Geography
Master of Arts

The Geography Department graduate program includes both thesis and non-thesis options leading to the M.S. and M.A. degrees. The principle areas of concentration are community and urban development, environmental geography, geographic education, and geospatial techniques (cartography, GIS, and remote sensing of the environment). The graduate programs provide 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 American Great Plains and Canadian Prairie Provinces. In addition, the department offers an array of courses in geospatial technologies to allow students to build expertise in GIS, remote sensing, cartography and spatial analysis.

The M.A. option in community and urban development emphasizes the background education students need to enter careers in community development, local economic development, land use planning, federal government service, historic preservation, and travel and tourism. This option also provides the background for those students wishing to pursue a doctoral degree in human geography. Students in the M.A. option take a selection of courses in population, economic, social, urban, cultural, historical, and regional geography. They also can take minor or cognate courses in business and public administration, international relations, anthropology and archaeology, sociology, languages, and other fields appropriate to their goals.

The mission of the Department of Geography’s Masters of Arts graduate degree program is to provide a solid foundation in the concepts and theories of human geography, and to prepare students for careers in community and local economic development, land use planning, federal government service, historic preservation, geographic information science, and travel and tourism, or for doctoral work in human geography.

Goal 1: Students will be able to create new knowledge and apply geographic techniques to solve geographic problems related to community and local economic development and land use planning.
Goal 2: Students will exhibit a fundamental understanding of the breadth, depth, and integration of geography.
Goal 3: Students will be able to integrate their learning in geography to the broader world.

Admission Requirements

The applicant must meet the School of Graduate Studies’ current minimum general admission requirements as published in the graduate catalog.

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. Cognate courses must be from at least two academic departments outside Geography.
4. Meet all School of Graduate Studies requirements for admission.
5. Satisfy the School of Graduate Studies’ English Language Proficiency requirements as published in the graduate catalog.

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 School of Graduate Studies as well as particular requirements set forth by the Geography Department.

Apply online: http://graduateschool.und.edu
Deadlines apply. See our website for more details.

Last Updated: 7/18/2014
Email: questions@gradschool.und.edu
1. Four required courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 500</td>
<td>Graduate Studies in Geography</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 501</td>
<td>Geographic Thought Through Time</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 576</td>
<td>Field Methods and Analysis in Geography</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 578</td>
<td>Geographic Research and Writing</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>8</strong></td>
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2. 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).

**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 (a minimum of 6 credits for GEOG 998 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 GEOG 997 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.

**Faculty and Areas of Expertise**

- **Christopher Atkinson, Ph.D.**, historical climatology of blizzards, climate/climate change, hazards, North America
- **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
- **Michael A. Niedzielski, Ph.D.**, commutes, land use, and policy; rail transit, world cities, and sustainability; the impact of socio-economic factors on segregation indices
- **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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