

Geography

Master of Science

Master of Arts

The Geography Department graduate program includes both thesis and non-thesis options leading to the M.A. or M.S. degrees. The principal areas of concentration are community and urban development, environmental geography, geographic education, and geographic techniques. The graduate program provides an opportunity for close student-faculty interaction, easy access to current computer technology and field equipment, a broad liberal arts academic setting, and an abundant number of research topics within the Northern Plains, Prairie Provinces, North Woods, and Intermountain West. The community and urban development track within the graduate program emphasizes the background education useful for individuals to enter career fields related to working for land use planning agencies, federal government service, historic preservation, tourism, and economic development, as well as being a stepping stone to pursue a doctoral degree in human geography elsewhere. The focus of this M.A. option is upon taking a well-chosen, career-orientated selection of courses in population, social, urban, political, cultural, historical, and regional geography. Students are encouraged to take cognate work in business and public administration, international relations, anthropology, sociology, economics and marketing, political science/public administration, and other fields appropriate to your long-range plans. The graduate program in environmental geography reflects a geographic focus on land use, environmental quality, human impact, and physical geography. Students follow a sequence of required and elective courses that reflect an environmental emphasis such as resource management, water resources, climatology, environmental site assessment, biogeography, or human-environmental relationships. The program is designed to prepare individuals for doctoral study or for a professional career in government, industry, or education in a wide variety of environmentally related fields.

Admission Requirements

1. A four-year bachelor's degree from a recognized college or university.
2. A GPA of at least 3.00 in all undergraduate work.
3. A minimum of 9 semester credits of undergraduate coursework in geography, preferably in human geography. An additional 6 credits in fields cognate to geography are also required.
4. Meet all graduate school requirements for admission.
5. A minimum TOEFL Score of 550 on the paper-based test or 213 on the computer-based test, or for the Internet based TOEFL, a composite score of 79, with minimum scores of 21/30 (Speaking*); 19/30 (Listening); 19/30 (Reading); and 17/30 (Writing) for applicants whose native language is not English. Applicants may also meet language requirements by presenting IELTS scores of 6.5. *Applicants being considered for Graduate Teaching Assistantships must achieve these minimum TOEFL scores, but have a minimum score of 26/30 on the Speaking subtest.
6. International applicants who have received their bachelor's or master's degree in the United States or English speaking Canada are not required to submit the TOEFL or IELTS. Outstanding applicants are evaluated on an individual basis and those with limited backgrounds in geography but a distinguished record in another discipline may be accepted in a qualified or provisional status.

Degree Requirements

Students seeking the Master of Arts degree at the University of North Dakota must satisfy all general requirements set forth by the Graduate School as well as particular requirements set forth by the Geography Department.

1. Two required courses, Geog 501 and Geog 578.
2. One required seminar, Geog 541.
3. A minor or cognate area of study, and a graduate program of study that reflects the student's focus on human geography topics (9 credits).

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Thesis:

1. A minimum of 30 semester credits, including 9 semester credits for approved minor or cognate courses.
2. At least one-half of the credits must be at or above the 500-level.
3. A maximum of one-fourth (usually 8-9 semester credits) of the credit hours required for the degree may be transferred from another institution.
4. Preparation and successful defense of a thesis.

Non-thesis:

1. A minimum of 36 semester credits, including 9 semester credits for approved minor or cognate courses.
2. A minimum of 12 credits that focus upon geospatial skills and techniques which include quantitative methods, computer graphics and mapping, geographic information systems, remote sensing, field methods, and cartography. The non-thesis programs emphasize development of geospatial skills that can be applied to specific problems and projects that may or may not involve research.
3. A minimum of two credits of Independent Study
4. At least one-half of the credits must be at or above the 500- level.
5. A maximum of one-fourth (usually 8-9 semester credits) of the credit hours required for the degree may be transferred from another institution.
6. Preparation of a written independent study approved by the faculty advisor.
7. Comprehensive final examination. (M.A. only)

Faculty and Areas of Expertise

- **Devon A. Hansen, Ph.D.**, migration, population, gender issues, community development, Great Plains
- **Douglas C. Munski, Ph.D.**, historical, geographic education, tourism, Canada, North America
- **Bradley C. Rundquist, Ph.D., Chair**, remote sensing, digital image processing, geographic information systems, biogeography
- **Paul E. Todhunter, Ph.D.**, climatology, hydrology, natural hazards, human impacts
- **Gregory S. Vandeberg, PhD**, fluvial and glacial geomorphology, heavy metals in the environment, disturbed land reclamation, geographic information systems, remote sensing
- **Enru Wang, Ph.D.**, economic, regional development, urban, China, GIS

Contact Information

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GIS Certificate

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Apply ONLINE:
<http://graduateschool.und.edu>

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