SPACE STUDIES

Contact Information
Space Studies
https://profms.rice.edu/
203 Keck Hall
713-348-3188

David Alexander
Faculty Director
dalex@rice.edu

Patrick Rodi
Faculty Advisor
pr15@rice.edu

Dagmar Beck
PSM Program Director
dkbeck@rice.edu

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 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.

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-msspss/)

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-masps/)

Director
David Alexander

Advisor
Patrick Rodi

Professors
Christopher M. Johns-Krull
Adrian Lenardic
Marcia K. O’Malley
Tayfun E. Tezduyar
Frank R. Toffoletto

Associate Professor
Stephen J. Bradshaw

Research Professor
Erzsébet Merényi

Adjunct Professors
Ramon Gonzalez
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/)
To view the most recent semester’s course schedule, please see Rice’s Course Schedule (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 toward the graduate degree.

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
• SPST Major/Program: CIP Code/Title: 14.0201 - Aerospace, Aeronautical and Astronautical/Space Engineering
Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) 2020 Codes and Descriptions from the National Center for Education Statistics: https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/