

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 Advisor to review options. Refer to the SGSUP Program Handbook for information regarding non-coursework degree requirements, including research, comprehensive exams, prospectus, and dissertation defense.

Year One

<i>Fall (7.0 credits)</i>	Credits
GCU 529 Contemporary Geographic Thought	3.0
GCU/GPH 591 Seminar: Geography Colloquium	1.0
GCU/GPH 591/598 Seminar or Special Topic	3.0
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<i>Spring (7.0 credits)</i>	
GCU 585 Geographic Research Design and Proposal Writing	3.0
GCU/GPH 591 Seminar: Geography Colloquium	1.0
GCU/GPH 591/598 Seminar or Special Topic	3.0
Recommended minimum credits completed during first year	14.0

After the first year, PhD students have significant flexibility. Beginning in the second year, there are no requirements to enroll in specific courses each semester. Elective and research credit may be taken in any semester, at student and faculty advisor's discretion.

Entering with master's degree

First year credits	14.0
Approved graduate electives or research, remainder of program	28.0
Credit applied from master's degree	30.0
GCU/GPH 799 Dissertation	12.0
Total credits required for Geography PhD degree	84.0

Entering without master's degree

First year credits	14.0
Approved graduate electives or research, remainder of program	58.0
GCU/GPH 799 Dissertation	12.0
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 faculty advisor. 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 Advisor for further information.

Master's Degree in Passing

Doctoral students can earn a Master of Arts (MA) in Geography en route to their PhD. Requirements consist of 30 credits of coursework already taken as part of the doctoral curriculum and completion of the Research Requirement. Students with 30 credit hours from a previously awarded master's degree on their plan of study are not eligible. Contact the SGSUP Graduate Advisor 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 without master's degree). 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.

Graduate Student Forms are available at

<https://sgsup.asu.edu/student-life/graduate-resources/graduate-student-forms>