

The curriculum below outlines the requirements of the Geography MA program for students on the **Tempe Campus**. 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>	Credits
GCU 596 Geographic Research Methods	3.0
GCU/GPH 591 Seminar: Geography Colloquium	1.0
GCU 529 Contemporary Geographic Thought (<i>Available in Odd Year Only</i>)* OR Approved Methods or Statistics Course**	3.0
<i>Spring (7.0 credits)</i>	
Approved Graduate Elective	3.0
GCU/GPH 591 Seminar: Geography Colloquium	1.0
Approved Graduate Elective OR Approved Methods or Statistics Course**	3.0

Year Two

<i>Fall (10.0 credits)</i>	
GCU 529 Contemporary Geographic Thought (<i>Available in Odd Year Only</i>) OR Approved Graduate Elective	3.0
Approved Graduate Elective or Research	7.0
<i>Spring (6.0 credits)</i>	
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.

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. Full-time enrollment for international graduate students is nine (9.0) credits.

Graduate Student Forms are available at

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