Program Description

Degree Awarded: MA Geography

The MA program in geography is designed to offer specialized academic and professional training in geography so students may secure a sound graduate background for further specialization or for immediate employment. The program has sufficient flexibility to allow for the individual needs and the interests of students.

Faculty and graduate students focus their research in one of four broad interdisciplinary themes:

- computational spatial science:  
  https://geoplan.asu.edu/research/research-areas/computational-spatial-science
- earth systems and climate science:  
  https://geoplan.asu.edu/research/research-areas/earth-systems-climate-science
- place, identities and culture:  
  https://geoplan.asu.edu/research/research-areas/place-identities-and-culture
- sustainability science and studies:  
  https://geoplan.asu.edu/research/research-areas/sustainability-science-studies

At a Glance

- **College/School:** College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- **Location:** Tempe campus

Degree Requirements

30 credit hours and a thesis
Required Core (6 credit hours)
GCU 529 Contemporary Geographic Thought (3)
GCU 585 Geographic Research Design and Proposal Writing (3)

Electives or Research (18 credit hours)

Culminating Experience (6 credit hours)
Thesis (6)

Additional Curriculum Information
Students select additional elective or research coursework in consultation with their advisory committee.

The School of Geographical Sciences may consider a student for a traditional master's degree program that includes the successful defense of a thesis. Master's degree students must complete the coursework at ASU.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree, in any field, from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of a student's first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. personal statement
4. resume
5. GRE scores
6. three letters of recommendation
7. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency.
Applicants who do not have an adequate background in geography will be asked to take additional geography coursework, including but not limited to:

GPH 371 Introduction to Cartography and
GCU 495 Georepresentation and Qualitative Methods in Geography.

The personal statement must address four items:

1. What specialty in geography does the applicant wish to pursue, and why?
2. What aspects of the applicant's education (a description is needed) will enable the student to pursue this specialty?
3. What additional training does the applicant believe can be obtained at Arizona State University to realize the applicant's educational and career goals?
4. Applicants should provide any other information they feel should be considered in their application for admission (e.g., research experience or information which might be drawn from the applicant's resume).

Letters of recommendation must be from three faculty members who can attest to the applicant's academic achievements.

Application Deadlines

Fall

Contact Information

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