

# GEOGRAPHY, MA

The master of arts program in geography gives students a critical perspective on contemporary trends in geography, develops research skills and provides advanced training in the discipline. Maxwell faculty members offer concentrations in urban, cultural, political and economic geography; community geography; political ecology, resource geography and environmental history; historical geography and geohumanities; climate science, biogeography and geomorphology; and geospatial technologies. M.A. students have a variety of funding opportunities available to them and most are fully funded.

## Student Learning Outcomes

1. Design and conduct independent research in their chosen field in the discipline
2. Communicate the results and significance of their research in both written and oral form
3. Examine social and environmental processes, with a particular focus on space and place, critical theory, practical application, analysis, and intervention in chosen field within the disciplines of Geography
4. Follow established ethical guidelines for research and teaching

## Program Requirements

The M.A. program in geography gives the student a perspective on the nature of contemporary trends in geography, develops research skills, and provides a beginning to advanced training in the discipline.

The program consists of 30 graduate credits, at least half of which must be at the 600 level or above. Students may write a master's thesis or two master's papers and may count either option as six thesis credits toward their required credit total. The M.A. program assumes a basic foundation in geography, including work in human, environmental, and physical geography, as well as in relevant methods. Students without such a background must do additional work, such as attending courses, auditing, or guided readings. Additional work is flexible and may be customized according to a student's interests and schedule.

The student's advisor and committee approve the topic for and supervise research and the writing of the master's thesis or two-paper option, the final drafts of which must be defended in a formal defense involving the student's committee.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Courses</b>		
GEO 602	Research Design in Geography	3
GEO 603	Development of Geographic Thought	3
<b>Options A or B- Spatial Methods and Seminar</b>		
Choose either: Option A- complete two seminar courses (6 credits) and one spatial methods course (3 credits); or Option B- complete one seminar course (3 credits) and two spatial methods courses.		9
<b>Option A- Seminar</b>		
Choose two seminar courses (6 credits) from the following:		
GEO 573	The Geography of Capital	
GEO 606	Development and Sustainability	
GEO 622	Water: Environment, Society and Politics	
GEO 700 - GEO 799 Seminar Courses		
<b>Option A- Spatial Methods</b>		
Choose one spatial methods course (3 credits) from the following:		

GEO 610	Qualitative Methods in Geography
GEO 676	Advanced GIS Analysis and Applications
GEO 681	Cartographic Design
GEO 682	Environmental Remote Sensing
GEO 683	Geographic Information Systems
GEO 684	GIS for Urban Environments
GEO 685	Community Geography
GEO 686	Quantitative Geographic Analysis
GEO 687	Environmental Geostatistics
GEO 600	Selected Topics
<b>Option B- Seminar</b>	
Complete one seminar course (3 credits) from the following:	
GEO 573	The Geography of Capital
GEO 605	Writing Geography
GEO 606	Development and Sustainability
GEO 622	Water: Environment, Society and Politics
GEO 700 - GEO 799 Seminar Courses	
<b>Option B- Spatial Methods</b>	
Complete two spatial methods courses (6 credits) from the following:	
GEO 610	Qualitative Methods in Geography
GEO 676	Advanced GIS Analysis and Applications
GEO 681	Cartographic Design
GEO 682	Environmental Remote Sensing
GEO 683	Geographic Information Systems
GEO 684	GIS for Urban Environments
GEO 685	Community Geography
GEO 686	Quantitative Geographic Analysis
GEO 687	Environmental Geostatistics
GEO 600	Selected Topics
<b>Graduate Coursework</b>	
Graduate elective courses to fulfill 30 credits of degree requirement.	
<b>Thesis</b>	
GEO 997	Master's Thesis
<b>Total Credits</b>	

9

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30