GEOGRAPHY, PHD

for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Geography

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1301 W. Green Street
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College of LAS website (https://LAS.illinois.edu/)
Graduate College Admissions (https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/
apply/)

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

Information listed in this catalog is current as of 11/2021

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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/).

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</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.

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 599</td>
<td>Thesis Research (4 min applied toward degree)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 64

**Other Requirements**

- Minimum Hours Overall Required: 24
- Qualifying Exam Required: Yes
- Preliminary Exam Required: Yes
- Final Exam/Dissertation Defense Required: Yes
- 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

Other Requirements:

- Minimum 500-level Hours Required: 12 (8 in Geog)
- 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: Yes
- Dissertation Deposit Required: Yes
- Minimum GPA: 3.0

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