

The MA Geography Accelerated Degree program allows students to fast track the Master's program. Undergraduate BA/BS Geography students may take up to 12 credit hours of graduate coursework in their senior year.

The curriculum below outlines the requirements of the MA Geography program for students on the **Tempe Campus**. All graduate coursework should be taken in the order described. If students need to deviate from the plan below, contact a [graduate advisor](#) to review options.

Senior Year

<i>Fall (6.0 credits graduate level coursework)</i>	Credits
GCU 596 Geographic Research Methods	3.0
GCU 529 Contemporary Geographic Thought (<i>Available in Odd Year Only</i>)* OR Approved Methods or Statistics Course**	3.0
Required undergraduate degree courses (<i>varies; will not count toward MA Geography degree requirements</i>)	
<i>Spring (6.0 credits graduate level coursework)</i>	
Approved Graduate Elective	3.0
Approved Graduate Elective OR Approved Methods or Statistics Course**	3.0
Required undergraduate degree courses (<i>varies; will not count toward MA Geography degree requirements</i>)	

Graduate Year

<i>Fall (11.0 credits graduate level coursework)</i>	
GCU 529 Contemporary Geographic Thought (<i>Available in Odd Year Only</i>)* OR Approved Graduate Elective	3.0
GCU/GPH 591 Seminar: Geography Colloquium	1.0
Approved Graduate Elective	4.0
Approved Graduate Elective	3.0
<i>Spring (7.0 credits graduate level coursework)</i>	
GCU/GPH 591 Seminar: Geography Colloquium	1.0
Approved Graduate Elective (Capstone Students)	3.0
Culminating Experience (choose one):	
GPH 597 Geography Capstone	3.0
GCU/GPH 599 Thesis	6.0
Total credits required for MA Geography degree	30.0

* GCU 529 is only offered in fall semesters in odd years. Students should take the course as soon as it is available to ensure timely completion.

** 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.

GCU 496 Geographic Research Methods cannot be used as a substitute for the required GCU 596 Geographic Research Methods course.

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.

Graduate Student Forms are available at:

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