

# Master of Science in Geography

The graduate curriculum emphasizes broad geographic training while encouraging in-depth commitment to specific topics. Students also are encouraged to take course work outside the department that complements their degree programs. Credit-hour requirements below are considered minimums for degree programs. Programs are tailored by the student and advisor to conform to the student's interests and needs, as well as to fulfill the general degree requirements.

## Admission to Graduate Studies

### Admission Requirements

- All applicants must meet the requirements outlined in the Admission to Graduate Study (<https://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/admission-to-graduate-study/>) policy.
- Bachelor's degree: A copy of official transcripts showing proof of a bachelor's degree (and any post-bachelor's coursework or degrees) from a regionally accredited institution, or a foreign university with equivalent bachelor's degree requirements is required.
- English proficiency: Proof of English proficiency (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/english-requirements/>) for non-native or non-native-like English speakers is required. There are two bands of English proficiency, including Admission and Full proficiency. For applicants to online programs, Full proficiency is required.

### Graduate Admission

Entering students are expected to have a B.S. degree in geography or in related physical science, earth science, mathematics, or engineering disciplines.

Applicants without prior training in geography are welcome but are required to improve their basic knowledge of the broad divisions of geography: systematic, methodological, and regional. Courses taken to remedy deficiencies may not count toward graduate degrees.

The following items must be received to complete the application file:

1. **A completed Graduate Application Form found on the Graduate Admissions website.**
2. **A current resume/CV.**
3. **A Statement of Interest and Goals.** This is included in the on-line application form. The Graduate Studies Committee places considerable importance on the thoughtfulness of your remarks – in particular, we are interested in learning about (1) your specific interests within geography and why they are important and interesting to you, (2) what you envision as your educational and career objectives and how a degree from KU helps to meet those objectives, and (3) which of our faculty members you think would be an appropriate graduate advisor and mentor.
4. **A scanned copy of an official transcript** can be uploaded at the time of application. Official, degree conferred transcripts will be required prior to the second semester of study. NOTE: Documents uploaded with your application are not considered official. KU does not consider transcripts that come from applicants or that have been in the applicant's possession as official.

5. **Three confidential letters of recommendation** sent by referees who are familiar with your academic and/or professional activities and who can address your likelihood of success in graduate school. If possible, we prefer letters from professors, but applicants returning to school after a lengthy absence may substitute letters from supervisors. Note that it is the responsibility of the applicant to request and to confirm that the required letters have been sent by the deadline. When using the on-line reference form to list references, you must include valid e-mail addresses. Once you have completed and submitted your application, your references will be contacted directly via email with directions for submitting their letters of recommendation.

\*\*Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores are not required for the application. Applicants may choose to submit GRE scores if they feel it will help inform the department of their academic abilities. However, choosing not to submit scores will not affect your chances of admission.\*\*

### NON-DEGREE SEEKING STUDENTS

Non-degree seeking students (NDS) are admitted on a rolling basis and must submit an application (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/apply/>). Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Applicants must include the materials below in their application.

1. Copy of official transcripts including proof of a bachelor's degree.
2. Proof of English proficiency, if it is a second language.
3. Statement of purpose and interests.

Submit your graduate application online (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/apply/>). For questions, contact:

### The Graduate Program Coordinator

The program continues the general training of the undergraduate degree and provides preparation either for employment or further study.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
GEOG 805	Perspectives in Geography	2
GEOG 716	Advanced Geostatistics	3
GEOG 980	Seminar in Geography: _____ (Colloquium for 1 credit hour during each of the first 2 semesters of residence at KU)	2
GEOG 899	Master's Thesis	6
Orientation before classes begin in the Fall semester (non-credit)		
Responsible Scholarship (non-credit 8-hour session at the start of the Spring semester)		
Elective graduate level coursework chosen in consultation with the faculty advisor. At least 3 Courses should be in the area of Physical Geography or Methods and Techniques. No less than 6 credit hours within the Department.		17
A maximum of 6 credit hours of 500 and 600 level courses may count toward the required hours for the master's degree.		
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>30</b>

Code	Title	Hours
Elective Course Options: Electives are selected with approval from the advisor and are tailored to fit the needs of the individual student, and may include other classes outside this list		
GEOG 716	Advanced Geostatistics	3

GEOG 719	Development of Geographic Thought	2-3
GEOG 726	Remote Sensing of Environment II	4
GEOG 728	Spatial Databases	3
GEOG 731	Topics in Physical Geography: _____	1-3
GEOG 748	Location Modeling	3
GEOG 752	Topics in Urban/Economic Geography: _____	1-3
GEOG 759	Ecosystems Stewardship	3
GEOG 760	GIS Application Programming	3
GEOG 771	Topics in Cultural Geography: _____	1-3
GEOG 781	Environmental Geopolitics	3
GEOG 791	Latin American Regions: _____	3
GEOG 806	Proposal Writing and Research Design	2
GEOG 875	Qualitative Research Methods	3
GEOG 890	Geographic Internship	1-6
GEOG 898	Readings in Geography	1-4
GEOG 512	Advanced Cartography and Geovisualization	4
GEOG 521	Microclimatology	3
GEOG 526	Remote Sensing of Environment I	4
GEOG 528	Spatial Databases	3
GEOG 558	Spatial Data Analysis	4
GEOG 560	GIS Application Programming	3

- Demonstrate knowledge of both general research themes and trends within geography and also specific themes and trends within their subfield of geography. Students are able to articulate the definitions of, connections between, and differences among fundamental concepts, models, and theories in geography.
- Apply research methodologies appropriate to their subfield of geography (e.g., geographic information science tools, qualitative methods, foreign language fluency, or others).
- Demonstrate sub-disciplinary depth of training and comprehension and advanced competency in the design and implementation of original research that reflects theories and methods within their subfield.
- Communicate effectively orally, graphically, and in writing for diverse audiences.

## Proposal Defense:

The proposal defense should happen when the faculty advisor and the student agree that they have made enough progress and are ready to present their proposal to the entire committee. The proposal defense involves a presentation and a line of questioning from all committee members. The committee will be made up of at least 3 members in compliance with the Master's Student Oral Exam Committee Composition policy (<https://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/masters-oral-exam-committee-composition/>).

Two grades are possible for the proposal defense: "satisfactory" and "unsatisfactory". If the student receives a grade of unsatisfactory, the defense may be repeated once on the recommendation of the advisory committee. If the student receives an unsatisfactory grade a second time, they will be recommended for dismissal from the program. A minimum of 90 days must pass before the defense may be redone.

## Thesis Oral Defense:

The student must complete an oral defense of their thesis. The committee will be made up of at least 3 members in compliance with the Master's Student Oral Exam Committee Composition policy (<https://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/masters-oral-exam-committee-composition/>). A majority of the committee members must approve the defense outcome. The possible outcomes for the defense are "honors", "satisfactory", or "unsatisfactory." Students that fail the defense on their first attempt may repeat the defense at the recommendation of the degree program one more time. A minimum of 90 days must pass before the defense may be redone.

While completing degree requirements, graduate students are expected to understand and follow Office Graduate Studies policies (<https://ogs.ku.edu/policies/>) relevant to their student status and academic standing.

At the completion of this program, students will be able to: