

Certificate Concentration Requirements

To qualify for an Advanced (Graduate) Certificate in Geographic Information Science, a student must:

- Be admitted to one of the departmentally-based participating Doctoral programs; maintain status as a full-time graduate student in good standing in the home department; and successfully complete all doctoral degree requirements of the home department.
- Register the intent to pursue the GIScience Certificate concentration with the GIScience Steering Committee no later than the twelve months before the end of their doctoral studies.
- Conform to all other regulations and requirements of their home department, the GIScience Certificate concentration, and the Graduate School of the University at Buffalo.
- Take the four required GIScience core courses, and one GIScience elective course approved by student's advisor. This course may also count toward the degree requirements of the home department.
- Demonstrate competence in the use of Geographic Information Systems through (a) successful completion of an appropriate course (e.g. GEO 506); or (b) demonstration that they have successfully completed a course covering comparable topics within the past three years; or (c) provision of current proof of certification as a GIS specialist.
- Select a Ph.D. advisory committee chaired by a member of the UB GIScience faculty roster, and including at least one other GIScience faculty member from outside the student's home academic department at UB.
- Write and defend a dissertation proposal, and complete and defend a dissertation on a topic related to geographic information science selected in consultation with the student's advisory committee.

GIScience Certificate students will be encouraged to participate in the GIScience colloquium series, and in faculty-led GIScience research projects on campus. Students are also encouraged to spend at least one summer or semester in an internship in a non-academic research environment. Students are also encouraged to undertake an international experience, by attending classes or seminars overseas or by participating in an international research internship.