



Date: January 5, 2022

Dear Prospective Graduate Students,

We appreciate your interest in the Geographic Information Science (GIS) graduate program at Eastern Michigan University (EMU).

EMU's GIS programs are at the forefront of offering opportunities to students and mid-career professionals to develop careers in the geospatial sciences. The GIS graduate program combines the theoretical aspects of GIS with practical applications across a broad range of areas, including urban planning, environmental management, crime analysis, business GIS, public health, cultural resource management, and land use analysis.

We currently have approximately 40 graduate students in our M.S. GIS program. [The 36-credit program](#) is divided into a 26-credit core, a 4-6 credit capstone internship course, and 4-7 credits of electives. Our GIS faculty members include 5 experts in their respective fields:

- [Dr. Dan Bonenberger](#), Historical GIS, Multidimensional GIS, and geovisualization in cultural resource surveys, analysis, and interpretation, including 3D modeling and VR of historic places, buildings, and landscapes, dbonenbe@emich.edu
- [Dr. Hugh Semple](#), disease mapping and spatial analysis of public health data, food production, food accessibility and urban revitalization in the US and the Caribbean, and enterprise GIS technologies, hsemple@emich.edu
- [Dr. William Welsh](#), remote sensing, environmental assessment, land use/cover analysis, and Great Lakes coastal studies, wwelsh@emich.edu
- [Dr. Yichun Xie](#), spatiotemporal modeling of urban growth and grassland ecosystems, coupled impacts of human dynamics and environmental changes on resource management, and land-use and land-cover changes, yxie@emich.edu
- [Dr. Xining Yang](#), spatial analysis, quantitative methods, data science, Web-GIS, health geography, and active living, xyang5@emich.edu

Our GIS faculty members closely collaborate with the Institute for Geospatial Research and Education (IGRE), which has a long history as an EMU research center for developing innovative research methods, technologies and applications in geographic information systems and remote sensing to address emerging challenges.

The GIS M.S. Program and IGRÉ jointly offer very attractive financial aid packages. **We offer around 4 Teaching Assistantships each academic year**, which provide tuition and a stipend. We also offer 2 Research Assistantships per year, which come with tuition and a stipend. In addition, there are grant-sponsored research projects, which provide excellent summer research opportunities. Perspective graduate students must apply for admission into the GIS M.S. Program through [EMU Graduate School Application Portal](#). Meanwhile, you are encouraged to contact our GIS faculty members. Our faculty are happy to discuss the application for admission and assistantships with you by email (best), by phone, or during a visit to EMU campus. However, a decision on offering a financial aid package will be made after the admission into the GIS M.S. program. The GIS faculty members convene around mid-March each year to review the assistantship applications and decide on the awards, although these remain open until filled. Official GA offer letters come from the Office of the Department Head of Geography and Geology.

We invite you to browse [our program website](#). If you have any questions about the financial aid package, don't hesitate to contact the GIS faculty member with whom you think you share similar research interests, or the GIS Program Coordinator, Dr. Hugh Semple, hsemple@emich.edu.