UT-Dallas

Program in Geospatial Information Sciences

Guidelines for Narrative/Personal Statement/Statement of Intent

All applicants – both full-time and part-time – to the GISciences Ph.D. program are required to submit with their application documents a statement about their intended research foci, motivation and background. This statement will guide the graduate committee in determining: [a] whether your interests and skill set are a good match for the GISciences program at UT-Dallas, [b] if an interim supervisor should be assigned from either the spatial analysis, remote sensing or geo-computations track, and [c] your eligibility for financial assistance (Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant) in your first academic year. In consultation with you and other GISciences faculty members, the interim supervisor will outline your required and optional coursework. You may change your interim supervisor at any time.

Your GISciences research, motivation and background statement typically should discuss the following interrelated questions in less than 3 pages:

- What motivated you to pursue a doctoral degree in GISciences?
- What previous exposure to and accomplishments (publications, fellowships, honors, scholarships, etc) in GISciences and/or related fields have you had, either in your academic education or your professional occupation?
- What tentative topics, problems and research question(s) are you planning to explore in your Ph.D. dissertation?
- Where are you envisioning making contributions to the body of academic knowledge or professional practices?
- Is there a substantive area where you wish to apply GISciences?
- Which skills are you hoping to gain during your Ph.D. studies?
- If you intend to be a part-time student, in what reasonable time frame do you plan to graduate and how are you planning to accomplish this?
- How are you planning to capitalize from your future doctoral degree in GISciences?

Please feel free to provide additional information in your statement that may strengthen your application.

To complete the application process, go to:
	http://www.utdallas.edu/whyutd/prospective/graduate.html

You may also want to refer to the general guidelines for submitting applications to the School of Social Sciences available at http://www.utdallas.edu/dept/socsci/grad-advising/gradapp.html

(Note: The School of Social Sciences was renamed the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences in August 2006. This school provides the administrative support for the interdisciplinary GISciences program.)