

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## ABOUT SURVEYING COURSES AT MGA

The current cycle of courses at Midwest Geospatial Academy (MGA), each is a 3-credit or semester-hour course, is:

**Fall Semester:** • SUR 201 (Surveying I, hybrid) • SUR 301 (Land Records: Using and Researching • NEW “fifth” course, SUR 303 (Elements of Surveying Practice)

**Spring Semester:** • SUR 202 (Surveying II, hybrid), • SUR 302 (Legal Aspects of Boundary Surveying). For Spring 2025 we *may* offer SUR303 if demand is there.



### Prerequisites

There are prerequisites for each course. Students wishing to enroll without prerequisites will have to provide information about current workload and course load and state in writing why they believe they should be exempted from a prerequisite. Previous performance in courses (including H.S. and college transcripts where applicable) will be evaluated through transcript(s) review (required to be submitted, unofficial transcript OK).

### Waiver

Additionally, if the student is given permission to enroll in a subsequent course without the prerequisite, MGA must be in possession of a signed waiver submitted by the student in advance of registering. In the waiver form, which must be approved by the instructor and the program advisor, the student takes full responsibility for passing/failing without the prerequisite. If a student enrolls in two (or more) courses during the same semester, works full time, and receives a “D” or failing grade, no future requests for enrolling in two courses in the same semester will be entertained.

### Course Schedules

All MGA course semesters, Fall, Spring, and when offered, Summer, are 13-week semesters. Exact dates vary, but the starting months are late August for the Fall, early January for the Spring and mid-May for the Summer semesters. In the future we may offer intensive courses or executive-style courses with schedules that are different from the normal year-to-year calendar.

All currently offered courses (SUR 201, 202, 301, 302 and 303) are online. However, SUR 201 and SUR 202 have a lab component that requires the student to be on the laboratory campus for four Saturdays each semester. In these labs the students will use surveying equipment in the field with practical applications related to surveying. Thus SUR 201 and 202 are more correctly described as hybrid courses. Schedules for the lab dates will be published by the instructor after the semester starts, there will be five Saturdays scheduled so that one of them can serve as a bad weather alternate date. These labs will be conducted on the campus of Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla.

### Remote Mentors

Students can elect to complete their laboratory assignments off-campus. In this case, the student must find a licensed surveyor who will act as the proctor for the student, who will work with the student to adjust the lab

exercise for the location where the lab will be performed, who has all necessary equipment, and who will assist the student in the field or will assist in finding someone (an employee of the proctor, another surveyor, or another student currently enrolled in the same course) who is in the area.

The decision to perform remote labs MUST be for all lab exercise and days. There will be no accommodation for partial remote labs with the rest to be completed on campus. An off-campus lab agreement form must be signed by the student and the proctor and approved by the survey instructor and program advisor. This document approval process must be completed (i.e., approved), before the first lab of each semester. Students should understand that the job of organizing the remote lab arrangements and work is on them. Your course instructor only verifies that the student and the remote mentor or proctor have signed your remote lab agreements. Missing a lab on campus or remotely will count as a zero unless special arrangements have been made well in advance with the course instructor.

### **Prerequisites fulfillment at other schools; calendar time to complete courses**

Students who have completed Surveying I or II at another institution can submit transcripts for evidence of that coursework. The courses must have been approved by the Missouri licensing board at the time the courses were taken. Thus, all courses which have Surveying I and II as prerequisites will require that students submit transcripts as evidence of having taken those courses and received a minimum grade of “C.”

Under normal circumstances, the cycle of the five courses required by the Missouri licensing board will take two and a half years to complete and are only offered in the semesters listed above. However, these courses could be taken in one and a half years if the student wants to take two courses each semester, but the student will need to sign a waiver form because the student will not have all the prerequisites.

It is recommended to take just one course each semester. It is not only a question of whether the students have been in the survey field for several years and have the prerequisite knowledge; it is whether they have the time available to fulfill the requirements for two simultaneous courses. This decision is up to them but student will still need to sign the waiver form.

### **Degrees**

MGA does not currently offer degrees. However, upon completion of the cycle of five courses required by the Missouri licensing board, a Basic Certificate in Land Surveying is offered by MGA. This is not a certification that the licensing board requires; it is simply offered to recognize education achievement. In future years, as courses are added, MGA will offer additional certificates beyond the Basic level. Someday, with enough colleges collaborating with us, we may also offer a path to a degree (2-year or 4-year). Talks with some institutions have already started.

### **Future Courses**

Look for these in future terms:

- Missouri Topics for Surveyors
- Surveying Mathematics-Intermediate
- Geospatial Topics in Surveying
- GNSS for Geospatial Professionals

Apply at: [www.geospatialacademy.us](http://www.geospatialacademy.us)

To send transcripts by email: [admissions@geospatialacademy.us](mailto:admissions@geospatialacademy.us)

U.S. Mail or other correspondence: Midwest Geospatial Academy

P.O. Box 22453, Kansas City, MO 64113

General inquiries to [info@geospatialacademy.us](mailto:info@geospatialacademy.us)

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