

SPACE STUDIES

Contact Information

Space Studies

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The professional master's degree in Space Studies is a collaboration between the Wiess School of Natural Sciences and the George R. Brown School of Engineering and Computing, and is geared to help individuals increase their knowledge of space engineering and related science, program management, and policy. The program includes advanced engineering, biological, and physical science classes and introduces students to economics, public policy, and management disciplines, which impact space commercialization and national policy. It focuses on training engineers and scientists interested in program management, providing them with the tools to face the complex challenges inherent in US space policy, human and robotic space exploration, science in space exploration, and technology development.

The MS in Space Studies (MSSpS) degree is part of the professional science master's (PSM) program at Rice housed in the Wiess School of Natural Sciences. It focuses on training students in Space Engineering and Science with the intent of creating new opportunities for those students interested in working in the space technology industry or related government entities, e.g. NASA, as well as governmental relations positions in non-profit organizations, industry, and academic institutions. These master's degrees are designed for students seeking to gain further technical core expertise coupled with enhanced management, communication, and leadership skills, instilling a level of scholastic proficiency that exceeds that of the bachelor's level, and creating the cross-functional aptitudes needed in modern industry and government. This degree program is administered by the Department of [Physics and Astronomy](https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/physics-astronomy/) (<https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/physics-astronomy/>).

A coordinated MBA/MSSpS degrees program is also offered in conjunction with the Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Business.

Space Studies does not currently offer an academic program at the undergraduate level.

Master's Program

- [Master of Science in Space Studies \(MSSpS\) Degree](https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/space-studies/space-studies-mssps/) (<https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/space-studies/space-studies-mssps/>)

Coordinated Program

- [Master of Science in Space Studies \(MSSpS\) Degree / Master of Business Administration \(MBA\) Degree](https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/space-studies/business-administration-mba-space-studies-mssps/) (<https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/space-studies/business-administration-mba-space-studies-mssps/>)

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Professors

Christopher M. Johns-Krull

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Stephen J. Bradshaw

Research Professor

Erzsébet Merényi

Adjunct Professor

Hadley Wickham

For Rice University degree-granting programs:

To view the list of official course offerings, please see [Rice's Course Catalog](https://courses.rice.edu/admweb/!SWKSCAT.cat?p_action=cata) (https://courses.rice.edu/admweb/!SWKSCAT.cat?p_action=cata).

To view the most recent semester's course schedule, please see [Rice's Course Schedule](https://courses.rice.edu/admweb/!SWKSCAT.cat) (<https://courses.rice.edu/admweb/!SWKSCAT.cat>).

Description and Code Legend

Note: Internally, the university uses the following descriptions, codes, and abbreviations for this academic program. The following is a quick reference:

Course Catalog/Schedule

- Course offerings/subject codes: Courses from various subjects may apply towards this program

Home School Description and Code

- Natural Sciences: NS

Home Department Description and Code

- Physics and Astronomy: PHYS

Graduate Degree Description and Code

- Master of Science in Space Studies degree: MSSpS

Graduate Degree Program Description and Code

- Degree Program in Space Studies: SPST

CIP Code and Description ¹

- **SPST Major/Program:** CIP Code/Title: *14.0201 - Aerospace, Aeronautical and Astronautical/Space Engineering*

¹ Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) 2020 Codes and Descriptions from the National Center for Education Statistics: <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/>.