Humboldt State University offers unique undergraduate and post-baccalaureate programs in Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing.
Curious About Your World?

Are you computer-savvy with a natural curiosity about our ever-changing world? Consider the expanding field of geospatial analysis, a blend of outdoor research and high-tech tools that solves problems in natural resource management, emergency response, community planning, health and social services, business and economics, and much more. Humboldt State can set you on an exciting path. We offered one of the first undergraduate programs in the nation in geographic information systems (GIS) and remote sensing, and it’s still one-of-a-kind. The skills and hands-on learning you acquire here will prepare you for a rewarding career in one of today’s fastest-growing industries.

“The program in GIS and Remote Sensing at HSU gave me the skills to approach almost any spatial problem with the confidence that there should be a way, and typically several ways, to solve it. One of the most important aspects of the program to me was the smaller size of the classes, which made it possible for our professors to respond to individual questions and for students to share tips and ideas.”

Marion Noble
GIS Specialist, The Nature Conservancy
Fort Hood, Texas
HSU Class of 2005
Recipient of the NRPI Most Outstanding Student Award, 2005-06
What Are GIS and Remote Sensing?

Geographic information systems (GIS) are software tools, often in the form of a “smart map,” that answer important questions about where things happen and why. For example:

What portions of the San Bernardino Mountains are most vulnerable to wildfire? Which neighborhoods in San Francisco require more police protection? Where is the best location for a new stadium in Sacramento? Before GIS, raw data in charts or spreadsheets couldn’t show the big picture. With GIS, decision-makers see clear relationships and trends in graphic form for more effective management. For problems that affect a large geographic area, remote sensing technologies such as satellite imagery and aerial photography generate valuable data for use in a GIS.

Both GIS and remote sensing are important tools in a broader field known as geospatial analysis or geospatial technology.

Map Your Future at HSU

Humboldt State is home to one of the best undergraduate programs in GIS and remote sensing. Our unique emphasis in community and natural resource management attracts students nationwide. Here you’ll find a variety of courses and a level of hands-on learning that are rare at the undergraduate level.

Our fast-growing program offers a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources Planning and Interpretation with an option in GIS and Remote Sensing. Professionals from around the country also come to Humboldt State for our post-baccalaureate certificate of study, which helps them apply GIS tools and techniques to their specific disciplines. We also offer a Master of Science degree in Natural Resources with an option in GIS and Remote Sensing. All of our students tailor coursework to meet their interests.
You’ll Work with the Best

Our facilities feature the latest technology available—often better than what’s found in professional settings. In our Spatial Analysis Lab, students use these state-of-the-art tools as part of their daily studies. The Advanced Spatial Analysis Facility and the Institute for Spatial Analysis also serve the needs of researchers across campus. And don’t forget the world-class natural laboratory right outside our front door: redwood forests, wildlife sanctuaries, Humboldt Bay, the Pacific Ocean and six major river systems for you to study and enjoy!

Outstanding Teachers as Your Guides

Our faculty are highly respected scholars in their disciplines, and their timely research makes them better teachers. Through one-on-one consultation and small class sizes, you’ll develop close working relationships with faculty in a variety of classroom, lab and fieldwork experiences. Classes in our program also enjoy a wide range of guest lecturers sharing real-world applications of GIS and remote sensing.

“The great thing about the GIS classes I’ve had is the broad foundation they provide. The program has given me not only confidence within various software environments, but also a real appreciation of what GIS is capable of and how it is being applied across disciplines. I’ll have plenty of job options to choose from along the way. It feels good to know that my skills will be in high demand.”

Jennifer “Bell” Lumbert
Champaign-Urbana, Ill.
HSU Class of 2008
Customized studies in “restoration cartography,” plus GIS certificate of study and three minors
Here You’ll Do the Work

Unlike undergraduates at some larger universities, Humboldt State students are active learners. Lab work is part of every geospatial analysis course, and nearly all intermediate and advanced courses have project requirements—real-world projects addressing important problems. A degree in GIS also includes a student-driven internship with an agency or organization in need of your expertise.

Your Reward? An Exciting Career

Geospatial analysis is a $30 billion high-growth industry, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, and workforce needs have never been greater. With your HSU degree and valuable experience in tackling important research problems, you’ll be on your way! Our graduates enjoy high-wage positions in natural resources management, federal, state and local government, private consulting in a variety of fields and geospatial technology development. Many choose to continue their studies at some of the finest graduate programs in the country. And as uses for GIS multiply each year, your career options only will improve.

Image courtesy of NASA
“The program at HSU is very broad in terms of the different problems and applications you get to work on. It’s been perfect for my work, because there are so many different applications that either I’ve been involved in or will be involved in. Conceptually, I haven’t come across anything I wasn’t prepared for, or techniques that I hadn’t used before.”

Jim Dishun
GIS Specialist
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Biloxi, Miss.
2004 graduate of the post-baccalaureate certificate program and member of the Hurricane Katrina disaster relief team

Let us know how we can help you map your own success:

www.humboldt.edu/~enrs

Department of Environmental & Natural Resource Sciences
Humboldt State University
1 Harpst Street
Arcata, CA 95521

Phone: (707) 826-4147
E-mail: gis@humboldt.edu

HSU is an AA/EO institution