

The below curriculum outlines the requirements of the Geography MA program for **online** students. Students are strongly advised to take graduate coursework in the order described. **Most of the required courses are offered only once per year (Fall or Spring only)**. If students have questions or need to deviate from the below plan, contact a [graduate advisor](#) to review options.

### Year One

<i>Fall (7.0 credits)</i>	<b>Credits</b>
<b>GCU 528</b> Geographic Problems and Context	3.0
<b>GCU/GPH 591</b> Seminar: Geography Colloquium	1.0
<b>GCU 596</b> Geographic Research Methods	3.0
<i>Spring (7.0 credits)</i>	
<b>Approved Graduate Elective</b>	3.0
<b>GCU/GPH 591</b> Seminar: Geography Colloquium	1.0
<b>Approved Methods or Statistics Course*</b>	3.0

### Year Two

<i>Fall (10.0 credits)</i>	
<b>Approved Graduate Elective or Research</b>	10.0
<i>Spring (6.0 credits)</i>	
<b>Approved Graduate Elective (Capstone Students)</b>	3.0
<b>Culminating Experience (choose one):</b>	
<b>GPH 597</b> Geography Capstone	3.0
<b>GCU/GPH 599</b> Thesis	6.0
<b>Total credits required for MA Geography degree</b>	<b>30.0</b>

\* Students are required to take three (3) credits of an approved methods or statistics course. It is recommended that this be completed at some point during the first year.

## Core and Other Requirements

The listed classes are required and cannot be waived or substituted.

MA Geography students are required to take three (3) credits of an *approved methods and/or statistics course*. A list of methods and statistics courses currently approved can be found on the [MA Geography Approved Methods & Statistics Courses](#) list. Courses not on the list can be petition for and approved by SGSUP's AD of Graduate Studies. Submit the [Petition for Transfer or Interdisciplinary Elective Courses](#) form to request approval.

## 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 coursework may be included on the plan of study.**

## Culminating Experience

**The Geography Capstone course (GPH 597) is the default culminating experience for MA Geography students.** This course builds upon program completed work that allows for the student to apply learned concepts to real-world geographic problems while building upon their professional tools to further their careers. Students will complete a professional portfolio of work that includes a written report and an oral presentation. Students must earn a grade of B or better to be used toward the MA degree.

Students preferring to pursue an individualized culminating experience project must be aware that:

- Individualized culminating experiences require significant effort, initiative, and discipline by the student.
- Students are responsible for identifying a research question.
- Faculty advisors will supervise the thesis; they will not assign a research topic/question.

Students are recommended to take the thesis credits in the final year of the program. Students should consult with faculty advisor prior to enrolling in thesis.

## Time to Completion

The Geography MA degree is designed to be completed in two years. 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>