

# UC Davis Graduate Group in Geography

## Student Guide 2017-2018

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# General Introduction

The Graduate Group in Geography (GGG) consists of some 68 graduate students, and 65 faculty members from across the UC Davis campus. In terms of the number and diversity of affiliated faculty, we are the nation's largest geography graduate program. As such, the group supports a wide range of geographic scholarship.

We are housed administratively in the Department of Human Ecology, with the Graduate Group's office located in 133 Hunt Hall, and student office with mailboxes in 158 Hunt Hall.

We all look forward to helping you achieve your scholarly and academic objectives. Welcome and best wishes for a productive year.

## *Communications*

The group maintains several means of distributing information. These include:

E-mail lists. An e-mail list is available to disseminate information to the group's graduate students. Please subscribe to this list and keep your address current, as described on page 9. (An e-mail list is also available for the faculty.)

Website. The group website is <http://geography.ucdavis.edu>

~~Student resources smartsite: Using UC Davis' online course management system smartsite (<http://smartsite.ucdavis.edu>), we have created a repository of information and resources produced by previous students that might be of use to current and incoming students. The smartsite is called "Geography Student Resources", and all incoming students are automatically added to the site. Included here are resources on funding, sample dissertation prospectuses and field statements, and other resources of use to students.~~

Program coordinator Office Hours. Office hours will be posted on the door of 133 Hunt Hall. Paperwork also may be left in the graduate program coordinator's mailbox in Room 131 Hunt Hall during normal business hours.

## *Major Professor*

To be accepted into an M.A. or Ph.D. degree program in the Geography Graduate Group, a student must have a Major Professor that has agreed to work with them. The Major Professor must be a member of the Graduate Group in Geography and must agree to serve in this capacity. AYou should have agreed to work with a Major Professor before you can be admitted to the program. It is possible to switch major professors. The Graduate Advisor and Graduate Staff Assistant in the Geography Graduate Group should be informed of any changes as soon as possible. For advice on finding a Major Professor, talk to the Chairperson, Graduate Advisors, and current students of the Geography Graduate Group.

A student's Major Professor serves as a mentor and is a primary resource for advising and scholarly information on research projects and sources of external funding. The Major Professor's home department is responsible for providing the graduate student with office, laboratory space and support, as available. Major Professors will advise students on courses to take to formulate a program of study best suited to the individual student's research and other professional needs. The Major Professor serves as chairperson of the dissertation/thesis/master's exam committee. He/she, along with the student recommends to the Graduate Advisor when the student is prepared to take the qualifying/oral examination. He/she should guide the student on exam preparation and the preparation of their dissertation proposal for the Ph.D. qualifying examination. For students without a prior academic degree in Geography, the Major Professor consults with the student to advise the Graduate Advisors on a preparatory program of courses in geographic theory and methods.

Though the Major Professor plays the lead role in providing guidance on research projects, he/she may not be aware of the latest Graduate Studies and GGG requirements. Therefore, the student should consult with the Graduate Advisors on a regular basis and report on his/her academic progress.

### *Paper Work*

The Graduate Program Coordinator manages almost all paperwork related to the Graduate Group. The Graduate Advisors, Professors **Ryan Galt, Jay Lund, Jim Quinn** and **Robert Hijmans**, need to sign most student forms. **You can make arrangements to speak with them** at any time. If all you need is a signature, you can also leave it with the Graduate Program Coordinator, **Carrie Armstrong-Ruport**, in 133 Hunt Hall, or in **Carrie's** mailbox in 131 Hunt Hall and it will be taken care of forthwith.

### *Graduate Advisors*

Graduate Advisors are nominated by the Chairperson of the Geography Graduate Group and appointed by the Dean of Graduate Studies to serve in matters affecting graduate students in their academic program. The Graduate Advisor's signature is the only signature officially recognized by Graduate Studies on a variety of forms and petitions used by graduate students.

In general, Graduate Advisors act as the student's first source of academic program information and provide assistance with the requirements of the program. You should normally work primarily with a Graduate Advisor that has a similar area of interest. Students should meet with their Graduate Advisor on a regular basis and keep him/her up to date on progress. In particular, the Graduate Advisors are responsible for:

- A. Development of academic study plans with the student.
- B. Reviewing and acting on requests by graduate students to drop or add courses or to take courses on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis.
- C. Reviewing and approving petitions for advancement to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree and making recommendations for the composition of committees for M.A. theses and exams, doctoral dissertations, or qualifying examinations.
- D. Periodic review of the student's progress towards degree objectives, and in particular, the filing of an annual report with Graduate Studies concerning each student's progress toward completion of degree requirements.

- E. The Graduate Advisor is also responsible for the approval of Planned Educational Leave (PELP).
- F. For students without prior academic degrees in Geography, the Graduate Advisor is responsible for approving a preparatory program of courses in geographic theory and methods, in consultation with the student and Major Professor.

### *Financial Support*

It is the student's responsibility to obtain needed funding, though the Major Professor and program will also help. Many sources of financial support are available for students:

Teaching Assistant. Teaching assistant (TA) positions provide a great opportunity to get teaching experience, solidify your knowledge of subject matter, and to receive financial support at the same time. TA positions are often available for classes taught by GGG faculty members through their home departments. The GGG Graduate Program Coordinator has TA applications for the group's home department: Human Ecology. Graduate students may apply for TA positions in any department on campus. Please contact faculty in charge of teaching particular courses or the management officer of each department to learn of teaching assistant opportunities. Apply early, preferably between December and May the prior year. Application forms for Teaching Assistantships should be submitted to the Department or Graduate Group offering the course on which the student wishes to assist. A minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA is required. Appointments at 25% and above provide full remission of in-state tuition and fees for the quarter the appointment is held.

Graduate Student Researcher. Individual faculty members fund graduate student researcher (GSR) positions. They can provide excellent opportunities to gain experience in areas of importance to your graduate education and to receive financial support at the same time. Contact faculty in your area of interest to discover opportunities. A minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA is required. Appointments at 25% and above provide full remission of fees, in-state and non-resident tuition and fees for the quarter the appointment is held.

Work-Study. The Geography Graduate Group has a limited number of 25% time work-study positions each year. Eligibility for these grants is related to individual income. Work-study grants are used to match funding from other employment on the campus. A 25% work-study GSR appointment includes full remission of in-state tuition for the quarter the appointment is held. Deadlines and procedures for applying for work-study are available from the Graduate Program Coordinator. You must file a FAFSA by March 1 each year to determine eligibility.

Geography Graduate Group Fellowships. Graduate Studies allocates the GGG Fellowship awards to help fund students. The GGG issues a call for Geography Graduate Group Fellowships in the fall quarter, and the Awards Committee makes recommendations to the Chairperson on these awards. Awards may be used towards fees, non-resident tuition or stipends.

Other On-Campus. Other employment on campus may be available in technical and service capacities. See the Student Employment Center for more information at: <http://jobs.ucdavis.edu/>

UC Davis and External Fellowships. The University offers several internal fellowships for new and continuing students. Fellowships are allocated on a competitive basis. Fellowship deadlines and applications are available from the Graduate Staff Assistant. External fellowships are also available through federal agencies and private organizations with Graduate Studies providing information on many of these.

Off-Campus. Off-campus employment opportunities exist in many areas of geography. The opportunities can often be discovered through the Internship and Career Center (2<sup>nd</sup> floor, South Hall) or through directly contacting agencies and firms doing work of interest to you. Jobs also frequently are sent to our email list for distribution.

Research Funding. Geography Graduate students have been very successful in obtaining funding for their research projects from various private, state and federal agencies. As described on page 3, a SmartSite has been created listing students' proposals and grant sources that all Geography Graduate students have access to and may contribute information to. The SmartSite name is Geography Student Resources and the folder name is Funding.

Several funding sources are also available at UCD and UC system-wide. Further information may be found on our Graduate Studies and Office of Research campus websites. See <http://geography.ucdavis.edu/handbook/financial-assistance> and <http://www.gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/ssupport/>

Financial Aid, which is only available to U.S. citizens, permanent residents or immigrants, is awarded on the basis of demonstrated financial need, and is administered by the Financial Aid Office. Federal financial aid includes student loans, grants, and work-study funding. Contact your graduate program regarding the availability of work-study funding. All applicants (US citizens, permanent residents, and immigrants) are required to apply for financial aid. You may apply for financial aid before you have been admitted. As noted above, it is strongly suggested that you file the FAFSA by the priority processing date of March 1. A full-time counselor for graduate financial assistance is available for appointments and scheduled drop-in hours in the Financial Aid Office.

Fellowships, graduate scholarships, and GGG Fellowships are awarded primarily on the basis of scholarship and the promise of outstanding academic and professional achievement. Consideration is given to the extent and quality of previous undergraduate and graduate work, evidence of ability in research or other creative accomplishment, evidence of intellectual capacity, and promise of productive scholarship. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores, undergraduate and graduate grade point averages, academic transcripts, statement of purpose, letters of recommendation, and other documentation such as publications or awards are used in this evaluation.

The minimum cumulative undergraduate or graduate grade point average required for a living allowance, in-state fee award, or nonresident tuition fellowship is 3.0 (A=4.00).

Financial need or the availability of other sources of support in your graduate program is not relevant to the evaluation of academic merit, but may be an additional criterion for some fellowships. Students must establish eligibility for need-based awards by filing a FAFSA with the Federal Student Aid Program by the March 1 deadline. To file the FAFSA online, go to <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>.

### *Office Space*

The primary office space for GGG students is provided by the department of the Major Professor (as available) and for TA or GSR positions, by the student's employer on campus. A computer may or may not be available. The GGG also has been assigned 158 Hunt Hall as a group office and mailroom for our students. If you use this space as your office, be sure to be considerate of others and their need for space and to personally secure any valuables you have.

### *Entering the Program from outside Geography*

For students entering the graduate program without an undergraduate or prior graduate degree in geography, it will be necessary to evaluate your prior coursework and most likely take additional preparatory course-work in geography. This preparatory work must be agreed upon early in your program in consultation with your Major Professor and Graduate Advisor. A form for this purpose appears on page 17. Students wishing to enter the Geography Graduate Group from other graduate programs on campus should contact a Graduate Advisor.

### *Graduate Student Association and Geographical Student Association*

The students select three representatives who represent the group in the UC Davis Graduate Student Association (GSA). The GSA is a forum for graduate student matters and activities. The students organize various informal seminars and activities during the year. Also available to geography students is the geography students' association, known as GLOBAL. For information on GLOBAL, please contact 2016-17 GLOBAL President, Cory Copeland at [chcopeland@ucdavis.edu](mailto:chcopeland@ucdavis.edu). More information regarding GLOBAL and how to get involved will be presented at orientation.

### *GGG Executive Committee*

The GGG Executive Committee meets quarterly (and sometimes more frequently) to conduct the work of the group in regard to curricula, awards, financial support, activities, and other matters. Two graduate students serve as elected members of the Executive Committee, along with the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson, the four Graduate Advisors, three Members-At-Large, and the Graduate Program Coordinator. Serving on this committee is a good way to learn more about how the University works! A list of who is currently serving on the Executive Committee is available here: <http://geography.ucdavis.edu/content/geography-graduate-group-members>

### *Business Meetings of the GGG*

The GGG holds one or two business meetings per year where all members (students, staff and faculty) can attend. These meetings are normally in the middle of the fall quarter and near the end of the spring quarter. These are enjoyable events with both a business and a social function.

### ***GGG Seminar***

The GGG organizes a weekly seminar series during spring quarter. The speakers are selected by the seminar committee based on nominations by faculty and students. The committee is chaired by a faculty member, and consists of at least one other faculty members and at least two students. The Geography Seminar is our core intellectual and social event, and all members of the group are expected to attend regularly. Students have been very actively involved in organizing these seminars and they have also been successful in securing additional funding to bring in outside speakers. Students are required to attend at least two entire seminar series (for which they get credit by enrolling in GEO 297 twice.)

### ***Courses***

A full listing of all geography courses offered at UC Davis is available on-line here: <http://catalog.ucdavis.edu/programs/GEOgg/GEOggcourses.html>. There are, however, many more courses that will be of interest to geography graduate students, including seminars that are offered by professors on a periodic basis. We encourage you to review the registrar's schedule of upcoming classes, and to contact professors and departmental administrators, to learn about relevant coursework that may not be part of the regular geography offerings.

### ***HELP!***

If you have any questions please let us know in person, by telephone, or by e-mail. We will do our best to help as fast as we can. Many questions regarding Campus graduate policies can be answered by consulting the Graduate Student Guide, which is published over the web ONLY. The web address is [http://gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/students/handbook/GS201\\_GraduateStudentGuide.pdf](http://gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/students/handbook/GS201_GraduateStudentGuide.pdf)

### ***Geography Graduate Group E-Mail List for Graduate Students***

1. The graduate group has established the following e-mail list for administrative purposes and use among the graduate students. Please subscribe so that you can be informed of opportunities and developments with the Geography Graduate Group.

<u>List Name</u>	<u>Description</u>
Geography-Grad	A moderated list of GGG graduate students and alumni

To subscribe to the list, send an e-mail message to: Carrie Armstrong-Ruport ([caruport@ucdavis.edu](mailto:caruport@ucdavis.edu))

While the list is moderated, we encourage use of the list to inform other students of social and academic events and opportunities related to the Graduate Group. (Graduate

Studies has asked that graduate student lists be moderated.) To send mail to everyone on the list, merely e-mail the message to: [caruport@ucdavis.edu](mailto:caruport@ucdavis.edu) who will forward it to the Geography Graduate Student list.

The list will be used to disseminate such things as:

- 1) Opportunities for fellowships, teaching assistantships, and graduate-level jobs,
  - 2) Reminders of deadlines for applications for fellowships, candidacy, etc.,
  - 3) Announcements of new courses, course schedules and changes in course scheduling,
  - 4) Social occasions,
  - 5) Whatever other reasonable uses suggested by our graduate students, faculty and staff.
- To make the list most useful, we suggest you subscribe early.

2. The GGG has an email list for messages to (and from) students. The GGG Program Coordinator (Carrie) subscribes all current students to this list at the beginning of the fall quarter each year. The list is [geographystudent@ucdavis.edu](mailto:geographystudent@ucdavis.edu).

## What is Geography as Practiced at UC Davis?

The Geography Graduate Program at UC Davis aims to provide a stimulating, innovative and dynamic intellectual environment for education and research in geography and closely related fields. We want to ensure that students receiving degrees from our program: obtained the highest quality education possible; are excellent researchers, educators, and practitioners; and are positioned to pursue excellence in their chosen career objectives.

Geography draws on the social sciences, humanities and natural sciences to study of Earth's landscapes, peoples, places and environments, and their interactions across space and time. Understanding the causes of differences between places and people underlies much geographic scholarship.

Thus UC Davis is probably unique in the country in granting geography graduate degrees not through a department, but rather through an inter-departmental graduate group made up of a network of over 60 scholars, in more than 20 departments across campus, who use geographical perspectives and methods in their research and teaching. Indeed, it is the largest geography program in the country in terms of affiliated faculty. Students develop a strong foundation in the discipline of geography through core courses in the program, but then have substantial flexibility in designing an educational program that meets their own particular interests and goals, in partnership with faculty advisors throughout the network. *This environment can be a challenge for students seeking a more contained, structured, and proscribed program. But for students with substantial self-initiative, direction and goals, our program provides the opportunity for an incredibly rich, diverse, and dynamic educational experience.*

The goal of the GGG is to provide basic training in geography and specialized training. To meet this goal, the training of each student involves two essential steps:

1. Core courses (GEO 200AN, 200BN, 200CN, 200DN and 200E) and seminars (GEO 297) in the discipline and

2. Specialized methods and subject matter courses in one of four Areas of Geographic Depth. Training in each Area of Geographic Depth requires students to take a series of courses that fall within the broad subject area.

#### **Areas of Geographic Depth**

- a. Environmental Sciences
- b. Methods, Models, and Geographic Information Systems
- c. Nature and Society
- d. People, Place, and Region

#### *Designated Emphases for the Ph.D.*

The campus has approved approximately 10 Designated Emphases for the Ph.D. For a student to participate in one of these DE's, the graduate group must have been approved as a part of the DE. The GGG currently participates in three DE 's: Native American Studies, Social Theory and Comparative History, and Feminist Theory and Research. We have also applied to participate in the DE in International and Community Nutrition. Other DE's may be added. For more information see: <http://gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/programs/de.cfm>

## **Geography Degree Requirements**

#### *Deficiencies and Preparatory Courses, (For students without an undergraduate degree in geography)*

Students that do not have an undergraduate degrees in geography may be required to complete additional courses to overcome deficiencies in geographic theory and methods. These units are beyond the above requirements. The student's deficiencies should be determined within the first year of the program by the Graduate Advisor, in consultation with the student and another GGG faculty member, usually the student's Major Professor. Generally, a student with an undergraduate degree in a closely-allied field can expect to be required to complete the rough equivalent of a minor in Geography, consisting of one course each in human geography, physical geography, and geographic methods, plus an additional 9 units of geographic coursework.

The following courses offered at UC Davis (as well as other courses to be approved by the Graduate Advisers) are considered geography or equivalent courses:

#### Human Geography

- ANT 102 --- Cultural Ecology
- ANT 103 --- Indigenous People
- ANT 105 --- Societies and Culture
- ANT 119 --- World Writing Systems
- ANT 126B --- Women and Development
- CRD 140 --- Dynamics of Regional Development
- CRD 141 --- Organization of Economic Space
- CRD 142 --- Rural Change in the Industrialized World
- ESP 101 --- Human Ecology
- ESP 133 --- Cultural Ecology

## Physical Geography

ATM 110--- Weather Observation and Analysis  
ATM 115--- Hydroclimatology  
ATM 116--- Climate Change  
ATM 133--- Biometeorology  
ATM 149--- Air Pollution  
ERS 100--- Principles of Hydrologic Science  
ERS 121--- Water and Society  
ERS 141--- Role of Fire in Natural Ecosystems  
ERS 144--- Trees and Forests  
ERS 173--- Humans and Vegetation Change  
EVE 147 --- Biogeography  
GEL 115N ---Earth Science, History, and People  
GEL 134 --- Environmental Geology and Land Use Planning  
GEL 144 --- Historical Ecology  
SSC 100--- Principles of Soil Science  
SSC 118--- Soils in Land Use and the Environment  
SSC 120--- Soil Genesis, Morphology, and Classification  
WFC 155 ---Habitat Conservation and Restoration  
WFC 156 --- Plant Geography  
WFC 157 --- Coastal Ecosystems

## Geographic Methods

ABT 150 --- Introduction to GIS  
ABT 181 --- Intermediate GIS  
ABT 182 --- Environmental Analysis with GIS (Geoinformatics)  
ERS 185 --- Aerial Photo Interpretation and Remote Sensing  
ERS 186 and 186L --- Environmental Remote Sensing  
ESP 123 --- Introduction to Field and Lab Methods in Ecology  
GEL 136 --- Ecogeomorphology of Rivers and Streams  
WFC 100---Field Methods in Wildlife Biology

## *Requirements for a M.A. in Geography*

### A. Basic Course Requirements for Masters Degrees

- 1) A total of at least 36 post-graduate units, (i.e., beyond the bachelor's degree) must be completed. (The 36 units include the 20 units in the core courses listed below.)
- 2) A series of core requirements must be completed at UC Davis. These must include:
  - 2.a. Required courses
    - GEO 200AN - Geographical Concepts (4 unit, fall quarter)
    - GEO 200BN - Theory and Practice of Geography (4 units, winter quarter)
    - GEO 200CN - Quantitative Geography (4 units, spring quarter)
    - GEO 200DN - Socio-Spatial Analysis in Geography (4 units, spring quarter)
    - GEO 297 - Geography Graduate Group Seminar (2 quarters)
  - 2.b. Area of Depth Core Course(s) and Methods Course(s).

Students should take the core courses during their first year in the program to fully benefit from the curriculum and to maintain degree progress in a timely fashion.

3) Restricted electives within the Area of Depth or other area of specialization

#### B. M.A. Plan I, (Thesis), Additional Requirements

1) Of the above 36 units (A.1), at least 24 upper division (100 level) and graduate course units must be completed (exclusive of 299 units and 396 units).

2) A thesis must be completed, and students should enroll for units in Geography 299 while working on their thesis. This must be approved, and signed by a three-person committee. At least two members of the committee must be faculty members of the Graduate Group in Geography, with one of the persons the student's major professor.

#### C. M.A. Plan II, (Comprehensive Examination), Additional Requirements

1) Of the above 36 units (A.1), at least 32 upper division (100 level) and graduate (200-level) course units must be completed (exclusive of 299 and 396 units).

2) The student must pass a comprehensive examination administered by a three-person committee. The format of the exam is typically an oral examination of up to two hours, but may include a written component. At least two members of the committee, including the Chair, must be faculty members of the Graduate Group in Geography. The Chair of this committee will certify passing of the exam, which requires the unanimous vote of the committee, by letter to the Graduate Advisor.

3) Before sitting for the comprehensive exam the student must submit a paper of journal style and quality to the examination committee for unanimous approval. This paper should be prepared in consultation with the examination committee members.

#### D. Transfer Units

University regulations on transfer units towards master's degree requirements are specified in the UC Davis Catalog as follows: usually, all work for the master's degree is done in residence on the Davis campus. With the consent of the Graduate Adviser and the Dean of Graduate Studies (via petition), some work taken elsewhere may be credited toward your degree. The normal limit for such transfer credit is 6 units from another institution, or 12 concurrent units through University Extension, or up to one half of the unit requirement if the courses were taken at another UC campus providing the units were not used to satisfy requirements for another degree.

### *Requirements for a Ph.D. in Geography*

#### Course, Major and Minor Requirements

1) At least 48 post-graduate course units (M.A. & Ph.D.) must be completed (exclusive of 299 and 396 units). The 48 units include the core courses listed below and 200-level courses in the major and minor specialization.

2) A series of core requirements (units) and elective courses totaling 38 units must be completed at UC Davis. These include:

A series of core requirements must be completed at UC Davis. These must include:

2.a. GGG Core Courses and 297 Seminar

- GEO 200AN – Geographical Concepts (4 unit, fall quarter)
- GEO 200BN – Theory and Practice of Geography (4 units, winter quarter)
- GEO 200CN – Quantitative Geography (4 units, spring quarter)
- GEO 200DN – Methods of Socio-Spatial Analysis in Geography (4 units, spring quarter)
- GEO 200E – Advanced Research Design in Geography (2 Units, fall quarter the second year in the program).
- GEO 297 – Geography Graduate Group Seminar (2 quarters)

2.b. Area of Depth Core Course(s) and Methods Course(s).

Students are encouraged to take these core courses their first year in the program. The graduate advisor will not waive these core courses unless the student has transcript notation and a syllabus from a similar graduate-level course taken at another institution.

Area of Depth Courses – 16 units in one sub-discipline

Every student is required to take at least 16 units of Geographic Depth Courses from a pre-approved selection of courses in ONE of the four recognized sub-disciplines of Geography listed below. Students may petition for substitutions to this list, subject to approval by a Graduate Advisor.

- Environmental Sciences (see appendix IV for approved courses)
- Methods, Models, and GIScience (see appendix V for approved courses)
- Nature & Society (see appendix VI for approved courses)
- People, Place, and Region (see appendix VII approved course)

3) Restricted electives specified by the Area of Depth or other area of specialization.

4) At least 36 course units of courses must be at the graduate level (200-level) and distributed appropriately between the major and minor(s). Each minor must have at least one graduate-level course.

5) Coursework and specializations must be approved by the student's Guidance Committee, then reviewed by the Graduate Advisor, and then approved by the Graduate Group Executive Committee.

6) Ph.D. students must be in residence for at least six quarters and accrue course units during that period.

7) The graduate adviser can assist students who wish to transfer a limited number of courses from other institutions or through UC Extension (via petition) into their major and minor specialization program.

Qualifying Examination

1) A Qualifying Examination must be administered by the student's Qualifying Examination Committee and passed according to the rules of Graduate Studies.

2) The Qualifying Examination will be both oral and written and cover general geography, the specializations (major and minor areas), and course preparation indicated in the student's program of study, and the area of proposed research. A field statement must be completed one month prior to the qualifying exam as part of the process, details below. Written questions, submitted by each Committee member, are to be coordinated by the Qualifying Examination Committee Chair and administered at least two weeks but not more than four weeks before the scheduled oral examination, with the student having at least five full working days to complete the exam, and reviewed by the submitting committee member before the oral Examination begins. Typically, the Chair asks each committee member to submit two questions, with the student choosing one question from each committee member to write a 1,500-2,500 word essay on. The student must prepare a written dissertation proposal under the guidance of his/her major professor, and this should be given to the committee members at least two weeks (preferably one month) before the oral exam. The oral part of the Examination lasts about three hours and includes examination of the dissertation proposal, any follow-up questions on the written essays, and questions on the major and minor areas. Students are encouraged to discuss the Exam's emphases with the Committee Chair and all committee members before the examination so he/she may be best prepared.

#### Dissertation Research

1) A dissertation must be completed which provides a significant contribution to the field of geography.

2) All members of the student's dissertation committee must approve the final dissertation. The committee must have at least 3 members, including the major professor and at least one other member of the GGG faculty.

## Committees

### *Ph.D. Guidance Committee*

Each student shall have a guidance committee whose purpose is to advise and approve the student's coursework and language requirements.

a) The student's Guidance Committee consists of three or more faculty approving the student's coursework. These are selected by the student.

b) At least two Guidance Committee members must be members of the Geography Graduate Group.

### *MA Comprehensive Examination Committee*

a) The Comprehensive Examination Committee must have three members.

b) At least two members of the committee, including the Chair, must be faculty members of the Graduate Group in Geography.

- c) The decision on the examination must be unanimous.
- d) The Chair of the Committee will report the result of the examination by letter to the Graduate Advisor.

#### *Ph.D. Qualifying Examination Committee*

- a) The Qualifying Examination committee must have at least five members.
- b) At least two members must represent the major specialization.
- c) At least one member must represent areas of geography outside the area of the student's specialization (to ensure knowledge of the breadth of the discipline).
- d) At least three members must be Geography Graduate Group members; and one member must be from outside the Geography Graduate Group.
- e) The Chair of the Qualifying Examination Committee must be a Geography Graduate Group member
- f) Unlike in some other graduate groups, the dissertation chair (major professor) may (and does) typically serve on the qualifying examination committee; however, the major professor may not chair the Qualifying Examination committee.
- g) Members of the student's Qualifying Examination Committee are recommended by the Graduate Advisor, in consultation with the student, and appointed by the Dean of Graduate Studies.

#### *Thesis or Dissertation Committee*

- a) The Thesis or Dissertation Committee must have at least three members.
- b) The Chair of the Thesis or Dissertation Committee must be a Geography Graduate Group member.
- c) At least two members of the Thesis or Dissertation Committee must be Geography Graduate Group members.
- d) Members of a Ph.D. student's Dissertation Committee are recommended by the Graduate Advisor, in consultation with the student, and appointed by the Dean of Graduate Studies.

## **Ph.D. Qualifying Exam Format**

**1. Eligibility to take qualifying examination** - The student must have passed all required coursework prior to the exam. One of the Geography graduate advisers must approve the coursework form, and it is attached to the qualifying exam application. The student selects the five exam committee members in consultation with their major professor, and this committee must be approved by the Geography graduate adviser. The student should start this process at least 6 months before they intend to take the exam, as calendaring the exam can be difficult.

**2. Filing to take the qualifying examination** - The student must file with Graduate Studies to take the examination, and they must approve the candidate for examination and his/her committee. The date of the exam is listed on this form, and Grad Studies must be notified if the date or the approved committee changes. Graduate Studies sends the approved paperwork for the exam to the examination chairperson via e-mail. The major professor should be on the exam committee, but cannot chair it (both according to GGG by-laws). At least three of the five members must be members of the GGG, and one member should be external to the GGG. If there is no external member (i.e., if all belong to the GGG), a separate letter from one of the graduate advisers must be attached to the application stating why the committee composition is appropriate (usually based on breadth of disciplinary expertise of faculty). A reading list must be generated that includes input from the student and all of the committee members. Many students find it helpful to conceive of this list as a group 2-3 major topics each with 2-3 sub-topics for a total of 4-9 complete lists each of which could form the basis of a graduate seminar.

**3. Develop a field statement and bibliography** - The student should develop a field statement that includes a detailed bibliography that defines the areas of student expertise and constitutes the basis for the qualifying exam. The field statement must be turned in one month before the qualifying exam date. The field statement is a review of scholarly literature (an extended literature review) related to but broader than a student's intended topic of Ph.D. research. The field statement helps define the student's areas of expertise, forming a foundation for dissertation research and later helping the student with professional identification when entering the highly competitive job market as well as future teaching. The field statement should be a 'state of the art' essay, identifying one or more active areas (or several inter-related areas) of contemporary research, sorting out the important topics and debates within it, demonstrating awareness of the history of debates within this research area(s) and suggesting future research directions. It should include, and refer to, a detailed and extensive bibliography, organized into sub-fields.

**4. Written exam prior to oral exam** - The student receives two questions from each examiner, (with a choice of which of the two to answer), and writes a response 1,500-2,500 words in length to each chosen question, for a total of 5 essays. The questions are collected by the exam chair from the faculty and sent to the student. The questions should be compiled by the exam chair and given to the student at least 2 weeks before the oral exam but no earlier than 4 weeks before the oral exam. The student is expected to take about one day to complete each question, and may write on these over consecutive or non-consecutive days. The essays should include citations to the literature.

Questions and the five written essays must be returned to the exam chair who will distribute them to the full committee for review prior to the oral exam. There should be one full week lead time for the faculty to review these before the oral exam.

**5. Dissertation proposal/prospectus** - The dissertation proposal should be given to the committee at least 2 weeks before the oral exam, and preferably a month before the oral exam. A draft proposal may be given to the committee earlier in their discussions with the student about the content of the oral exam. The proposal must be approved as defensible for the oral exam by the major professor and exam chair. Proposals are generally 10-20 pages (double spaced) in length and contain introductory material, a working hypothesis (or clear research problem), a relevant literature review, and a clear

iteration of the research plan including details on methods, field sites, data sources, and modes of analysis. The overall importance of the research problem must be made clear as well as the broader implications.

**6. Oral exam content - The student is examined on the dissertation proposal, their declared area of geographic depth, and on general geography.** The qualifying exam has 3 primary purposes: 1) to ensure the student is adequately and broadly trained in Geography generally; 2) to ensure the student has adequate expertise in their designated area(s) of emphasis within Geography; 3) to ensure the student is adequately prepared to carry out the proposed research project with success.

**7. The format of the oral exam (which may last a maximum of 3 hours) is typically as follows:**

- a. Committee meets without student for 5-10 minutes to review exam format, discuss responses to written questions, and the student's overall performance in the program (as passing the exam is also a function of past performance and future potential). The written essays are also often discussed in part with the student during the exam.
- b. The committee brings the student in and asks the student to spend about 5-10 minutes on their academic history, career goals, etc. (This is kind of a warm-up period.)
- c. We will then give the student about 10-15 minutes to present the dissertation proposal. This should be well organized, but can be relatively informal. The student may use slides/ppts and any other materials. The dissertation proposal should be given to the committee at least a week before the oral exam, and preferably a month before the oral exam.
- d. The committee then asks questions on the proposal, and this typically lasts 30-45 minutes.
- e. The group may then take a short break and come back for questions on the responses to the written questions, and on the specified areas of geographic depth, from each committee member. Each member will be given approximately 15-20 minutes to ask questions, with follow-up opportunities.
- f. If everyone is satisfied that they have asked enough questions, the committee asks the student to step outside while it confers. This typically takes 10 minutes, as everyone contributes to the discussion.
- g. We then bring the student back in to tell him/her the outcome of the exam. Relevant paperwork is signed (advancement to candidacy form by the exam chair and given to the student, qualifying exam report/outcome and given to Carrie and sent to Graduate Studies).

**TIME LINE for qualifying exam and preparation:**

**- 6 months** before qualifying exam date: constitute committee, meet with chair, and begin discussions of reading lists. Set a tentative date for the exam.

**- 4 months** before qualifying exam date: circulate complete reading list to committee for comments and additions. Set an exact date for the exam. Apply for approval with Graduate Studies.

- **3 months** before qualifying exam date: finalize reading list and circulate final list to committee

- **1 month** before qualifying exam date: circulate final Field Statement to committee and draft research proposal. Set aside time for answering the essay questions.

- **1 week** before qualifying exam date: return essay questions to the exam chair. Circulate final Research Proposal to committee.

# Appendices and Forms

# Preparation for Geography Graduate Studies for Students without a Geography Undergraduate Degree

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Degree Objective: MA or Ph.D.

B.A. from: \_\_\_\_\_ Major: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

M.A. from: \_\_\_\_\_ Major: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Deficiency Area	Completion Equivalent	Term Completed	Qtr. Units	Grade
One course in human geography				
One course in physical geography				
One course in geographic methods				
Elective Geography Course 1				
Elective Geography Course 2				
Elective Geography Course 3				
Total:				

### M.A. Student's Major Professor

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
GGG Faculty Name
Faculty Signature
Date

### Ph.D. Student's Guidance Committee:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
GGG Faculty Name
Faculty Signature
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Approval by Graduate Group Adviser      Date

Original:  Revision#:  Please indicate changes below and attach previous undergraduate preparation agreements.

Comments:

Students without prior degrees in geography should expect to be required to complete additional courses or readings, beyond the above requirements, to overcome deficiencies in geographic theory and methods. These Deficiencies should be determined within the first year of the program by the Graduate Adviser, in consultation with the student and another GGG faculty member, usually the Chair of the student's thesis or examination committee. Generally, a student with an undergraduate degree in a closely-allied field can expect to complete the rough equivalent of a minor in geography, consisting of one course each in human geography, physical geography, and geographic methods, plus an additional 9 units of geographic coursework. For Ph.D. students, the student's guidance committee must certify definition of this requirement.

## Geography Graduate Group Program of Study for Master's Degree (MA)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Plan I (Thesis) \_\_\_\_\_ Plan II (Exam) \_\_\_\_\_  
 B.A./B.S. from \_\_\_\_\_ Major: \_\_\_\_\_

	Course Number	Title	Units	Quarter
<b>Geography CORE</b>	GEO 200AN	Geographical Concepts	4	
	GEO 200BN	Theory and Practice of Geography	4	
	GEO 200CN	Quantitative Geography	4	
	GEO 200DN	Socio-Spatial Analysis in Geography	4	
	GEO 297	Seminar in Geography (2 quarters required)	4	
<b>Geography Depth Courses (12 units)</b>				
<b>Electives</b>				

Transfer Units	School	Course Number	Course Title	UG/G

<b>TOTAL UNITS</b>	<b>36 total required, exclusive of 299 and 396 units</b>
UC Courses (except 299 & 396)	
Transfer courses (up to 6 units)	
Total units (courses plus 299 & 396)	

Major Professor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Graduate Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Program Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*This form must be completed and submitted to the Program Coordinator by December 1<sup>st</sup> every year.*

## Geography Graduate Group Program of Study for Doctoral Degree (Ph.D.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

B.A./B.S. from \_\_\_\_\_ Major: \_\_\_\_\_

M.A./M.S. from \_\_\_\_\_ Major: \_\_\_\_\_

	Course Number	Title	Units	Quarter
<b>Geography CORE</b>	GEO 200AN	Geographical Concepts	4	
	GEO 200BN	Theory and Practice of Geography	4	
	GEO 200CN	Quantitative Geography	4	
	GEO 200DN	Socio-Spatial Analysis in Geography	4	
	GEO 200E	Advanced Research Design in Geography	2	
	GEO 297	Seminar in Geography (2 quarters required)	4	
<b>Geography Depth Courses (16 units)</b>				
<b>Electives</b>				

Transfer Units	School	Course Number	Course Title	UG/G

<b>Language Requirement</b>	<b>Language:</b> _____
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<b>TOTAL UNITS</b>	<b>48 total required, exclusive of 299 and 396 units</b>
UC Courses (except 299 & 396)	
Transfer courses (up to 6 units)	
Total units (courses plus 299 & 396)	

Major Professor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduate Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*This form must be completed and submitted to the Program Coordinator by December 1<sup>st</sup> every year.*

## **Geographic Depth Courses in Environmental Sciences (Physical Geography)**

The list below is the pre-approved selection of courses in the subfield of Physical Geography that students can choose from to fulfill their 12-16 units of Geographic Depth Courses.

### **Depth Courses Offered by GGG Faculty**

*(includes those to be Cross-Listed, proposed GEO number in parentheses):*

GEO 210 Topics in Biogeography (W - alternate years)  
GEO 211 Physical Geography Traditions and Methods (alternate years)  
ECI 267 (GEO 212) Water Resources Management  
ECL 201 (GEO 213) Ecosystems and Landscape Ecology (W - alternate years)  
PBG 296 (GEO 214) Seminar in Geography Ecology  
LDA 280 (GEO 253) Landscape Conservation  
GEO 280 Field Studies in Geography (S)

### **Other Depth Courses**

ECL 201 Ecosystems and Landscape Ecology (W - alternate years)  
ECL 205 Community Ecology (W)  
ECL 206 Concepts and Methods in Plant Community Ecology (F)  
ECL 207 Plant Population Biology (W - alternate years)  
ECL 208 Issues in Conservation Biology (W)  
ECL 214 Marine Ecology (S - alternate years)  
ECL 225 Terrestrial Field Ecology (S)  
ECL 231 Mathematical Models in Population Biology (F)  
ECL 232 Theoretical Ecology

# Geographic Depth Courses in Methods, Models, and GIScience

The list below is the pre-approved selection of courses in the subfield of Methods, Models, and GIScience that students can choose from to fulfill their 12-16 units of Geographic Depth Courses.

## **Depth Courses Offered by GGG Faculty**

*(includes those to be Cross-Listed, proposed GEO number in parentheses)*

PLS 205 (GEO 270) Experimental Design and Analysis  
PLS 206 (GEO 271) Multivariate Systems and Modeling  
ECL 220 (GEO 272) Spatio-temporal Ecology  
HYD 273 (GEO 273) Introduction to Geostatistics  
ESP 228 (GEO 274) Advanced Simulation Modeling  
HYD 275 (GEO 275) Analysis of Spatial Processes  
ECS 266 (GEO 276) Spatial Databases  
WFC 222 (GEO 277) Advanced Population Dynamics  
ECL 231 (GEO 278) Mathematical Methods and Population Biology  
ECL 254 (GEO 279) Discrete Choice Analysis of Travel Demand  
TTP 200 (GEO 280) Transportation Survey Methods  
HYD 286 (GEO 281) Advanced Remote Sensing  
LDA 280 (GEO 253) Landscape Conservation

## **Other Depth Courses**

ESP 231 Population Biology

## **Geographic Depth Courses in Nature & Society**

The list below is the pre-approved selection of courses in the subfield of Nature-Society Geography that students can choose from to fulfill their 12-16 units of Geographic Depth Courses.

### **Depth Courses Offered by GGG Faculty**

*(includes those to be Cross-Listed, proposed GEO number in parentheses)*

ECL 211 (GEO 250) Advanced Topics in Cultural Ecology  
ARE 214 (GEO 251) Development Economics  
LDA 260 (GEO 252) Landscape and Power  
LDA 280 (GEO 253) Landscape Conservation  
CRD 244 (GEO 254) Political Ecology of Community Development  
HIS 201W (GEO 256) Empires of Nature: Imperialism and the Natural World in Africa

### **Other Depth Courses**

CRD 245 The Political Economy of Urban and Regional Development  
ECL 210 Advanced Topics in Human Ecology  
ECL 211 Advanced Topics in Cultural Ecology  
ECL 212A Environmental Policy Process  
ECL 216 Ecology and Agriculture  
ESP 170 Environmental Impact Reporting  
ESP 212A Environmental Policy Process  
ESP 212B Environmental Policy Evaluation  
ESP 278 Research Methods in Environmental Policy  
SOC 206 Quantitative Analysis in Sociology  
SOC 207A-207B Methods of Quantitative Research  
SOC 233 Gender, Culture, and Local/Global Transformation.  
SOC 245 Developing Societies  
SOC 295 Special Topics: Environmental Sociology, Social and Political Ecology, Environmental Philosophy

# Geographic Depth Courses - People, Place, and Region (Human Geography)

The list below is the pre-approved selection of courses in the subfield of Human Geography that students can choose from to fulfill their 12-16 units of Geographic Depth Courses.

## Depth Courses Offered by GGG Faculty

*(includes those to be Cross-Listed, proposed GEO number in parentheses)*

LDA 200 (GEO 230) Citizenship, Democracy, & Public Space  
LDA 201 (GEO 231) Theory and Philosophy of the Designed Environment  
LDA 202 (GEO 232) Methods in Design and Landscape Research  
LDA 205 (GEO 233) Urban Planning and Design  
LDA 270 (GEO 234) Environment and Behavior  
SOC 295 (GEO 235) International Migration  
TTP 220 (GEO 236) Transportation Planning and Policy  
CRD 240 (GEO 240) Community Development Theory  
CRD 241 (GEO 241) The Economics of Community Development  
CRD 245 (GEO 245) The Political Economy of Urban and Regional Development  
CRD 246 (GEO 246) The Political Economy of Transnational Migration  
CRD 248 (GEO 248) Social Policy, Welfare Theories and Communities

## Other Depth Courses

CRD 242 Community Development Organizations  
CRD 247 Transformation of Work  
ECL 217 Conservation and Sustainable Development in Third World Nations  
ECL 222 Human Ecology of Agriculture CST 206 Studies in Race Theory  
LDA 204 Case Studies in Landscape Design and Research

LDA215 Ecologies of Infrastructure  
LDA 220 Public Space and Culture  
LDA 230 Landscape and Memory  
LDA 240 Historic, Cultural Landscapes: Concept, Perception, Preservation  
LDA 250 Life-Place: Bioregional Theory and Principles  
LDA 260 Landscape and Power  
LDA 280 Landscape Conservation  
SOC 215 Economy, Polity, and Society  
SOC 225 Cultural Sociology  
SOC 227 Sociology of Reproduction  
SOC 230 Ethnic (Race) Relations  
SOC 233 Gender, Culture, and Local/Global Transformation  
SOC 234 Gender, Family, and Society  
SOC 242AB Comparative Methods in Historical Sociology  
SOC 243 Urban Society  
SOC 245 Developing Societies  
SOC 248 Social Movements  
SOC 292AB Field Research Methods