**GEOGRAPHY, MS**

for the degree of Master of Science in Geography

**Department Head:** Dr. Shaowen Wang  
**Director of Graduate Studies:** Dr. Brian Jefferson  
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**email:** geography@illinois.edu  
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1301 W. Green Street  
Urbana, IL 61801

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

Successful degree candidates with backgrounds in physical geography or GIS are recommended for a Master of Science; others receive a Master of Arts.

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**Graduate Degree Programs in Geography & Geographic Information Science**

Geography, MA (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/geography-ma/)  
Geography, MS (p. 1)  
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/computation/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:

- **Cities, Space, and Society**  
  Urban health and quality of life; Urban governance and politics; Race, class, and city policing; Critical studies of urban transportation and mobilities; Global north and south; Neoliberalization

- **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

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**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. PhD candidates are generally expected to have at least a 3.5 average in previous graduate work. GRE scores are not required or evaluated for admission to our graduate programs.

**Assistantships and Fellowships**

Geography graduate students are usually supported and receive tuition/fee waivers through teaching assistantships, research assistantships, or fellowships.

**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 of our graduate students have also had the opportunity to lead introductory Geography & GIS courses.

**Facilities and Resources**

The department also includes several state-of-the-art research laboratories maintained by individual faculty members. The CyberInfrastructure and Geospatial Information (CIGI) Lab (https://cigi.illinois.edu/), housed in the department, researches and develops cutting-edge cyberinfrastructure to advance geospatial science and technologies. The department also sponsors the CyberGIS Center for Advanced Digital & Spatial Studies (https://cybergis.illinois.edu/) whose mission is to empower advanced digital and spatial studies through innovation of CyberGIS technologies and applications. The lab houses several high performance computers and servers for performing computationally intensive geographic analysis and problem solving in various research, education, and outreach contexts.

**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’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. Map Library and University Library Scholarly Commons (https://www.library.illinois.edu/occ/) staff can also help students locate geospatial data.

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

**Thesis Option**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 471</td>
<td>Recent Trends in Geog Thought</td>
<td>4</td>
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</table>

Information listed in this catalog is current as of 06/2021
GEOG 491  Research in Geography  2
Each student must also fulfill program requirements specific to his/her specialty area

GEOG 599  Thesis Research (8 max applied toward degree)  8

Total Hours  32

Other Requirements

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<td>Other requirements may overlap</td>
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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 Geog)

Minimum GPA:  3.0

Non-Thesis Option

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Each student must also fulfill program requirements specific to his/her specialty area

Total Hours  32

Other Requirements

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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 Geog)

Minimum GPA:  3.0