Ranked seventh in the nation by the National Research Council, the PhD program in geography builds the skills, knowledge and abilities needed for careers in research or post-secondary teaching. Our graduates are employed by all levels of government and industry, or go on to become researchers or leaders in technology development.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: PHD Geography

The PhD program in geography provides specialized academic and professional training in geographical sciences to enable graduates to secure a sound background for further research and teaching, and for immediate employment.

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
84 credit hours, a written comprehensive exam, an oral comprehensive exam, a prospectus and a dissertation

**Required Core (3 credit hours)**
GCU 585 Geographic Research Design and Proposal Writing (3)

**Electives or Research (30-60 credit hours)**

**Other Requirement (9 credit hours)**
GCU 529 Contemporary Geographic Thought (3)
GCU 591 Seminar (3)
GPH 591 Seminar (3)

**Culminating Experience (12 credit hours)**
GCU 799 Dissertation (12)

**Additional Curriculum Information**
Doctoral students entering with a bachelor's degree must complete 84 credit hours. These hours include 72 credit hours of coursework and research at ASU and 12 dissertation credit hours.

Doctoral students entering with a master's degree must complete 54 credit hours. These include 42 credit hours of combined coursework and research hours at ASU and 12 dissertation credit hours.

Coursework and research hours are selected by the student in consultation with an advisory committee.

Up to six credit hours of 400-level coursework may be applied toward the plan of study.

**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.

Incoming students must demonstrate or attain competence in cartography and quantitative methods and complete other basic coursework that will enable them to pursue graduate studies in their area of specialization. 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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SGSUP.gradprograms@asu.edu | 480-965-7533