Twin Cities Campus

Geography Ph.D.

Geography, Environment, Society

College of Liberal Arts

Link to a list of faculty for this program.

Contact Information:
Department of Geography, 414 Social Sciences Building, 267 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455 (612-625-6080; fax: 612-624-1044)
Email: geog-dgs@umn.edu
Website: http://www.geog.umn.edu

- Program Type: Doctorate
- Requirements for this program are current for Fall 2019
- Length of program in credits: 52
- This program does not require summer semesters for timely completion.
- Degree: Doctor of Philosophy

Along with the program-specific requirements listed below, please read the General Information section of the catalog website for requirements that apply to all major fields.

The geography graduate program at Minnesota reflects the intellectual breadth of the discipline by maintaining strengths in the broad areas of human geography, physical geography, nature-society relationships, and geographic information science. Faculty and students are engaged in teaching and research both within and across these broad areas as evidenced by prominent research themes within the program: culture, place, and flow; environmental change; geographies of the information society; geovisualization; globalization and uneven development; governance, citizenship, and justice; metropolis and world; and nature and society. To support students in gaining both depth and breadth within the discipline, the program is highly individualized with a limited number of requirements. Students work with their advisers to design individual programs suited to their educational and professional goals.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Prerequisites for Admission

The preferred undergraduate GPA for admittance to the program is 3.50.

Undergraduate degrees need not be from a program in geography. However, students whose previous work is not in geography may be asked to complete specific courses that do not provide graduate credit.

Graduate degrees need not be from a program in geography. However, students whose previous work is not in geography may be asked to complete specific courses that do not provide graduate credit.

International applicants must submit score(s) from one of the following tests:

- TOEFL
  - Internet Based - Total Score: 100
  - Internet Based - Writing Score: 24
  - Internet Based - Reading Score: 22
  - Paper Based - Total Score: 600
- IELTS
  - Total Score: 7
- MELAB
  - Final score: 84

The preferred English language test is Test of English as Foreign Language

Key to test abbreviations(TOEFL, IELTS, MELAB).

For an online application or for more information about graduate education admissions, see the General Information section of the catalog website.

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Program Requirements

16 credits are required in the major.
12 credits are required outside the major.
24 thesis credits are required.

This program may be completed with a minor.

Use of 4xxx courses toward program requirements is permitted under certain conditions with adviser approval.

A minimum GPA of 3.00 is required for students to remain in good standing.

Students must earn certification of expertise in language(s), techniques(s) or both as determined by the advising committee. The committee must verify completion of the requirements prior to scheduling of the PhD final examination.

Required Courses

GEOG 8001 and 8405 should be taken within the first year of study.
GEOG 8001 - Problems in Geographic Thought (3.0 cr)
GEOG 8405 - Seminar: Graduate Student Professional Development (1.0 cr)
Take 6 credits of GEOG 81xx and/or GEOG 82xx coursework, with at least 3 credits of GEOG 82xx. With advisor approval, GEOG 8970 and GEOG 8980 may be used for GEOG 81xx or GEOG 82xx courses.
Take exactly 6 credit(s) from the following:
- GEOG 8xxx

Methods Course Requirement

Take at least 3 credits of methods coursework, which can be from outside the Geography, Environment & Society department. Course selection must be done in consultation with the Geography director of graduate studies.

Proposal-Writing Course Requirement

Take GEOG 8302 or at least 3 credits of coursework from outside the Geography, Environment & Society department. Course selection must be done in consultation with the Geography director of graduate studies.
GEOG 8302 - Research Development (3.0 cr)

Supporting Program Coursework

Take at least 12 credits from outside the department.

Thesis Credits

Take 24 or more credit(s) from the following:
- GEOG 8888 - Thesis Credit: Doctoral (1.0 - 24.0 cr)

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