Master of Arts in Geography

Why study geography?

The MA program develops a concentration in preparation for a career or further study. The student takes courses in several areas of the discipline, as well as at least three courses in an acceptable concentration. Our faculty are integral to graduate studies and have expertise in Human and Cultural Studies with a particular emphasis on Place, Economic Geography, Health and Diaspora, Environmental Policy, Borders and Border Conflicts, and more. Learn more about our faculty (http://geog.ku.edu/faculty) on our website.

Admission to Graduate Studies

An applicant seeking to pursue graduate study in the College may be admitted as either a degree-seeking or non-degree seeking student. Policies and procedures of Graduate Studies govern the process of Graduate admission. These may be found in the Graduate Studies section of the online catalog. Please consult the Departments & Programs (http://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences) section of the online catalog for information regarding program-specific admissions criteria and requirements. Special admissions requirements pertain to Interdisciplinary Studies degrees, which may be found in the Graduate Studies section of the online catalog.

Graduate Admission

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. Graduate Record Examination scores (verbal, quantitative, and analytical) are required of all applicants.

Joint Degree application for M.A. and M.U.P

An interdisciplinary program combines in three years the degrees of MA in geography and Master of Urban Planning. Details, including degree requirements, are available in a separate booklet either online or from either of the two departments. Entering students should submit separate applications to each department.

Submit your graduate application online (http://graduate.ku.edu/prospective-students). Send all other requested application materials to the geography department:

The University of Kansas
Department of Geography
Lindley Hall
1475 Jayhawk Blvd., Room 213
Lawrence, KS 66045-7575

Geography M.A. Degree Requirements

The program continues the general training of the undergraduate degree but also provides for concentration in preparation either for employment or further study. The student takes courses in several areas of the discipline as well as at least three courses in an acceptable concentration. The 30-credit-hour minimum for the M.A. thesis program may include 6 hours outside the department and a maximum of 6 hours for the master’s thesis. The M.A. degree requires a proposal defense and a final oral examination. Students with 6 or more hours of Incomplete are denied permission to enroll until these hours are reduced to the allowable limit (5 hours).

Required Courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 805</td>
<td>Perspectives in Geography</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 980</td>
<td>Seminar in Geography: _____ (Colloquium for 1 credit hour during each of the first 2 semesters of residence at KU)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Two-day (non-credit) orientation before classes begin in the fall semester

General Requirements:

One course in Geoinformatics
One course in Human/Regional Geography
One course in Physical Geography

Electives:

At least 3 courses in an approved area of concentration. (Courses taken to meet the “General” requirement may not be double counted here.)

GEOG 899 Master’s Thesis 1-6

Recommended:

Non-credit 8-hour Responsible Scholarship session held before classes start in the spring semester

Detailed information on departmental regulations is included in Policies for Graduate Study in Geography available on the department's website (http://www.geog.ku.edu).

Joint Degree application for M.A. and M.U.P

This interdisciplinary program combines in three years the degrees of MA in geography and Master of Urban Planning. Details, including degree requirements, are available in a separate booklet either online or from either of the two departments. Entering students should submit separate applications to each department. The joint degree entails 61 credit hours of coursework (39 in planning, 22 in geography) including a thesis.

Urban Planning and Geography have a long history of interaction and connection. Responsible planning in urban communities requires an understanding of the human and physical geographies of these communities, and contemporary planning practice demands familiarity with advanced geographic techniques and information systems. Conversely, expertise in geography—and particularly concentration in urban geography—may require an understanding of and competence to deal with the planning dynamics of urban communities.

The objective of this program is to meet the needs of both Urban Planning and Geography for interdisciplinary knowledge by offering a dual degree program for the graduate student who intends to engage professionally in both planning and geography. The program combines in three years the normal two year Master of Urban Planning (48 credit hours) and the normal two year Master of Arts (MA) degree in Geography (30 credit hours) offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Geography Courses Required of All Combined Degree Candidates

Required

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 805</td>
<td>Perspectives in Geography</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Geoinformatics course</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>
### Master of Arts in Geography

1 Human Geography course  
1 Physical Geography course  
1 Electives course  

Two-day (non-credit) orientation before classes begin in the fall semester

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 980</td>
<td>Seminar in Geography: _____ (Colloquium for 1 credit hour during each of the first 2 semesters of residence at KU)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 899</td>
<td>Master's Thesis 1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 19

1 The Chair of the Master's thesis committee must come from the Department of Geography. At least one thesis committee member must come from the Urban Planning program.

Students will choose Geoinformatics courses from the following:

- GEOG 512  Advanced Cartography and Geovisualization  
- GEOG 526  Remote Sensing of Environment I  
- GEOG 558  Intermediate Geographical Information Systems  
- GEOG 560  GIS Application Programming  
- GEOG 716  Advanced Geostatistics  
- GEOG 726  Remote Sensing of Environment II  
- GEOG 758  Geographic Information Science  
- GEOG 911  Seminar in Geovisualization

2 Other Geography courses at the 500-level or above may be used to fulfill requirements in this category on the basis of petition.

Students will choose Human Geography courses from among the following:

- GEOG 552  Topics in Urban/Economic Geography: _____  
- GEOG 556  Geography of the Energy Crisis  
- GEOG 571  Topics in Cultural Geography: _____  
- GEOG 670  Cultural Ecology  
- GEOG 719  Development of Geographic Thought  
- GEOG 752  Topics in Urban/Economic Geography: _____  
- GEOG 771  Topics in Cultural Geography: _____

3 Other Geography courses at the 500-level or above may be used to fulfill requirements in this category on the basis of petition.

Students will choose Physical Geography courses from among the following:

- ATMO 525  Air Pollution Meteorology  
- GEOG 521  Microclimatology  
- GEOG 531  Topics in Physical Geography: _____  
- GEOG 535  Soil Geography  
- GEOG 540  Ecohydrology  
- GEOG 541  Geomorphology  
- GEOG 731  Topics in Physical Geography: _____  
- GEOG 735  Soil Geomorphology

Other Geography courses at the 500-level or above may be used to fulfill requirements in this category on the basis of petition.

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**Handbook for Graduate Students**

Detailed information on departmental regulations is included in Policies for Graduate Study in Geography at the University of Kansas, available on the department's website (http://www.geog.ku.edu).