______________________________________
ACADEMIC PROCEDURES

The department of Geography and Geology offers a Master of Science degree in Applied GIS. The program requires students to complete 36 credit hour of graduate course work. The master's program offers two tracks; a Traditional track (thesis and non-thesis option) that offers a mix of online and face-to-face classes and a Professional track that is offered completely online.

The traditional track (thesis and non-thesis option) of GIS master's degree is geared towards students with no prior experience/background in GIS or towards students who have completed an undergraduate degree with no work experience. All face to face classes are offered at the Sam Houston State University campus located at The Woodlands Center on Hwy 242.

The online professional track is geared towards professionals who are engaged in the geospatial industry for at least 2-3 years, utilizing GIS for their day-to-day operations and decision making and aspiring for an advanced degree in GIS.

APPLICATION / ACCEPTANCE PROCEDURES

Regular Admission

Applicants seeking admission to the Master of Science in Geographic Information Systems must submit the following directly to the Office of Graduate Admissions:

- Graduate Application (http://www.shsu.edu/admissions/apply-texas.html)
- Application fee (http://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-studies/application-fee.html)
- Official transcript(s) of all previous college work (international students must submit third party evaluation of official transcripts for degrees from universities outside the United States)
- Official GRE scores.

For students applying to the Professional track of the master's program, GRE is waived in lieu of work experience.

- TOEFL scores for international students
- Two letters of recommendation from faculty in the student's major at the degree-granting institution. For students applying to the Professional track of the master's program at least one letter from immediate supervisor preferred

For students applying to the Professional track following two items are required in addition to the above items

- Resume
- Statement of purpose that explains
  o Intent of degree
  o Expected outcome
  o Description of current and past involvement and employment using GIS and Remote Sensing technologies
International students who receive a Form I-20 (F-1) or DS-2019 (J-1) based on admission to this program will be required to maintain full time enrollment (9 credits per semester) and will be subject to the rules and regulations that pertain to the F-1 or J-1 student visa status. Prospective international students should also visit the International Programs page for more information about graduate studies at Sam Houston State University.

*Conditional Admission.*

An applicant whose records are incomplete may be granted conditional admission. Such students will be classified as conditional graduate students until all records are complete and all regular admission requirements are fulfilled. Conditional admission allows for the completion of no more than six hours of graduate credit and is valid for only one semester. All requirements for regular admission must be met prior to enrollment for more than six hours graduate credit.

As per SEVIS/ICE policies international students are not allowed conditional admission.

*Probationary Admission.*

An applicant whose records are complete but who did not qualify for regular admission can be granted probationary admission with graduate committee recommendation. The student may need to complete one or more stem courses as recommended by the graduate committee. Stem courses do not count towards the 36 credits of graduate coursework. The purpose of stem courses is to prepare a student for graduate coursework in GIS if conditions for regular admission are not met. Such a student is allowed in graduate classes to demonstrate that he/she can perform at the graduate level. Students must earn a grade of “B” or better in each course taken under probationary status in order to be considered for regular admission.

*Please note that conditional and probationary admission does not guarantee regular admission once deficiencies are met.*

Non-Degree Admission/Graduate Certificate in GIS.

Non-degree admission may be granted to a student who does not intend to pursue a graduate degree but who wishes to take courses for professional advancement to pursue a certificate program in GIS and who holds a baccalaureate degree or higher from an accredited university. For admission into the certificate program official transcripts and a resume is required. Certificate students may transfer to the regular master’s degree program with a formal application, and a maximum of 12 graduate semester credit hours completed in the non-degree status may be applied to the graduate degree program. Transfer credits and 4000 level classes are not allowed in the graduate certificate program.

Students pursuing Master of Science degree in GIS may be issued a certificate with a formal request upon meeting the certificate requirements.
Transfer Credit.

A total of nine (9) credit hours may be transferred to SHSU from another accredited graduate program. However, for a course to be transferred, there should be an equivalent course in the current graduate program, and that course cannot be taken again. Only courses taken within the last six years can be transferred. Undergraduate credits cannot be transferred and used towards graduate degree. Exceptions to this rule require approval by the Department Chair and the Dean.
ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

Academic Expectations.

A minimum cumulative grade point of 3.0 (4.0 scale) is required. When the grade of C is earned in any course, it must be balanced by a grade of A in an equivalent course taken in the same academic program. (A grade of A earned at another institution may not be used to remove a grade deficiency earned in residency at Sam Houston State University).

Academic Probation and Suspension.

For a student to remain in academic good standing at Sam Houston State University and graduate, a graduate student must maintain an overall grade point average of at least 3.0 (B) on all graduate course work attempted.

A student who falls below a 3.0 overall grade point average at the end of any semester or completion of the summer session (both sessions) during which one or more semester hours are attempted will be placed on probation. If a probationary student does not achieve a minimum of 3.0 overall grade point average at the close of the next semester or summer session, the student will be suspended.

A student who earns a total of three grades of C or one grade of F will be terminated. Any appeal for a review of termination should be directed in writing to the graduate committee.

CREDIT HOUR RESTRICTIONS

The normal course load is nine credit hours per full semester and 3-6 credit hours per summer session. The academic dean must approve increased academic loads.
PROCEDURES FOR MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE

Graduate Coordinator.

Dr. Falguni Mukherjee, fsm002@shsu.edu, is the graduate coordinator for all graduate students seeking a Master’s degree in Applied GIS. Dr. Brian Cooper, bio_bjc@shsu.edu is the Department Chair and Dr. John Strait, jbs008@shsu.edu is the Assistant Chair.

The graduate coordinator will be the contact person for graduate students submitting any official paperwork and to assist you with course selection.

Course Requirements for Master of Science in GIS.

A suggested list of required courses is found in the Graduate Catalogue (also included in the appendix). However, the Master’s program may be tailored to fit the needs and interests of each individual student. The degree requires 36 hours of course work for the online professional track and non-thesis option (traditional track) and for the thesis option (traditional track) 30 hours of course work, plus 6 hours of thesis credit.

Degree Plan.

A degree plan is prepared for every student by the Graduate Coordinator after consultation with the student. A degree plan must be on file by the end of second semester of the degree program. At this time, the student commits to a degree plan, including whether or not to opt for a thesis or a non-thesis path (traditional track). A degree plan details the curriculum for the specific academic program and is developed for each graduate student. All courses on the approved degree plan must be completed with a satisfactory grade to meet the requirements for the degree. Changes in an approved degree plan may be made by petition to the graduate advisor and approved by the appropriate academic dean.

As per university policies, a student is required to complete master's level graduate work within a six-year period, measured from the date of initial enrollment for graduate credit in a particular degree program and within an eight-year period for doctoral level graduate work. The period of time a student is on an approved leave of absence will be counted as time accumulated toward that six-year or eight-year deadline for completion of the degree. Any extension of the six-year or eight-year deadline must be approved in writing by the appropriate academic dean.

Documentation.

Each student is responsible for submitting necessary paperwork to the graduate coordinator in a timely manner. It is the responsibility of the student to refer to the deadlines in the Graduate Catalog, Schedule of Classes, academic dean’s office, Graduate Admissions etc. and adhere to those dates.
Examination of Completion.

All graduate students must pass a comprehensive exam (*see below*), over the graduate course work of their degree program.

Additionally, graduate students completing a thesis will be required to give a presentation of their thesis proposal/prospectus, an oral thesis defense and will be subject to an oral examination of the thesis topic.

Comprehensive Exam.

All graduate students must pass a Comprehensive Exam. The Comprehensive Exam will be administered by the Comprehensive Examination Committee, that consists of three GIS graduate faculty members. A written comprehensive examination will be administered by the comprehensive exam advisory committee for each degree candidate. The written examination must be scheduled with the GIS Graduate Program Coordinator at least four weeks in advance. Students must be enrolled the semester in which they take the comprehensive examination.

The Comprehensive Examination Committee may or may not be the same as the student’s Thesis Advisory Committee. **Students must submit the Comprehensive Examination Committee Form (see Appendix) to the Graduate Coordinator by the beginning of the semester in which the exam is scheduled.** Students must successfully complete their comprehensive exam no later than the semester in which graduation is expected.

Students are eligible to take the comprehensive exam after completing GEOG 5361, GEOG 5362, GEOG 5364 and any three electives. The comprehensive exam is offered twice each academic year (once in the fall semester and once in the spring semester) during a five-day period to be determined by the Comprehensive Examination Committee. If a student fails any one test area of the comprehensive exam, he/she may retake the Comprehensive Examination just on that particular area in the following semester. If a student fails to pass the comprehensive exam a second time, then he/she will be terminated from the Graduate Program.

THESIS

The thesis requirement consists of an original written document over the research findings that were done in compliance with the project’s prospectus, a thesis presentation given to the public and performed publically during working hours, and a thesis defense wherein the candidate for the degree Masters of Science defends their research hypothesis, research methods, and research results to their approved committee.
Thesis Guidelines are available from the University Office of Graduate Studies in the Administration Building, Room 203, respective Dean’s office, or from the web at http://library.shsu.edu/research/guides/thesis/

**Thesis Advisor**

Each student is to choose a graduate faculty member from the Department of Geography and Geology at SHSU as a Major Advisor (see Appendix for Advisor – Student Agreement form), by the end of the second semester, to guide him or her in their thesis work. The Major Advisor will serve as the chairperson of their Thesis Advisory Committee and will be responsible for advising and guiding the student on research efforts. Per University policy, the Major Advisor must have Master’s level graduate faculty status or higher. Should the student’s Major Advisor change, a revised Advisor-Student Agreement form (see Appendix) should be submitted to the Graduate Coordinator.

**Thesis Initiation Sheet**

Students who are enrolled in their first thesis-writing course (including proposal, prospectus, and praxis) must download, complete, and submit a Thesis Initiation Sheet (see Appendix).

**Thesis Advisory Committee**

With the assistance of the Thesis Advisor, the student will select a minimum of two other faculty members from the Department of Geography and Geology at SHSU to establish their Thesis Advisory Committee. Exceptions to this policy may be granted upon petition to the Graduate Committee. The Graduate Committee may allow one of the three Advisory Committee members to be outside the Department of Geography and Geology at SHSU; however, that person must be able to contribute significantly to the thesis project. Exceptions will be granted on a case by case basis and the decision of the Graduate Committee is final. A fourth member of the Advisory Committee may be selected if desired; this faculty member may be outside of the department or University. If the Committee member is outside of the University, that member must be approved by the Dean of Graduate Studies (see the Office of Graduate Studies website to complete a form to request approval). The Advisory Committee should be selected by the end of the second regular semester and no later than the third regular semester. It is the role of the Thesis Advisory Committee, working in concert with the student, to establish an appropriate sequence of work and plan of research to attain the student’s thesis goals. It is the responsibility of the student to meet with his/her thesis advisory committee on a regular basis and keep them updated on the progress.

An Advisor-Student agreement (see Appendix) must be on file as soon a thesis advisory committee has been established.
The department in consultation with the library has decided that students pursuing the thesis track will follow the **Chicago Manual of Style** for citations when writing their prospectus and thesis. Prominent geography journals follow the Chicago Manual of Style. Here is a link to the Chicago Manual of Style: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html for further reference.

**Prospectus.**

The candidate, in consultation with their thesis advisor/chair of the thesis committee, will select a subject of investigation and determine the availability of the required sources, facilities, materials, and equipment for the research and the writing of the thesis. The student will prepare a thesis prospectus which will specify the thesis topic, detail the purpose of the proposed investigation, describe the proposed method(s) of investigation, indicate the relationship of study to relevant research and findings of scholars in the student's area of concentration, and provide a commentary on source materials and/or facilities available for the successful completion of the research.

A student must present their prospectus **at the latest** by the beginning of their **third regular semester**.

The prospectus shall be submitted to the thesis committee on successful presentation. After the committee has approved and signed the prospectus, it is submitted to the academic dean for final approval. Any subsequent changes in topic or the proposed method of investigation must be approved in writing by the thesis committee and submitted for approval to the appropriate academic dean.

In order to earn a grade of CR (Credit) in GEOG 6398 -Thesis I, a student must successfully present and defend a thesis prospectus. Until then a grade of IP will be awarded.

See Appendix for Thesis Prospectus Approval form.

**Continuous Enrollment Requirement.**

Per University policy, once a student enrolls in a thesis course (GEOG 6398 or GEOG 6099), the student must continue to enroll in a thesis course each semester until the student graduates. For example, once a student enrolls in GEOG 6398, the student must either re-enroll in GEOG 6398 or enroll in GEOG 6099 the following semester, which would typically be the semester of expected graduation. Once a student has completed all of the thesis courses required for the degree, they may satisfy the continuous enrollment policy by enrolling in a 1-credit hour section of the thesis course.

It is advisable that a student should not register for any thesis courses until after the prospectus is approved, especially given that students must follow the continuous enrollment policy.
Thesis Route Sheet: The Office of Graduate Studies—in collaboration with the Registrar’s Office, the Library, and the IT—has created an electronic thesis route sheet for graduate students who complete theses and dissertations. This electronic route sheet is generated by the student and will appear in the emails of thesis/dissertation directors and co-directors, prompting them for approval. Simply click the button by approve and the electronic route sheet will move along in the chain of approvals. Here is a link to the form on the Office of Graduate Studies web page: http://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-studies/theses-and-dissertations.html.

As a general rule, a reasonably final draft of the thesis should be submitted to the student’s Advisory Committee no later than two weeks prior to the scheduled public defense in order to allow the committee ample time to read and edit the thesis.

A Report of Thesis Examination (see Appendix) should be filled out by the student after the thesis defense and submitted to the Dean’s office. The student should bring the form to the defense. A copy of this form should also be filed with the Graduate Coordinator.

Students participating in Commencement Ceremonies must arrange for a cap and gown at the University Bookstore at least 2 months before expected graduation.
**Time Table of Procedures and Processes** *(This is a tentative time table and may be customized for every student. Hence, every student will have variations depending on the needs and interests of each individual student).*

**First regular (i.e. fall or spring) semester:**

1) Enroll in GEOG 5361 (if offered, otherwise wait until the following semester).
2) Sign and submit Graduate Student contract to the Graduate Coordinator.

**Second regular semester:**

1) After the completion of 6 graduate credit hours, all non-regular admission students must apply for regular admission and must have removed all conditional requirements.
2) Submit Degree Plan; specify choice of thesis or non-thesis plan.
   a. Submit Advisory Committee Agreement form. (see Appendix for forms).
   b. Submit Thesis Initiation Sheet
4) Work toward completion of the Prospectus (see Appendix for Prospectus Approval Form).
5) **Before the start of the third regular semester,** a thesis prospectus must be approved by the Thesis Advisory Committee, Department Chair, and Academic Dean (see Appendix – Thesis Prospectus Approval form). The approved thesis prospectus should be filed with the department.

**Third regular semester:**

1) Successfully complete Comprehensive Exam over graduate course work. The **Comprehensive Exam must be completed during the third semester.** After the exam, the Report of Comprehensive Examination form (see Appendix) should be submitted to the Graduate Coordinator.
2) Continue research and coursework for appropriate degree plan.

**Fourth - Sixth regular semesters:**

Continue research and coursework for appropriate degree plan.
Appendix

Forms and Checklists
# Tentative Graduate Course Rotation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Semester Offered</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 5361</td>
<td>Geographic Information</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOG 5363</td>
<td>Internet GIS</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOG 5364</td>
<td>Spatial Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOG 5367</td>
<td>GIS Programming</td>
<td>FALL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 5366</td>
<td>Cartography and Visualization</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOG 5310</td>
<td>GIS Project Management</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOG 5369</td>
<td>GIS Internship</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOG 6398</td>
<td>Thesis I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 6099</td>
<td>Thesis II</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOG 5362</td>
<td>GIS Principles and Applications</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOG 5365</td>
<td>Digital Image Processing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 5311</td>
<td>GIS and Law Enforcement</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOG 5371</td>
<td>Energy GIS</td>
<td>SPRING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 5373</td>
<td>Introduction to GPS, LiDAR and Radar</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOG 6261</td>
<td>Seminar in Applied GIS Research Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>GIS Internship</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOG 6099</td>
<td>Thesis II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 5374</td>
<td>Advanced GIS Analysis</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 5312</td>
<td>GIS ModelBuilder</td>
<td>Summer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# Graduate Course Description

**GEOG 5361. Geographic Information**

This course introduces the principles of the structure and function of Geographic Information Systems. This includes raster and vector data structures, coordinate systems, projections and georeferencing, data capture and editing, creation and management of attribute data, basic and advanced spatial analysis, accuracy and availability of geospatial data, dissemination of output as maps, reports and over the Internet and hardware, software and technology integration issues. **Credit 3.**

Prerequisite: GEOG 2464.
GEOG 5362. GIS Principles and Applications

Develops hands on skills using industry standard GIS software by putting in practice GIS fundamentals and theories learned in GEOG 5361. GIS application in a wide variety of areas such as local governments, urban infrastructure management, natural resource management, geologic analysis, marketing will be explored. Credit 3.

GEOG 5364. Spatial Analysis

In this course students will acquire knowledge and techniques of spatial analysis, and learn to effectively use various spatial data to solve real-world problems. Credit 3.

GEOG 5365. Digital Image Processing

This course emphasizes on the general principles of digital image processing to extract information from remotely sensed data. The remotely sensed data to be investigated include Landsat ETM, SPOT, hyperspectral Images and many others. Throughout the course, emphasis would be placed on image processing, image analysis, image classification, and integrating information extracted from remotely sensed data into a GIS. The digital image processing techniques to be covered include: image acquisition, image enhancement, image restoration, color image processing, image segmentation, image compression, image recognition, image quality assessment and statistical evaluation and change detection. Students will learn to use an industry standard digital image processing software- ERDAS Imagine. Credit 3.

GEOG 5366. Cartography and Visualization

This course examines the fundamentals and practical applications of cartographic visualization. The course examines traditional and contemporary cartographic techniques. Topics covered include geospatial data representation, map design, geographic visualization and display. Credit 3.

GEOG 5367. GIS Programming

This course will provide an introduction to computer programming principles and their application in a Geographic Information Systems environment. Principles will be introduced using a GIS scripting language. Once programming principles are understood, students will begin to learn Python programming language for working with ArcGIS software and Python IDLE (Python GUI). Students will master the use of Python scripts to manipulate basic mapping objects and complete geoprocessing tasks. The coursework will involve map scripting, debugging and error handling, and creating custom tools using Python scripts. Credit 3.

Prerequisite: GEOG 5361, Advanced GIS class or Instructor’s consent.
GEOG 5369. Internship in GIS

Students will work in an approved setting to obtain applied experience in the use of GIS. Students must be supervised by a member of the graduate faculty, who will determine whether the nature and amount of the work performed satisfies the requirements for graduate credit. Credit 3.

Prerequisite: GEOG 5361.

GEOG 5371. Energy GIS

This is a survey of use of geographic information systems and related technologies such as GPS and aerial imagery in the energy field, particularly oil and gas production and exploration and midstream and downstream areas. It is useful for graduate students in Applied GIS as well as those professionals in geospatial technologies and earth sciences wishing to learn more about this important application area. It covers such topics as mapping and assessment of basins, plays, fields and wells. Land-base creation and issues, pipeline corridor analysis, and off-shore issues. It also covers integration of CAD data, seismic data, reservoir visualization and aerial imagery. Credit 3.

GEOG 5373. Intro to GPS, LiDAR, & Radar

This course provides the practical skills, knowledge, and understanding of quantitative measurement tools in the field of environmental and geospatial applications. It focuses on the basic concepts and applications of GPS (Global Positioning System), LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging), and Radar systems. It introduces fundamental concepts of accuracy assessment and appropriate use of these data products. Students will also master the basic skills needed to leverage these data sources and information products in diverse application domains including, topographic mapping, flood inundation studies, vegetation analysis, and 3D modeling of urban infrastructure. Course component includes lectures, labs, and field work. Credit 3.

Prerequisites: GEOG 5361 or Instructor's consent.

GEOG 5374. Advanced GIS Analysis

This is an advanced level GIS analysis course. It teaches students systematically what a typical GIS analysis project should include and be implemented. Topics include defining problem, preparing data, choosing analytical methods, performing statistical analysis, and interpreting and evaluating results. Students will learn how to build and modify geoprocessing models using ArcGIS ModelBuilder and create spatial regression models. Credit 3.

Prerequisites: GEOG 5364 or Instructor’s consent

GEOG 5310. GIS Project Management

This course teaches strategies for successful GIS management and implementation in an institution-wide context. Implementation management strategies are introduced through a process of systematic
user needs assessment, requirements specification, database design, application development, implementation, and operation and maintenance. Credit 3.

Prerequisite: GEOG 5361.

GEOG 5311. GIS and Law Enforcement

This is a survey of the use of geographic information systems and related technologies like GPS and aerial imagery in law enforcement. It is intended for graduate students in disciplines such as Applied GIS, Criminal Justice and Digital Forensics. It covers such topics as crime mapping and analysis, policing and deployment, critical incident response, spatial aspects of crime statistics, crime scene investigation, community supervision and corrections, counter terrorism and information security applications areas. Use of tracking devices, laser surveying instruments and drones are featured. Credit 3.

GEOG 5312. GIS ModelBuilder

This course focuses on theories, topics and concepts that provide students a strong understanding of ModelBuilder, a program designed to create automated routines and workflows within a GIS environment. Through the development of skills and techniques with ModelBuilder, students learn how to create, use, and share interactive models within the ArcGIS platform. They will also learn how to document models so others can use them for their own intended purposes. Credit 3.

Prerequisite: GEOG 5362.

GEOG 5075. Special Problems in Geography

This course is designed for graduate students who are capable of independent study of some particular geospatial research topic. Registration is permitted only upon approval of both the departmental faculty member with whom the student will be working and the graduate program coordinator. Students are required to submit a Permission form (See appendix) to enroll in GEOG 5075. Credit 1-3.

GEOG 6261. Seminar in Applied GIS Research Methods

This course provides an introduction to scientific research methods in Geography and Environmental Studies. Topics covered include fundamental research concepts, scientific communication, data collection, physical measurements, behavioral observation and archives, explicit reports (survey, interviews, and tests), experimental and nonexperimental designs, sampling, statistical data analysis, data display, reliability and validity, and ethics in scientific research. This course is required for graduate students taking the thesis option.

GEOG 6398. Thesis I
The student will begin working on a thesis involving research and study of the applications of GIS and related technologies. *Prerequisite Consent of graduate supervisor. Credit 3.*

**GEOG 6399. Thesis II**

The student will complete a thesis involving research and study of the applications of GIS and related technologies. The work involved includes research on the approved thesis topic, preparation of a draft and a final thesis. *Prerequisite GEOG 6398 or consent of graduate supervisor. Credit 3.*
ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGREEMENT

I, ____________________________, do hereby submit the names of the following faculty as advisory committee members. I attest that I have met and discussed with each of them my degree plan and they have agreed to serve on my committee.

Student's Signature: ________________________________________________

Sam ID: __________________ Major: ________________________________

Printed Name: ____________________________________________________

Committee Member Printed Name __________________ Signature _________

(Committee Chair) __________________ _____________________________

(Committee Member) __________________ ___________________________

(Committee Member) __________________ ___________________________

(Committee Member) __________________ ___________________________

Expected Graduation Date: __________________________

Date Received: __________________ Graduate Advisor Signature: ________

Office Use Only

All committee members have appropriate graduate faculty status?

Yes ______ No ______

Date Approved: __________ Dean’s Signature: ___________________________
Thesis Prospectus Approval

Submitted to the College of: _______________________________________________

Candidate: _____________________________________________________________

Degree in Progress: _____________________________________________________

Proposed topic: _______________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

*Attach copy of prospectus to this form

Thesis committee approval: _____________________________  __________

(Major advisor) (Date)

____________________________  __________

____________________________  __________

Department Chair: _____________________________  __________

Graduate Coordinator: _____________________________  __________

Final Approval by Dean, COSET: _____________________________  __________
Comprehensive Examination Committee Form

(Submit to the Graduate Coordinator by Beginning of Third Semester in Program)

Name: ______________________________ Date: ______________________________

Student ID#: ______________________

Do you have a degree plan on file?  _____________Yes _____________No

List your proposed Examination Committee members (please print names):

_________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________

Date of Comprehensive Exam: ________________________________

Student Signature: ___________________________ Date: _________________

Graduate Coordinator Signature: ___________________________ Date: _______________
REGISTRAR’S OFFICE  
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
Huntsville, Texas  

Report of Comprehensive Examination  

A(n) __________________________ comprehensive examination was  
(oral/written/written and oral)  
administered to __________________________, Sam ID: ____________  
a candidate for the degree of __________________________, on __________________________,  
20__, in Room __________ of the __________________________ Building. The  
Student was examined on the following three areas of concentration and earned marks as  
indicated. The student may earn a mark of “High Pass”, “Pass”, or “Fail” on each area:  

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas</th>
<th>Marks</th>
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<td>(4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(5)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A re-examination is __________________________ on area(s)  
(unnecessary/necessary/requested)  
________________________________________, ____________, and  
________________________________________  

THE EXAMINING COMMITTEE:  

Chairman __________________________ Date ____________  

________________________________________ Date ____________  

________________________________________ Date ____________  

Dean, COSET __________________________ Date ____________
Report of Thesis Examination

________________________, SAM ID: __________________________

a candidate for the degree of ________________________________
was examined on the thesis project entitled ________________________

_________________________________________________________

on ____________________, 20____, in Room ________ of the ________ building. The members of the thesis committee certify that the student ____________________
(passed/failed).

THE THESIS COMMITTEE

________________________
Date __________________________ Committee Chair

________________________
Date __________________________ Committee Member

________________________
Date __________________________ Committee Member

________________________
Date __________________________ Dean, College of Science & Engineering Technology
Request for Permission to Enroll in GEOG 5075

I _____________________________ am requesting permission to enroll in GEOG _________ for ____ (name) (4075 or 5075) (1,2,3) hours of credit for the _____________ semester, _______. Dr. _______________________ will be my (fall, spring, summer) (year) (name) Supervising Instructor (SI).

I understand the following terms of the agreement, as well as the academic requirements listed below: (Please write your initials in the blank to the left of the requirements to indicate that you have read and understand these requirements):

_____ 1. I must obtain approval from my Supervising Instructor (SI), and the GIS Graduate Program Coordinator (GGPC), before I can enroll in the course.

_____ 2. The proposal must be submitted to the SI, and GGPC far enough in advance of the start of the semester in which the course is to be taken to allow time for review by the relevant parties.

_____ 3. The research proposal should clearly explain: a) the purpose and nature of the project; b) the time frame for conducting the research; c) the type of data that will be obtained and analyzed, and how it will be obtained; and d) the final form in which the project will be submitted (paper, poster, database, map, etc.) If human subjects are involved (e.g., if I want to collect survey data), I understand that I must also obtain permission from the university’s Institutional Review Board. *This normally takes a minimum of a few weeks.

_____ 4. The research project must be of appropriate academic rigor for this course. (This will be determined by the SI, GGPC, and the GIS Graduate committee).

_____ 5. I understand that the final project must meet professional academic standards; i.e., it must be of the quality necessary for one or more of the following types of professional activities: publication in a professional journal; presentation at a research symposium as a poster or paper; use by faculty members in their research; etc... (I understand that this project is NOT a book report – it is an independent study research project.)

_____ 6. The project needs to be submitted in final form to the SI no later than 10 days prior to the end of the semester and on the date established by the SI.
On the back of this page is a **checklist of steps** which must be completed before enrolling in the course, as well as a **list of the specifics** of the projects as agreed to by the SI and GGPC. Signature lines are provided, as needed, for the student, SI, and GGPC respectively.

**Checklist and Signature Page**

1. Proposal received by the SI. ________________________________ Date ______________

2a. As agreed upon by the student and the SI, the final project will be in the form of: (check one or more as necessary)
   - a. paper
   - b. poster
   - c. map
   - d. database
   - e. other (please specify)

2b. Student will present the results:
   - a. at a conference (SWAAG, AAG, etc...)
   - b. to the SHSU Geography Faculty
   - c. to geography students at SHSU
   - d. at an SHSU graduate research symposium on campus
   - e. only to the SI
   - f. other (please specify)

2c. The project must be submitted to the SI by the following date: ______________

   Student’s signature __________________________________________ Date ______________

   SI’s signature __________________________________________ Date ______________

3. Proposal received by GGPC. ________________________________ Date ______________

4. Proposal has been **accepted/rejected** (circle one) by GGPC and GIS Graduate committee members.

   GGPC ________________________________ Date ______________
1. If the section of the course in which the student will enroll is not offered under the SI’s name, please have the Instructor of Record (IOR) responsible for entering the student’s grade sign and date this form in the space below as acknowledgment that he/she will serve as the IOR for grade entry. __________________________________________________________
Date ______________

Comments/Suggestions by GGPC and GIS Graduate committee for improvement of the proposal: _
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________
Please complete the entirety of this form and submit to the Office of Graduate Studies by mail, email, or direct drop off during regular university hours.

Email: gradstudies@shsu.edu
Phone: (936) 291-2408
Main campus: ABIV, Office 431

Mail: Office of Graduate Studies
Sam Houston State University
Box 2541
Huntsville, TX 77341-2541

Student Information

University ID#: ____________________________ Expected Graduation Date: _______ _______  
First name: ____________________________ Middle name or initial: ____________________________  
Last name: ____________________________
College and Program Information

[ ] Thesis [ ] Dissertation

Thesis / Dissertation Director

Thesis / Dissertation Co-Director (if applicable)

List all other committee members:

College:

Department:

Please provide a brief summary of your research question:

Note: The Thesis Initiation sheet can also be found in two locations on the Graduate Studies’ website:

- Graduate Studies >> Faculty and Staff Resources >> Faculty & Staff
  Forms: [http://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-studies/faculty-staff-resources.html](http://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-studies/faculty-staff-resources.html)

- Graduate Studies >> Graduate Student Toolkit >> Student
  Forms: [http://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-studies/grad-toolkit.html](http://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-studies/grad-toolkit.html)
Checklist for graduate students
(to be kept in student file)

Name ___________________________________________________________________

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Signature</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Obtain copy of Departmental Graduate Handbook</td>
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<td>2. Sign and submit Graduate Student contract</td>
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<td>3. Meet with Graduate Coordinator for course selection</td>
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<td>4. Degree Plan selected</td>
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<td>5. If doing thesis, thesis advisor selected</td>
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<td>6. Thesis Advisory Committee established</td>
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<td>7. Prospectus approved, presented and submitted to Dean’s office</td>
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<td>8. Comprehensive exam scheduled</td>
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<td>9. Comprehensive exam completed</td>
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<td>10. File degree application for graduation</td>
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