

GEOGRAPHY, APPLIED (MS)

Master of Science in Applied Geography

Unit: College of Arts and Sciences (<http://louisville.edu/artsandsciences/>) (GA)

Department: Geographic and Environmental Sciences (<http://louisville.edu/geogeo/>)

Academic Plan Code(s): AGEOMS

Program Information

The Master of Science in Applied Geography is designed to provide students with the analytical skills and background knowledge needed to solve real-world problems with geographic dimensions. Graduate students experience a nucleated body of coursework designed to foster and support the theoretical knowledge and advanced skill sets demanded for the professional and academic/research fields. Coupled with the enhanced level of course content, quantitative, qualitative and spatial data analysis applications, and the departmental emphasis upon critical reasoning, effective writing and communication skills, graduates will be capable and prepared for effective integration into a broad diversity of professional fields.

Our course offerings and faculty research areas include geographic information systems (GIS), remote sensing, climatology and meteorology, urban and regional studies, quantitative and qualitative methods, medical geography, globalization, hydrology and water resources, geomorphology, transportation and location analysis, border security, land use/land cover change and the geography of food and race.

Geographic information systems (GIS) proficiency is required for all students. If not attained at the undergraduate level or in a job-related environment, students will be required to take GEOG 558 in addition to the coursework listed as program requirements. The department has state-of-the-art computer facilities with GIS and remote sensing software.

The program offers both a thesis and non-thesis option. Students who choose the non-thesis option are required to take a written comprehensive exam near the end of their course of study. Students may attend either full or part-time.

Admission Requirements

Students from geography and related fields are encouraged to apply. All applicants must hold a BA or BS degree from an accredited college or university and must have earned a minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA to be admitted in good standing. Students with a minimum cumulative 2.75 GPA may be accepted under special conditions.

All applicants must complete/submit the following:

- A graduate admissions application (<https://graduate.louisville.edu/admission/apply/>)
- Official transcripts from all colleges and/or universities attended
- Two letters of recommendation addressing the candidate's academic abilities, readiness for graduate study, and potential for success. Letters from current and/or former faculty members are preferred.
- A statement of interests and intent covering relevant experience, potential areas of research/study, academic/career goals, and how the MS in Applied Geography would allow the applicant to achieve these goals.

All materials must be submitted to the Graduate School.

Application deadlines:

- May 15 for fall semester (individuals desiring consideration for Graduate Assistantships should apply by March 15)
- November 15 for Spring semester

Upon acceptance, students receive an enrollment form from the Department with questions about credit hours and financial assistance.

Program Requirements

The Master of Science in Applied Geography is a 30 credit hour program with both a thesis and a non-thesis option.

Geographic information systems (GIS) proficiency is required for all students. If not attained at the undergraduate level or in a job-related environment, students will be required to take GEOG 558 in addition to the [coursework requirements](#) listed [below](#).

Thesis Option

Code	Title	Hours
Required Foundation Courses		12
GEOG 600	History and Philosophy of Geography ¹	
GEOG 656	Spatial Statistics ¹	
GEOG 660	Qualitative Methods in Applied Geography ¹	
GEOG 641	Research Design and Proposal Development in Applied Geography	
Electives at 500 or 600 level ²		12
Thesis		6
Minimum Total Hours		30

After the second semester, each thesis student will choose a thesis advisor and two other faculty members for a thesis committee.

Non-Thesis Option

Code	Title	Hours
Required Foundation Courses		12
GEOG 600	History and Philosophy of Geography ¹	
GEOG 656	Spatial Statistics ¹	
GEOG 660	Qualitative Methods in Applied Geography ¹	
GEOG 641	Research Design and Proposal Development in Applied Geography	
Electives at 500 or 600 level ²		18
Comprehensive Examination		
Minimum Total Hours		30

Non-thesis students will choose a three member advising committee to administer and evaluate the comprehensive exam.

¹ GEOG 600, GEOG 656 and GEOG 660 are prerequisites to GEOG 641.

² Up to two courses used to satisfy the elective requirement may be from outside the department (non-GEOS/ENVS courses). A minimum of 15 credit hours counted towards the degree (excluding thesis, practicum and internship credit) must be taken at the 600-level.