



The Geospatial Intelligence Certificate at the US Air Force Academy

WHAT IS GEOSPATIAL INTELLIGENCE?

Geospatial intelligence (GEOINT) involves the exploitation and analysis of imagery, geospatial data and geospatial information to describe, assess, and visually depict physical features and geographically referenced activities on the earth.

The U.S. Air Force Academy's Department of Economics and Geosciences offers a USGIF-accredited GEOINT Certificate Program that is designed to provide cadets with an educational foundation and set of skills that can be immediately brought to bear as a newly commissioned military officer. The GEOINT certificate provides a unique set of problem solving and analytical skills that are of particular value to the intelligence and rated officer career fields, but that can be applied in virtually any career field available to graduating cadets.



WHAT IS THE USGIF?

The United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the geospatial intelligence tradecraft and building a stronger community of interest across industry, academia, government, professional organizations and individual stakeholders.

WHY PURSUE A CERTIFICATE IN GEOSPATIAL INTELLIGENCE?

Accurate intelligence is critical to the warfighter to achieve mission success. The field of Intelligence incorporates the collection, analysis, and exploitation of multiple types and formats of information.

GEOINT addresses the collection, analysis, and exploitation of *geospatial information and data* – that is, information and data that can be referenced to a location on the earth. Examples of geospatial data include imagery, maps and charts, census data, GPS coordinates, and digital models of the Earth.

GEOINT is critical to military operations and there currently exists a scarcity of GEOINT-educated individuals. The GEOINT Certificate Program at USAFA is constructed in coordination with government, academia, and industry experts and prepares cadets to serve as GEOINT-skilled critical thinkers and leaders. In addition to the coursework, numerous opportunities for research, internships, and other real-world experiences such as visits to GEOINT operations centers are available to cadets seeking the GEOINT certificate.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

The GEOINT certificate program requires the following foundational USAFA Core courses:

1. Comp Sci 110 - Introduction to Computing
2. Law 220 - Law for Air Force Officers
3. Philos 310 - Ethics

The following Geospatial Science courses are also required:

1. Geo 310 (or Geo 200) – Introduction to Geospatial Thinking
 2. Geo 340 – Introduction to Geographic Information Systems
 3. Geo 370 - Military Geography
 4. Geo 382 - Remote Sensing and Imagery Analysis
 5. Geo 440* - Advanced Geospatial Analysis
 6. Geo 482* - Advanced Remote Sensing
 7. Geo 498 - Geospatial Science Capstone
 8. Geo 488 –The GEOINT Enterprise
- OR
PolSci 462* - Politics and Intelligence

*For the Geospatial Science major, Pol Sci 462 + either Geo 440 or Geo 482 are elective options, all other courses listed are required for the major.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

The GEOINT certificate requires completion of the above courses with a collective “B” average and no single course grade lower than “C-”.

Application for admission into the GEOINT Certificate Program at USAFA is open to all cadets. The Department of Economics and Geosciences administers the program and oversees admissions decisions.