GEOGRAPHY AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE

www.geog.illinois.edu/ (http://www.geog.illinois.edu)

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Major: Geography
Degrees Offered: M.A., M.S., Ph.D.
Graduate Concentration: Professional Science Master’s (M.S. only)

Medical Scholars Program: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Geography
and Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) through the Medical Scholars Program
(http://www.med.illinois.edu/mdphd)

Graduate Degree Programs

The Department of Geography and Geographic Information Science offers
programs leading to the Master of Arts, Master of Science and Doctor of
Philosophy degrees in Geography. The department’s specializations are
organized into four programs:

1. Cities and Metropolitan Areas (urban health and quality of life, urban
governance and politics, race, class, and city policing, critical studies
of urban transportation and mobilities, globalization, neoliberalization
and the city);
2. Geographic Information Science (geographic information systems,
dynamic modeling of ecological and social systems, geocomputation
and cyber GIS, aerial photogrammetry, remote sensing, interregional
input-output modeling, regional science and spatial analysis);
3. River, Watershed and Landscape Dynamics (fluvial geomorphology,
watershed science and management, and ecosystem dynamics);
4. Society, Space and Environments (political ecology, environmental
policy and social vulnerability, urban analysis, health geography and
geopolitical analysis).

Admission

Students applying for admission to the master's program are expected
to have a strong undergraduate background in geography and/or
related disciplines. In addition to other Graduate College admission
requirements, a grade point average of at least 3.0 (A = 4.0) in the
undergraduate major is required. Ph.D. candidates are generally expected
to have at least a 3.5 average in previous graduate work.

Graduate Teaching Experience

Although teaching is not a general Graduate College requirement,
experience in teaching is considered an important part of the graduate
experience in this program. We have implemented a professionalization
program in our department, where graduate students work with faculty
members to receive advice and gain first-hand experience in teaching
undergraduate courses. Several graduate students have also been
provided an opportunity to teach introductory undergraduate courses
over the last few years.

Facilities and Resources

The department also includes several state-of-the-art research
laboratories maintained by individual faculty members. The
CyberInfrastructure and Geospatial Information Laboratory (CIGI),
housed in the department, researches and develops cutting-edge
cyberinfrastructure to advance geospatial sciences and technologies.
The department is also a sponsor of the CyberGIS Center for Advanced
Digital and Spatial Studies whose mission is to empower advanced digital
and spatial studies through innovation of CyberGIS technologies and
applications. The laboratory houses several high performance computers
and servers for performing computationally intensive geographic analysis
and problem solving in various research, education, and outreach
contexts. The Global Environmental Analysis and Remote Sensing
(GEARS) Laboratory examines the impacts of climate change and land
use/land cover change on vegetated ecosystems using remote sensing
data. The Regional Economics Applications Laboratory focuses on the
development of models of urban and regional economies for impact
analysis and economic forecasting. The department is a participant in
the Social Dimensions of Environmental Policy (SDEP) strategic initiative,
which aims to understand the social and political-economic forces
shaping just and sustainable environmental policy. The soil laboratory
has a wide array of equipment for physical and chemical analysis of earth
materials.

Map and Geography Library

The University Library has a substantial collection of geography books
and journals. Most of the new and more recent books are located in
the Social Sciences, Health, and Education Library (SSHEL); nearly all
geography journals are available full-text through the University Library's
website. The Map Library holds a collection of over 626,000 maps and
aerial photographs. Additionally, the Map Library houses an extensive
collection of books on cartography and geographic information science.
The Map Library also has a small collection of geospatial data on CD-
ROM, and assistance in locating geospatial data can be obtained in either
the Map Library or the University Library’s Scholarly Commons.

Medical Scholars Program

The Medical Scholars Program permits highly qualified students to
integrate the study of medicine with study for a graduate degree in
a second discipline, including Geography. Students may apply to the
Medical Scholars Program prior to beginning graduate school or while
in the graduate program. Applicants to the Medical Scholars Program
must meet the admissions standards for and be accepted into both
the doctoral graduate program and the College of Medicine. Students
in the dual degree program must meet the specific requirements for
both the medical and graduate degrees. On average, students take eight
years to complete both degrees. Further information on this program
is available by contacting the Medical Scholars Program, 125 Medical
Sciences Building, (217) 333-8146 or at www.med.illinois.edu/msp
(http://www.med.illinois.edu/msp).

Financial Aid

Fellowships, teaching and research assistantships, and waivers of tuition
and some fees are available in the department for MA/MS and Ph.D.
students.
• Master of Arts or Master of Science in Geography (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/geography/ma-ms)
• Professional Science Master’s in Geographic Information Science (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/geography/psm-gis)

Doctor of Philosophy in Geography

Admission presupposes distinction in undergraduate and graduate study. In the doctoral program, the student develops depth in the program chosen for specialization and further advances in research competence. A student must complete the course requirements as determined by an individually planned program, initiate and complete research projects, and qualify for candidacy by passing the departmental qualifying and preliminary examinations. Although there is no departmental foreign language requirement, students may study a foreign language as a research tool.

Entering with approved M.S./M.A. degree

GEOG 471  Recent Trends in Geog Thought  4
GEOG 491  Research in Geography  2

Doctoral students are required to demonstrate competence in a specific research technique

Departmental minor  16

Students must fulfill program requirements specific to his/her specialty area

GEOG 599  Thesis Research (4 min applied toward degree)  4

Total Hours  64

Other Requirements

Other requirements may overlap

Minimum Hours Overall Required  24
Within the Unit:
Qualifying Exam Required  Yes
Preliminary Exam Required  Yes
Final Exam/Dissertation Defense Required
Dissertation Deposit Required  Yes

Minimum GPA:  3.0

Entering with approved B.S./B.A. degree

At least two graduate-level courses on analytical research methods (At least one of these courses must be in geographic information systems (GIS) or related geospatial techniques)

GEOG 471  Recent Trends in Geog Thought  4
GEOG 491  Research in Geography  2

Doctoral students are required to demonstrate competence in a specific research technique

Departmental minor  16

Students must fulfill program requirements specific to his/her specialty area

GEOG 599  Thesis Research (4 min applied toward degree)  4

Total Hours  96

Other Requirements

Other requirements may overlap

Minimum 500-level Hours Required  12 (8 in Geog)
Overall:
Must complete a major research paper of publishable quality approved by the student's advisory committee.
Qualifying Exam Required  Yes
Preliminary Exam Required  Yes
Final Exam/Dissertation Defense Required
Dissertation Deposit Required  Yes
Minimum GPA:  3.0

1 For additional details and requirements refer to the department’s Graduate Programs (http://www.geog.illinois.edu/grad) and the Graduate College Handbook (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook).

Information listed in this catalog is current as of 12/2015