Online Graduate Education in Surveying at the University of Maine

by Knud E. Hermansen[†] P.L.S., P.E., Ph.D., Esq.

Many survey practitioners have wanted an online graduate program that is flexible to their work schedule. Many potential graduate students are employed and have families. Some potential students own their own firms. These individuals cannot stop work and move their families to be near a university. The University of Maine fulfills their need by offering an online professional science masters degree in engineering and business.

The Professional Science Masters (PSM) in Engineering and Business is a course of study for individuals that already have an undergraduate degree in engineering, engineering technology, or related field and want to pursue a management position or currently reside in a management position.

The degree combines management courses with advanced surveying courses. There are 21 credits of advanced survey topics that can be taken as part of the degree. There are 27 credits in business/economics that can be taken as part of the program. To complete the PSM degree the student must complete 12 credits of surveying courses, nine credits of business courses, a 3 credit course in advanced project management, and six credits of applied field experience. All the courses required for the PSM degree are offered online.

The average age of the student in the PSM course of study is 39 years of age. Current students in the PSM program reside in 13 different states. Currently, there are 21 surveying students in the PSM degree program. Surveying students in the PSM degree program make up a significant portion of the College of Engineer's graduate student population.

A story of one surveyor that pursued a PSM degree can be read at:

https://online.umaine.edu/2018/12/03/ambroses-story/

Closely related to the professional science masters degree is a graduate certificate in surveying. To earn a graduate certificate in surveying an individual must take 12 credits of graduate courses in surveying. The courses earned in the graduate certificate program can be transferred to the PSM degree should the student wish to pursue a masters degree after obtaining a certificate. An individual that takes at least one course a year can advance toward a certificate in surveying and also fulfill their continuing education requirements for licensure in many states.

To be admitted into the Surveying Engineering Graduate Certificate program, the individual must hold an undergraduate degree. It is recommended that a cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 or higher exists.

Additional information on the PSM program can be obtained at:

https://online.umaine.edu/grad/professional-science-masters-in-engineering-and-business/

Additional information on the graduate certificate in surveying can be obtained at:

https://online.umaine.edu/surveyingengineeringcert/

Those interested in enrolling in either the graduate certificate program or the PSM degree can contact Dr. Ray Hintz, P.L.S. (<u>Raymond.Hintz@maine.edu</u>) for information.

Generic questions about online U Maine programs and admissions should be directed to Dagmar Moravec dagmar.moravec@maine.edu.

Statistics for this article were provided by Ms. Kasey Hagedorn who is a graduate assistant for the Division of Life Long Learning at UMaine Online and a M.Ed student at the University of Maine.

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