

# Master of Science in Geography

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## Graduate Programs

### Geography

The graduate curriculum emphasizes broad geographic training while encouraging in-depth commitment to specialized concentrations. 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.

The central thrust of the department and the chief capabilities and interests of the faculty fall within these research-teaching areas:

1. Human geography including cultural geography, regional development, and environmental policy;
2. Geoinformatics including cartography, geographic information systems, and remote sensing;
3. Physical geography including geomorphology, soils, and biogeography;
4. Regional geography including Africa, East Asia, Russia, Latin America, and the United States; and
5. Atmospheric science and climatology.

## 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 (<http://catalog.ku.edu/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

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: systemic, 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:

**Items 1 through 5 can be submitted on-line.**

1. **A completed** Graduate Application Form (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/apply/>).
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 Geography 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.\*\*

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Non-native speakers of English must meet English proficiency requirements (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/english-requirements/>).

### 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**

## M.S. Degree Requirements

The program requires a 30 credit hour minimum. A maximum of 6 credits of 500 and 600 level courses may count toward the required hours for the master's degree. Students must pass an oral examination and write a thesis. In addition, students are required to participate in the orientation before classes begin in the fall semester and GEOG 980 (Colloquium) for 1 credit hour during each of the first 2 semesters in residence at KU.

<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Hours</b>
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)		
Additional graduate level coursework, with no less than 6 credit hours within the Department; at least three courses should be in the area of Physical Geography or Methods and Techniques.		17
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>30</b>