

The curriculum below outlines the requirements of the Geographic Information Science 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 a [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.

	<b>FALL (1<sup>ST</sup> SEMESTER)</b>	<b>CREDITS</b>	<b>SPRING (2<sup>ND</sup> SEMESTER)</b>	<b>CREDITS</b>
<b>Year One</b>	<b>GIS 520</b> GIScience Issues and Debates ( <i>Odd Years Only</i> ) <b>OR</b>	3	<b>GCU 585</b> Geographic Research Design and Proposal Writing ( <i>Odd Years Only</i> )* <b>OR</b>	3
	Elective Coursework		<b>GIS 571</b> Spatial Statistics for Geography and Planning*	
	<b>GCU/GPH 591 Seminar:</b> Geography Colloquium	1	<b>GCU/GPH 591 Seminar:</b> Geography Colloquium	1
	Remote Sensing Requirement* <b>AND/OR</b>	(3 – 6)	<b>GIS 521</b> GIS Programming ( <i>Even Years Only</i> )* <b>AND/OR</b>	(3 – 6)
	Elective Coursework		Elective Coursework	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>(9 – 10)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>(9 – 10)</b>
	<b>FALL (3<sup>RD</sup> SEMESTER)</b>	<b>CREDITS</b>	<b>SPRING (4<sup>TH</sup> SEMESTER)</b>	<b>CREDITS</b>
<b>Year Two</b>	<b>GIS 520</b> GIScience Issues and Debates ( <i>Odd Years Only</i> ) <b>OR</b>	3	<b>GCU 585</b> Geographic Research Design and Proposal Writing ( <i>Odd Years Only</i> )* <b>OR</b>	3
	Elective Coursework		<b>GIS 571</b> Spatial Statistics for Geography and Planning*	
	Remote Sensing Requirement* <b>AND/OR</b>	(3 – 6)	<b>GIS 521</b> GIS Programming ( <i>Even Years Only</i> )* <b>AND/OR</b>	(3 – 6)
	Elective Coursework		Elective Coursework	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>(6 – 9)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>(6 – 9)</b>
	<b>FALL (5<sup>TH</sup> SEMESTER)</b>	<b>CREDITS</b>	<b>SPRING (6<sup>TH</sup> SEMESTER)</b>	<b>CREDITS</b>
<b>Year Three</b>	Elective Coursework	(6 – 9)	Elective Coursework	(6 – 9)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>(6 – 9)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>(6 – 9)</b>
	<b>FALL (7<sup>TH</sup> SEMESTER)</b>	<b>CREDITS</b>	<b>SPRING (8<sup>TH</sup> SEMESTER)</b>	<b>CREDITS</b>
<b>Year Four</b>	<b>GPH/GCU 799</b> Dissertation	6	<b>GPH/GCU 799</b> Dissertation	6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>

**Entering with master's degree**

<b>GIS 520</b> GIScience Issues and Debates *	3.0
<b>GIS 521</b> Geographic Information Science Programming *	3.0
<b>GIS 571</b> Spatial Statistics for Geography and Planning *	3.0
<b>GCU 585</b> Geographic Research Design and Proposal Writing *	3.0
<b>GCU/GPH 591</b> Seminar: Geography Colloquium *	2.0
Approved Remote Sensing Course *	3.0
Approved Graduate Electives or Research ( <i>Remainder of Program</i> )	25.0
Credit Applied from Master's Degree	30.0
<b>GIS 799</b> Dissertation	12.0
<b>Total credits required for GIS PhD degree</b>	<b>84.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> This course should be completed in the first two years of study.

**Entering without master's degree**

<b>GIS 520</b> GIScience Issues and Debates *	3.0
<b>GIS 521</b> Geographic Information Science Programming *	3.0
<b>GIS 571</b> Spatial Statistics for Geography and Planning *	3.0
<b>GCU 585</b> Geographic Research Design and Proposal Writing *	3.0
<b>GCU/GPH 591</b> Seminar: Geography Colloquium *	2.0
Approved Remote Sensing Course *	3.0
Approved Graduate Electives or Research ( <i>Remainder of Program</i> )	55.0
<b>GIS 799</b> Dissertation	12.0
<b>Total credits required for GIS PhD degree</b>	<b>84.0</b>

\* This course should be completed in the first two years of study.

## Core Requirements

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

## 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 **Associate Director of Graduate Studies**. Submit the [Petition for Transfer or Interdisciplinary Elective Courses](#) form to request approval. Courses approved for fulfilling the remote sensing requirement may also be taken as electives, but can only count towards one or the other. **A maximum of six (6.0) credits of 400-level coursework may be included on the plan of study.** Students must complete **at least nine credit hours** of 500-, 600- or 700-level courses offered by SGSUP with prefixes PUP, GPH, GCU or GIS.

## Remote Sensing Course

Students must take three (3.0) credits of remote sensing coursework. Students may choose from a pre-approved list or consult with their faculty advisor. To petition for a course not on the pre-approved list, submit the [Petition for Transfer or Interdisciplinary Elective Courses](#) form to request approval.

## 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 a [SGSUP Graduate Advisor](#) for further information.

## Master's Degree in Passing

Doctoral students can earn a Master of Science (MS) in Geographic Information Science 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 a [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.

Graduate Student Forms are available at  
<https://sgsup.asu.edu/student-life/graduate-resources/graduate-student-forms>

Approved Remote Sensing Course list is available at  
<https://sgsup.asu.edu/student-life/graduate-resources/plans-study-and-graduate-programs-handbook>