



NEWS RELEASE

THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA WILL OFFER A NEW MASTER OF URBAN SPATIAL ANALYTICS

PHILADELPHIA — The University of Pennsylvania and the Penn Institute for Urban Research (www.upenn.edu/penniur) announce the launching of a new degree, the Master of Urban Spatial Analytics (MUSA). The first Masters degree in spatial analytics offered by an Ivy League institution, this degree is designed for future leaders who wish to apply spatial technology solutions to business and public sector decision-making. The degree offers the opportunity to learn the technical skills of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and spatial statistics and to develop a program of learning in an urban content area from Penn's rich urban-related course offerings. Knowledge of geospatial, statistical, and data management techniques enable graduates to use the power of spatial analysis to advance solutions in the private and public sector.

The United States Department of Labor identifies GIS as one of the fastest-growing, knowledge-based fields in the country. Penn's Master of Urban Spatial Analytics (MUSA) is designed to train students to use this knowledge to make a difference in their chosen profession and to prepare future leaders for expanding opportunities in specific employment areas. In the public sector, these include opportunities in fields such as healthcare, criminology, and transportation, and in private sector fields, such as, utilities, marketing, and real estate development.

Penn is recognized by *U.S. News and World Report* and others as a leading educational institution in the world, and MUSA students have access to courses throughout the University. MUSA is sponsored by Penn's Institute for Urban Research, a university-wide initiative whose mission it is to foster excellence in urban research, instruction and civic engagement. MUSA courses can be taken in the School of Medicine, School of Nursing, PennDesign, Graduate School of Education, Wharton, and School of Arts and Sciences. Philadelphia is a major urban center which enables students to pursue a wide variety of internship opportunities as part of their course of study.

The Master of Urban Spatial Analytics is a one-year, 9-course professional degree program. Required analytics and methodology courses include: Modeling Geographic Space, Spatial Analysis in Urban Studies, Statistics and Spatial Data Analysis with GIS. Students select urban content field courses from Criminology, Design, Economic Development, Education, Local and State Government, Public Health, Real Estate, Social Welfare, Transportation, or Urban Demography. Students also undertake a Capstone Project, demonstrating mastery of new skills by applying spatial analytics to a specialized real-world topic.

MUSA welcomes applicants from all backgrounds, including new graduates and current professionals with or without prior training in GIS. Applications for the inaugural MUSA class will be accepted beginning February 2005. A boot camp in GIS for novices (open to non-applicants) is offered in summer of 2005.

For more information on and an application to this program, refer to the website: <http://www.sas.upenn.edu/CGS/graduate/musa/>. To be added to the mailing list, please contact: Dr. Rosalie Guzofsky | 215-898-3109 | guzofsky@sas.upenn.edu.
Penn IUR Contact: Kendra Goldbas | 215.573.8386 | kendrag@pobox.upenn.edu