

George Mason University

An NGA/USGS CAE in Geospatial Science

Outline

- Geospatial science at Mason: some quick facts
- A transitional era for geospatial science: opportunities and challenges

George Mason University: Quick Facts

Public University - Initially created as part of the University of Virginia

Student body: ~34,000

Interesting Facts:

- Largest university in the Commonwealth of Virginia
- Ranked #1 “Up-and-Coming National University”
- Ranked in the Top 200 World Universities



The GGS Department at Mason

The Geography and Geoinformation Science (GGS) Department was **founded** in July 2008 from the merger of the departments of:

- Geography (since 1991), and
- Earth Systems and Geoinformation Sciences (since 2002)

A combination of strong education with top research.

- 21 faculty
- 80 undergraduates; 90 Master; 80 PhD students
- FY 14 research: \$5million (top in COS)

Department of Geography and GeoInformation Science

Spatial Analysis. GeoSpatial Intelligence. Remote Sensing.
Geographic Information Systems and Science.

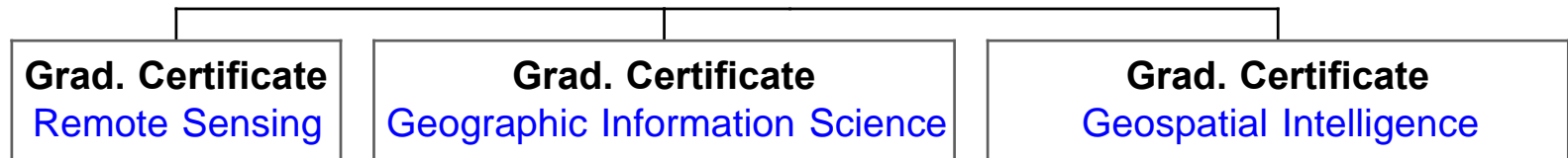


The GGS Department: Programs

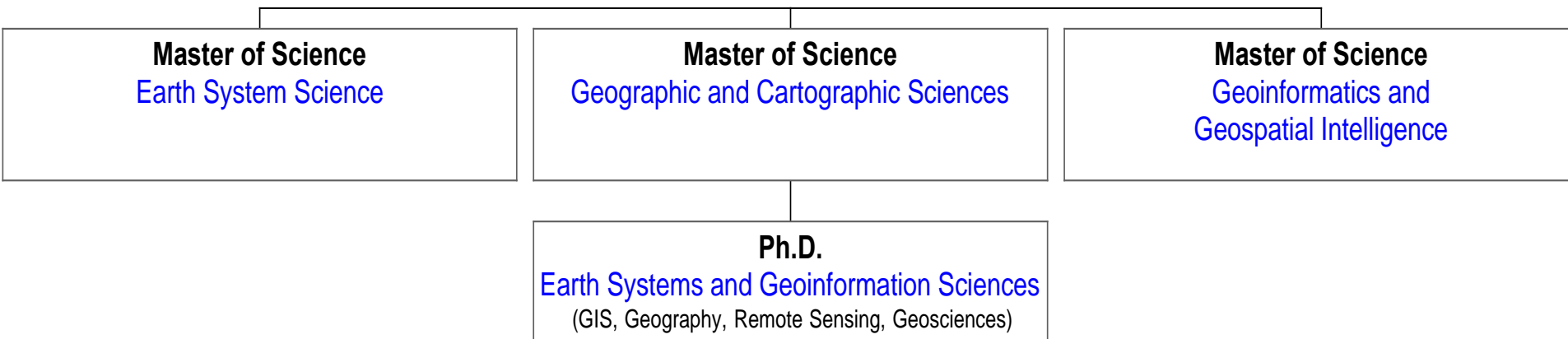
GGG Undergraduate Programs



GGG Graduate Certificates



GGG Graduate Programs

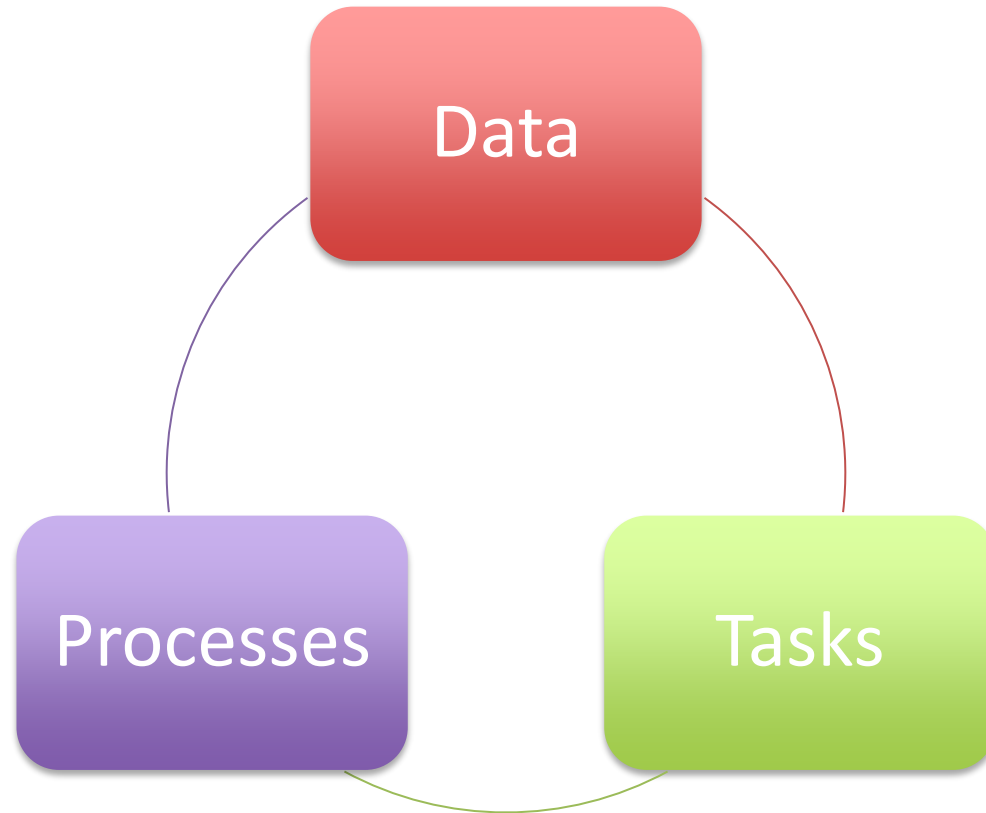


Geospatial Science Degrees Awarded

GGSDegreesAwarded	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
BAandBS(total:79)	30	23	26
Grad.Certificates(total:64)	38	11	15
MS(total:30)	22	41	17
PhD(total:25)	7	8	10

Degrees awarded over the past 5 years

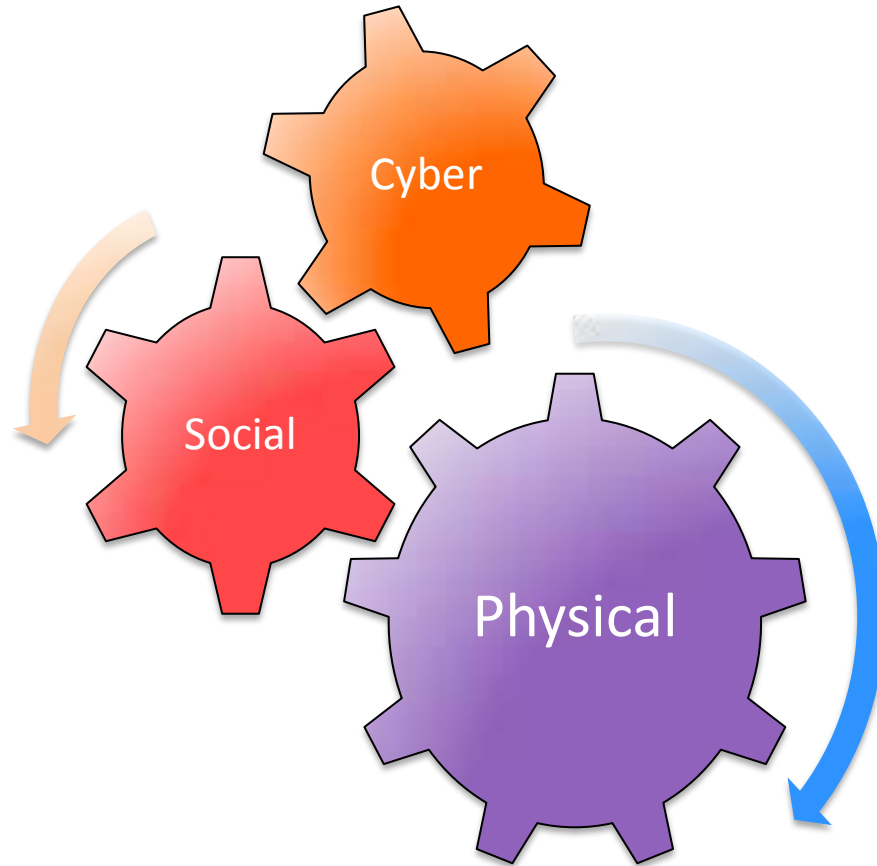
Geospatial Science: A well-defined past



Geospatial science at a transitional stage

- **New data:** VGI, social media, small satellites, increasingly spatiotemporal
- **New tasks:** A broader consumer community, a broader set of tasks
- **New processes:** What do we 'map' now? How do we analyze these diverse datasets? How do our computational capabilities evolve?

A new multidisciplinary landscape



Impacts on education

- An evolving tradecraft: from linearity to broadening and discontinuities
- The still evolving frameworks of online learning and continuing education
- **Multidisciplinarity:** How can it be reflected in traditional academic curricula? Graduate vs undergraduate education.
- The evolving profile of graduate students