MASTER OF SCIENCE IN THE FIELD OF GEOGRAPHY (STEM)

Part of the social and behavioral sciences in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, the program investigates societal and environmental dynamics, focusing on questions of sustainability, urbanization, and uneven resource distribution. Graduates pursue rewarding careers in governmental and nongovernmental agencies and in the private sector.

The graduate program has three core areas that reflect the research interests of the geography faculty: urbanization, migration, and development; global environmental change and sustainability; and geospatial techniques. Geography faculty members also have regional expertise in North America, Latin America, South Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and the Arctic.

The MS program consists of required coursework and electives. The two-year program has both thesis and non-thesis options. Funding is available to support thesis-related summer field research through geography’s Campbell Endowment. A number of fellowships and graduate student assistantships support students.

Visit the program website (https://geography.columbian.gwu.edu/ms-geography/) for additional information.

This is a STEM designated program.

ADMISSIONS

Admission deadlines: Fall - April 1 (February 1 for priority fellowship consideration)

Spring - November 1 (October 1 for applicants requiring a student visa)

Applications received after the above dates will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Standardized GRE General test recommended but not required

Test scores: institutional code 5246.

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or the PTE Academic is required of all applicants except those who hold a bachelor’s, master’s, or doctoral degree from a college or university in the United States or from an institution located in a country in which English is the official language, provided English was the language of instruction.

Minimum scores for the program are:

- Academic IELTS: an overall band score of 7.0 with no individual score below 6.0; or
- TOEFL: 600 on paper-based or 100 on Internet-based; or
- PTE Academic: 68

Prerequisite requirements:

A bachelor’s degree with a major in geography or in a related field in the social or natural sciences.

Prior academic records:

Transcripts are required from all colleges and universities attended, whether or not credit was earned, the program was completed, or the credit appears as transfer credit on another transcript. Unofficial transcripts from all colleges and universities attended must be uploaded to your online application. Official transcripts are required only of applicants who are offered admission.

If transcripts are in a language other than English, English language translations must be provided. The English translation alone should be uploaded into your application.

Statement of purpose:

In an essay of 250 – 500 words, state your purpose in undertaking graduate study in your chosen field. Include your academic objectives, research interests, and career plans. Also discuss your related qualifications, including collegiate, professional, and community activities, and any other substantial accomplishments not already mentioned on the application. If you are applying for an assistantship or fellowship, you should also describe any teaching experience you have had.

Writing Sample:

All applicants must submit a recent writing sample (research paper preferred) of 10-20 pages in length. The content and form of the sample are not as important as the quality of the writing. Course papers are appropriate, as are other genres.

International applicants only:

Please follow this link - https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants - to review the International Applicant Information carefully for details on required documents, earlier deadlines for applicants requiring an I-20 or DS-2019 from GW, and English language requirements.

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Office of Graduate Studies
The George Washington University
801 22nd Street NW, Phillips Hall 107
Washington DC 20052
For additional information about the admissions process visit the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Frequently Asked Questions (https://columbian.gwu.edu/graduate-admissions-faq/) page.

Contact:
askccas@gwu.edu
202-994-6210 (phone)

Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday

REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

The general requirements stated under Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Graduate Programs (https://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#degreeregulationstext).

Thesis option—30 credits, including 9 credits in required courses, 6 credits in thesis research, and 15 credits in elective courses. Non-thesis option—30 credits, including 9 credits in required courses, a 3-credit research or capstone internship course, and 18 credits in elective courses.

The student’s program of study is developed in consultation with the advisor and the graduate committee.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Required</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOG 6201</td>
<td>Geographic Thought</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOG 6304</td>
<td>Geographical Information Systems I</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOG 6292</td>
<td>Qualitative Methods in Geography</td>
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<tr>
<td>or GEOG 6305</td>
<td>Geospatial Statistics</td>
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<td>For thesis option only:</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOG 6999</td>
<td>Thesis Research (taken for a total of 6 credits)</td>
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<td>For non-thesis option only:</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOG 6295</td>
<td>Research (taken for 3 credits)</td>
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<td>or GEOG 6300</td>
<td>Geography Capstone Internship</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Electives</strong></td>
<td>15 to 18 credits in any 6000-level Geography (GEOG) courses. *</td>
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*Elective courses also can be taken through the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area (https://consortium.org/) with the permission of the advisor.

COMBINED PROGRAM

Combined program

- Dual Master of Science in the field of geography and Graduate Certificate in geographical information systems (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/geography/ms/certificate-geographical-information-systems/)