

Geography, MA

LAGEOGMA

Come discover geographical sciences at ASU. [This program](#) offers a unique learning environment that places your focus on location --- the heart of geography, urban planning, climatology and geographic information science. With that foundation, you can tackle some of the most pressing environmental and societal challenges facing our world today.

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 individual needs and interests, allowing students to create a plan of study that fits their personal and professional goals.

In addition to innovative coursework, the state-of-the-art research centers, Spatial Analysis Research Center and Urban Climate Research Center, offer students the opportunity to work with exceptional faculty on diverse research projects. Students have the opportunity to work alongside some of the brightest minds in geography, including four members of the National Academy of Sciences and rising talent in the fields of urban heat island research, GIS and more.

Students earning the Master of Arts in geography have the ability to build a path of knowledge that reflects their personal interests within the realms of geography. Students benefit from a wide variety of coursework and research opportunities in four broad interdisciplinary themes that span the expertise of the faculty within the School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning:

- computational spatial science
- earth systems and climate science
- place, identities and culture
- sustainability science and studies

At a glance

- **College/School:** [The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences](#)
- **Location:** [Tempe](#) or [Online](#)

Accelerated program options

This program allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an **accelerated bachelor's plus master's degree** with:

[Geography, BA](#)

[Geography, BS](#)

[Geography \(Meteorology-Climatology\), BS](#)

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. Students typically receive approval to pursue the accelerated master's during the junior year of their bachelor's degree program. Interested students can learn about eligibility requirements and [how to apply](#).

Degree requirements

30 credit hours and a thesis, or

30 credit hours including the required capstone course (GPH 597)

Required Core (3 credit hours)

GCU 585 Geographic Research Design and Proposal Writing (3) or

GCU 596 Geographic Research Methods (3)

Other Requirement (8 credit hours)

GCU 528 Geographic Problems and Context (3) or GCU 529 Contemporary Geographic Thought (3)

GCU 591 or GPH 591 Seminar: Geography Colloquium (1)

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methods and statistics course (3)

Electives (13 or 16 credit hours)

Culminating Experience (3 or 6 credit hours)

GCU 599 Thesis (6) or GPH 599 Thesis (6)

GPH 597 Geography Capstone (3)

Additional Curriculum Information

Coursework and research hours are selected by the student in consultation with an advisory committee. The program recognizes that other graduate-level courses are offered at ASU. Advanced topics are often taught in omnibus courses, which have rotating content that is not reflected in their titles. Students may include these courses in their curriculum with approval of the program directors.

The other requirement course, Seminar: Geography Colloquium, is taken twice, once in each of the first two semesters of the program, for one credit hour each time. Other courses may be used with approval of academic unit. For the methods and statistics course requirement, students should consult with the academic unit for eligible courses.

Students take 13 credit hours of electives for the thesis culminating experience option and take 16 credit hours of electives for the non-thesis option.

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 cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (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. three letters of recommendation
6. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English must provide [proof of English proficiency](#) regardless of their current residency.

The personal statement must address three 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?

*Applicants also 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.

Tuition information

When it comes to paying for higher education, everyone's situation is different. Students can learn about [ASU tuition and financial aid](#) options to find out which will work best for them.

Attend online

ASU Online

ASU offers this program in an online format with multiple enrollment sessions throughout the year. Applicants may [view the program's ASU Online page](#) for program descriptions and to request more information.

Application deadlines

Fall

Spring [expand](#)

Summer [expand](#)

[expand](#)

Career opportunities

Professionals with expertise in geographical sciences research, theory and practice are in high demand across sectors and industries, including consulting firms, government agencies, community organizations and public and private research facilities. Skills in geographical data analysis, mapping and climate science are valuable to businesses and institutions relying on research-based approaches to solve complex real-world problems.

Some graduates of the program continue on to pursue doctoral degrees.

Career examples include:

- environmental scientist or specialist
- geographic information systems technician
- geological materials technician
- geophysical data technician
- geoscientist
- geospatial information scientist or technologist

Contact information

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