

GeoTech Fact Sheet

- Currently no Idaho University offers a graduate **degree in Geographic Information Science**.
 - Several institutions offer GIS programs where students can earn a graduate certificate or "emphasis area" within their field of study.
- The proposed MS in Geographic Information Science is not an "emphasis area", but rather the **primary focus** of the graduate degree program.
- Geographic Information Systems is not a subset or application of geography, computer science, or computer programming. It is the "larger umbrella" that **embraces numerous disciplines** including anthropology, biology, business marketing, computer science, ecology, engineering, geography, geology, health professions (informatics, epidemiology, DNA modeling, and bio-terrorism), history, physics, and statistics.
- From 2001-2004, Idaho State University has received **over \$5.25M to fund geo-spatial research**.
 - The GIS Training and Research Center has received over \$3.75M and the Department of Geosciences has received over \$1.5M for geo-spatial research. Much of this funding has been used to support students.
- There is **high demand** for this rapidly growing industry.
 - Currently **29 students are enrolled** in the Geotechnologies program at ISU
 - A recent search to bring-in 3 new RA positions into the GIS Training and Research Center yielded 42 applicants. The three selected students will begin their studies and research in the fall semester 2004.
- The research conducted at the GIS Training and Research Center has been **nationally recognized** for quality and community orientation.
 - The GIS Training and Research Center was awarded the prestigious **ESRI Special Achievements in GIS award** (2000).
 - Keith T. Weber, ISU's GIS Director received a **Letter of Recognition** from Governor Kempthorne and Pat Takasugi (Director of the State Department of Agriculture)(2003) for geo-spatial research efforts in developing remote sensing technologies for improved rangeland management in Idaho.
- ISU has **11 faculty** teaching courses in the Geotechnologies program. This cadre of faculty is from the GIS TRC, Department of Geosciences, Department of Biological Sciences, Department of Anthropology, and College of Engineering.
 - The Department of Geosciences and GIS Training and Research Center are currently searching for a "Geotechnologies Lecturer" to add yet another person to the faculty using external funding resources.
- URISA is the primary association for GIS professionals in the United States. The GIS Certification Institute (a branch of URISA) began certifying GIS Professionals in 2003.
 - Currently, there is **only one Certified GIS Professional teaching at an Idaho university**- Keith T. Weber, GIS Director, Idaho State University.
 - Only 363 professionals have been Certified in the nation.

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