

The below curriculum outlines the requirements of the Geography PhD program. Most classes are offered only once per year (Fall only or Spring only). If students need to deviate from the below plan, contact the SGSUP Graduate Coordinator to review options. Refer to the SGSUP Program Handbook for recommended course sequences and information regarding non-coursework degree requirements, including research, comprehensive exams, prospectus, and dissertation defense.

Core (Required) Coursework	Credits
GCU 529 Contemporary Geographic Thought (Fall only)	3.0
GCU 585 Geographic Research Design and Proposal Writing (Spring only)	3.0
GCU/GPH 591 Seminar: Geography Colloquium (Fall semester 1)	1.0
GCU/GPH 591 Seminar: Geography Colloquium (Spring semester 2)	1.0
GCU/GPH 591/598 Seminar or Special Topic	3.0
GCU/GPH 591/598 Seminar or Special Topic	3.0
GCU/GPH 799 Dissertation	12.0
Total required credits	26.0
Additional (Elective) Coursework	Credits
Approved graduate elective:	
Approved graduate elective:	
Approved graduate elective:	
Approved graduate elective:	
Approved graduate elective:	
Approved graduate elective:	
Approved graduate elective:	
Approved graduate elective:	
Approved graduate elective:	
Approved graduate elective:	
Total elective credits (minimum; if entering with master's degree)	28.0
Total elective credits (minimum; if entering without master's degree)	58.0
Total credits taken at ASU (minimum; if entering with master's degree)	54.0
Total credits applied from master's degree (if entering with master's degree)	30.0
Total credits required for Geography PhD degree	84.0

Core Requirements

The listed classes are required and cannot be waived or substituted, with the exception of GCU 529. Submit the *Course Waiver* form to check for waiver eligibility. If approved, an alternative course must be selected. Students entering the program without a master's degree, who are planning on earning a master's degree in passing, should take GCU 529, which is a required course for the MA degree.

Electives

Any graduate level GCU, GIS, GPH, or PUP course may be taken as elective, including Research and Reading & Conference credits. Interdisciplinary courses may be taken, but must be approved by the department. Submit the *Petition for Transfer or Interdisciplinary Elective Courses* form to request approval. A maximum of six (6.0) credits of 400-level elective coursework may be included on the plan of study.

Master's Degree Credit

Thirty (30.0) credits from a previously-awarded master's degree may be applied toward the doctoral plan of study. Contact the SGSUP Graduate Coordinator for further information.

Dissertation

Dissertation credits may be taken in any combination that adds up to twelve (12.0), but students are recommended to take them in the final year of the program. Student should consult with faculty advisor prior to enrolling in dissertation.

Time to Completion

The Geography PhD degree is designed to be completed in four years (entering with master's degree) or five years (entering without master's degree), with a minimum seven (7.0) credit hours taken per semester (on average; Fall and Spring enrollment only; may vary if entering with bachelor's degree only). Full-time enrollment for graduate students is nine (9.0) credits; Research and Teaching Assistants are considered full-time at six (6.0) credit hours.