GEOGRAPHY, MA

for the degree of Master of Arts in Geography

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College of LAS website (https://LAS.illinois.edu/)
Graduate College Admissions (https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply/)

Graduate degree programs in Geography:
CyberGIS and Geospatial Data Science, MS (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/cyberGIS-geospatial-data-science-ms/) (online)
Geography, MA (p. 1)
Geography, MS (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/geography-ms/)
  concentrations:
  - Geographic Information Science - Professional Science Master’s (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/geography-ms/geographic-information-science-professional-science-masters/)
  - Computational Science & Engineering (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/engineering/concentration/computational-science-engineering/)
Geography, PhD (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/geography-phd/)
  concentration:
  - Computational Science & Engineering (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/engineering/concentration/computational-science-engineering/)

We offer a program leading to the Master of Science degree in geography with the following specializations:

- Geographic Information Science
  - Geographic information systems; Dynamic modeling of ecological and social systems; Geocomputation and CyberGIS; Aerial photo analysis; Remote sensing; Inter-regional input-output modeling; Regional science; Spatial analysis
- River, Watershed, and Landscape Dynamics
  - Fluvial geomorphology; Watershed science and management; Aerial photo analysis; Ecosystem dynamics

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.

GRE scores are no longer required or evaluated for admission to our graduate programs.

Assistantships and Fellowships

Geography graduate students generally receive tuition/fee waivers and monthly stipends from teaching assistantships, research assistantships, or fellowships.

Graduate Teaching Experience

Although teaching is not a Graduate College requirement, it is an important part of the graduate experience in this program. We have implemented a professionalization program where graduate students work with faculty members to receive advice and gain first-hand experience in teaching undergraduate courses. Several of our graduate students have also had the opportunity to serve as lead instructor for introductory-level geography courses.

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) (https://www.library.illinois.edu/sshel/); nearly all geography journals are available full-text through the University Library (https://www.library.illinois.edu/). The Map Library (https://www.library.illinois.edu/max/) holds a collection of over 626,000

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maps and aerial photographs and houses an extensive collection of books on cartography and geographic information science. The University Library's Scholarly Commons (https://www.library.illinois.edu/sc/) staff can help students locate and collect geospatial data.

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### Thesis Option

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GGIS 471</td>
<td>Modern Geographic Thought</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GGIS 491</td>
<td>Research in Geography</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each student must also fulfill program requirements specific to their specialty area

| GGIS 599 | Thesis Research (8 max applied toward degree) | 8     |

**Total Hours**

32

### Other Requirements

Other requirements may overlap

- A maximum of 2 elective courses may be taken CR/NC.
- Minimum Hours Overall Required Within the Unit: 16
- Minimum 500-level Hours Required Overall: 12 (8 in GGIS)
- Minimum GPA: 3.0

### Non-Thesis Option

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Each student must also fulfill program requirements specific to their specialty area

**Total Hours**

32

### Other Requirements

Other requirements may overlap

- Some Geography program options do not allow the non-thesis Master's degree option. Contact the department for further details.
- Two written research papers which address substantive research questions are required along with a comprehensive examination.
- A maximum of 2 elective courses may be taken CR/NC.
- Minimum Hours Overall Required Within the Unit: 16
- Minimum 500-level Hours Required Overall: 12 (8 in GGIS)
- Minimum GPA: 3.0

Please refer to the Graduate College Handbook (https://grad.illinois.edu/handbooks-policies/) for additional information and requirements.

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