

QUICK START – ArcGIS Pro or Desktop?

What version do I use for GIS?

(for your information; instructions in additional [Quick Start links](#))

ArcGIS Pro is our PRIMARY teaching software for UMN GIS Classes.

The software company ESRI created and supports the ArcGIS software family. Recently ESRI has introduced a major upgrade to ArcGIS called “ArcGIS Pro”. ArcGIS Pro is our main teaching software.

Previously we used ESRI’s ArcGIS Desktop (ArcMAP) for our classroom/lab instruction. Students from prior semesters may still want to use this OLDER version of the software. This older version is still available via CFANS Desktop (Citrix).

Our [MAIN GIS WEB SITE \(https://giscourses.cfans.umn.edu\)](https://giscourses.cfans.umn.edu) provides instructional access to BOTH versions: ArcGIS PRO or ArcGIS DESKTOP (ArcMap)

Current students should only use web sites for [FNRM 3131](#), [FNRM 5131](#), [ESPM 4295](#) or [ESPM 5295](#). These websites use ArcGIS PRO only!

Our web sites “[Archive: FNRM 3131](#)” or “[Archive: FRNM 5131](#)” provide instructions from previous semesters for reference, these websites use the older ArcGIS Desktop (ArcMAP) software.

Note:

We teach with ArcGIS but there are other good GIS software products, some even Open Source and freely available, for example [QGIS](#).