

TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGY

Explore new ways to integrate a world of information



**GIS IS ABOUT GROUNDBREAKING JOBS FOR TODAY
AND ONES NOT YET IMAGINED FOR TOMORROW.**

The acronym stands for geographic information system – a designation that could be skipped over as too technical to contemplate.

However, keep on reading if you are a Curious George or Georgia, who dreams of helping to keep the homeland secure, making the economy stronger, protecting the environment or preparing for national disasters.

Or maybe, you just wonder, “What if...,” suggests Nicole Ernst, HACC Instructor of Geospatial Technology. If that’s the case, “the prospects and opportunities are limitless.”

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*HACC students receive more than
\$65 million in financial aid annually.
To fill out a free application for Federal
Student Aid go to: www.fafsa.ed.gov.
For more financial information, call
HACC Financial Aid Services at
(717) 780-2330.*

*For more information about the
geospatial technology program, call
Nicole Ernst, HACC Instructor of
Geospatial Technology, at 221-1345
or e-mail nlernst@hacc.edu.*



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GIS OPENS DOOR TO CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

While GIS has been around for 40 years, Ernst points out the exciting potential of this career field skyrocketed as software became user friendly and data became more easily available. Google Earth made GIS available to anyone with an internet connection.

HACC's Geospatial Technology program, established three years ago, holds promise for the person interested in geography.

"Approximately 70 to 80 percent of the information managed by business is somehow connected to a specific location -- an address, street, intersection or 'xy' coordinate," according to the Geospatial Information Technology Association. Consequently, the technology is finding its way into every corner of the business world, and the geospatial market is growing at almost 35 percent a year, the association estimates.

HACC students become familiar with the necessary system of software, hardware, data and personnel, peripherals, remote sensing, including aerial photography, global positioning systems (GPS) and computer-aided drawing (CAD). They learn how GIS can be applied to various disciplines such as marketing, urban planning, emergency services, and the environment.

TWO PATHS OFFERED

A student can earn an Associate in Science degree in GIS or someone with a two- or four-year degree can take a certificate program to advance in a current job. "Current students include a hydrologist, librarian and others in the fields of conservation, architecture and engineering, Ernst says.

The degree program requires 67 credits. Highlights are:

- 30 credits of courses involving computer-aided drafting, basic or JAVA programming, engineering geoscience, geographic information systems, cartographic design, data acquisition and remote sensing;
- 19 credits of English, technical writing, effective speaking, electives, and
- 18 credits of software for business, algebra, trigonometry and principles of management and marketing.

Credits are transferable to pursue a bachelor's degree. The complete program is available at the Harrisburg Campus. Some courses can be taken at Lancaster, Lebanon and the Gettysburg campuses.

SALARY PROSPECTS

As for salary, the candidate with an associate degree averages \$30,000-\$35,000 a year to start as a specialist in geographic information, computer-aided drafting and other jobs dealing with the acquisition and use of geographic and time-based data.

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM OFFERED

A certificate program requiring 34 credits also is available for students seeking to advance in their careers by adding to their competencies and working on cross-functional teams. Necessary courses are:

- 25 credits of the credits listed above for the major, and
- 9 credits of math, management, marketing and business software.

START THE PROCESS

HACC offers students:

- Flexibility to study part- or full-time while meeting other workplace obligations;
- Individualized attention and remediation to meet admission requirements, and
- The ability to transfer credits to a bachelor's degree program.

HACC provides high-quality education at the lowest cost in the area. Find admissions information, tuition and fees and a list of the 22 south-central Pennsylvania school sponsoring districts that pick up part of the tuition cost for residents at www.hacc.edu.