GEOGRAPHY, PHD

for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Geography

Department Head: Dr. Shaowen Wang
Director of Graduate Studies: Dr. Brian Jefferson
website: ggis.illinois.edu (http://www.geog.illinois.edu/)
email: geography@illinois.edu
phone: (217) 333-1880
Office address:
2044 Natural History Building
1301 W. Green Street
Urbana, IL 61801

Students must complete the course requirements as determined by their individually planned program, initiate and complete research projects, and qualify for candidacy by passing the departmental qualifying and preliminary examinations. Although we don’t have a foreign language requirement, students may study a foreign language as a research tool.

Graduate Degree Programs in Geography & Geographic Information Science

Geography, MA (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/geography-ma/)
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 (p. 1)
concentration:
Computational Science & Engineering (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/engineering/concentration/computational-science-engineering/)

We offer a program leading to the Doctor of Philosophy 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

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. 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/sc/) staff can also help students locate geospatial data.

GEOGRAPHY, MA

for the degree of Master of Arts in Geography

Graduate Programs in Geography & Geographic Information Science

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

GEOGRAPHY, MA

for the degree of Master of Arts in Geography

Graduate Programs in Geography & Geographic Information Science

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

GEOGRAPHY, MA

Information listed in this catalog is current as of 02/2021
Doctoral students are required to demonstrate competence in a specific research technique.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other requirements may overlap</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Hours Overall Required</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Within the Unit:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualifying Exam Required</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preliminary Exam Required</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam/Dissertation Defense</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation Deposit Required</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum GPA:</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 471</td>
<td>Recent Trends in Geog Thought</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 491</td>
<td>Research in Geography</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other requirements may overlap</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum 500-level Hours Required</td>
<td>12 (8 in Geog)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Must complete a major research paper of publishable quality approved by the student's advisory committee.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualifying Exam Required</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preliminary Exam Required</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam/Dissertation Defense</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation Deposit Required</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum GPA:</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Information listed in this catalog is current as of 02/2021*