

GEOGRAPHY (M.S.)

Master of Science. Major in Geography.

Thesis Option

Each student's training and research plan is developed by the student and the major professor with the advisory committee's approval. Admission is based on the compatibility of the student's research interests with the areas of concentration offered by the department and the availability of a faculty member to serve as the student's mentor. A written thesis is required, but the thesis may be comprised of a manuscript in a form acceptable for publication in a refereed journal, while otherwise fulfilling the requirements of the Graduate College.

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Non-thesis Professional Option

This program is designed for individuals who wish to place less emphasis upon research in their plan of study, but want to gain experience in applying their knowledge to a substantial project of an applied nature. Projects may be aligned with internships or other work experiences. The student's advisory committee will consist of two faculty members from the Department of Geography. Projects must be documented and presented according to guidelines in the department handbook and approved by the student's committee. This option can be completed via face-to-face or by online delivery.

1. Depth of knowledge of research methods and ability to structure scientific problems with appropriate data and analytical methods.
2. Breadth of knowledge of the fields of both human and physical geography.
3. Depth of knowledge in specialty field within physical or human geography or geotechniques.
4. Depth of knowledge of spatial analysis and mapping techniques.
5. History of geography and techniques of spatial analysis.
6. The ability to structure scientific problems with appropriate data and analytical methods.
7. The ability to gather and analyze appropriate data and write results in context of existing literature and significance of the analysis.
8. The ability to communicate research in oral presentations and written peer-reviewed materials.