

# Graduate Group in Geography

## UC Davis Graduate Guide 2011-2012

### Chairperson:

Chris Benner  
2333 Hart Hall  
(530) 754-8799  
ccbenner@ucdavis.edu

### Graduate Advisors:

Ryan Galt  
2429 Hart Hall  
(530) 754-8776  
regalt@ucdavis.edu

Steven Greco  
121 Hunt Hall  
(530) 754-5983  
segreco@ucdavis.edu

Luz Mena  
2209 Hart Hall  
lmmena@ucdavis.edu

Jim Quinn  
2120 Wickson  
(530) 752-8027  
jfquinn@ucdavis.edu

### Graduate Program Coordinator:

Carrie Armstrong-Ruport  
133 Hunt Hall  
(530) 752-4119  
caruport@ucdavis.edu  
<http://geography.ucdavis.edu>

# Table of Contents

	<b>PAGE</b>
<b>1. Orientation for New Students</b>	
I. Welcome	3
II. Communications	3
III. Major Professor	3
IV. Paper Work	4
V. Graduate Advisors	4
VI. Financial Support	5
VII. Office Space	6
VIII. Computing Laboratories	7
IX. Entering the program from outside Geography	7
X. Graduate Student Association and Geographical Education Club	7
XI. GGG Executive Committee	7
XII. Business Meetings of the GGG	7
XIII. GGG Seminar GEO 297 and GGG Field Studies Courses	8
XIV. Help!	8
XV. Subscribing to the E-mail List Serve	9
<b>2. What is Geography at UC Davis?</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>3. Areas of Geographic Depth and Specialized Areas of Study</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>4. Designated Emphases for the Ph.D.</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>5. Geography Graduate Group Degree Requirements</b>	
I. Special Circumstances: Students with undergraduate degrees <u>not</u> in Geography	11
II. Requirements for a M.A. in Geography	13
III. Requirements for a Ph.D. in Geography	15
IV. Committees	17
<b>6. Appendices</b>	
I. SAMPLE Preparation for Geography Graduate Group Studies	18
II. SAMPLE program of Study for Geography Master's Candidates	19
III. SAMPLE Program of Study for Geography Doctoral Candidates	20
IV. SAMPLE Environmental Sciences Area of Depth Courses	21
V. SAMPLE Methods, Models and GIScience Area of Depth Courses	22
VI. SAMPLE Nature and Society Area of Depth Courses	23
VII. SAMPLE People, Place and Region Area of Depth Courses	24
VIII. SAMPLE Ph.D. Qualifying Exam Format	25

# Orientation for New Students

## Welcome

Welcome to the Graduate Group in Geography (GGG)! The group consists of some 72 graduate students and 67 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 fortunate to be housed administratively by the Landscape Architecture Program in the Department of Environmental Design, with the 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>

Mailboxes. Individual mailboxes are available for GGG students in 158 Hunt Hall. You will need to check out a key for 158 Hunt Hall from the LDA Program Representative located in 131 Hunt Hall. A \$10 deposit for each key is required. The program coordinator oversees the mailboxes.

GGG Office Hours. GGG 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 142 Walker 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 student should contact faculty members in the Graduate Group directly when looking for a Major Professor. Students are responsible for finding a Major Professor and may change Major Professors at any time. The Major Professor must be a member of the Graduate Group in Geography and must agree to serve in this capacity. 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 office and laboratory space and support, as available. Major Professors will advise students on courses to formulate a program best suited to the individual

student's academic research and professional needs. The Major Professor serves as chairperson of the dissertation/thesis/master's exam committee. He/she, along with the student and their Committee, recommend 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 prior academic degrees 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, Steven Greco, Luz Mena** and **Jim Quinn**, need to sign most student forms. **You can make arrangements to speak with Ryan, Steven, Luz or Jim** 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. 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. Many sources of financial support are available for students:

Teaching Assistant Positions. Teaching assistant (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: Landscape Architecture. 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. TA positions of 25% or greater time carry an in-state fee waiver.

Graduate Student Researcher. Individual faculty members fund graduate student researcher (GSR) positions. Faculty in your area of interest should be contacted to discover opportunities. GSR positions of 25% or greater time carry an in-state tuition waiver and non-resident supplemental tuition waiver.

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, usually graduate student researchers. 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 (aka GGG Block Grants). Graduate Studies allocates the GGG Fellowship awards to help fund students. The GGG issues a call for Geography Graduate Group Fellowships (aka Block Grants) 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. 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.

Teaching Assistant and Graduate Student Researcher positions afford excellent opportunities to gain experience in areas of intrinsic importance to your graduate

education and to receive financial support at the same time. Information and application materials for TAs are available from the department in which you wish to teach. Contact the faculty directly about the availability of GSR positions. A minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA is required to hold an academic appointment. GSR and TA appointments at 25% and above provide full remission of in-state fees for the quarter the appointment is held. This policy is reviewed for renewal each year. Nonresident (NRT) remission is provided to all eligible Graduate Student Researchers (GSRs) employed by the University of California, Davis.

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 (aka block grant awards) 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 phone, fax, Xerox machine, and 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.

## **Computing Laboratories**

The GGG has a basic computer laboratory for our students (with PCs, Macintoshes, a printer, and internet access over the campus network) in 158 Hunt Hall. The campus also has many open general-purpose labs and special purpose laboratories (see <http://scg.ucdavis.edu/>). If you have an assigned office from your major professor and home department, you may be able to hook a departmental or your personal computer up to the campus high-speed network in that room, or access the computer internet wirelessly.

## **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 Education Club**

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 Geographical Education Club, SAGE and GLOBAL.

## **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!

## **Business Meetings of the GGG**

The GGG holds two business meetings of the full group (faculty, staff, students and friends) at the beginning of the fall quarter and near the end of the spring quarter. These are both business and social functions and are very enjoyable events.

## **GGG Seminars and Field Studies Courses**

**GEO 280 Field Studies in Geography** (3 units). May be repeated two times for credit. Students help organize our GEO 280 field studies course that is held in spring quarter. This course has a faculty coordinator.

**GEO 290 Seminar** (1-3 units)

**GEO 291 Seminar in Cultural Geography** (4 units)

**GEO 295 Seminar in Urban Geography** (4 units)

**GEO 297 Geography Graduate Group Seminar** (2 units)

GGG students help organize our GEO 297 weekly seminar series during fall winter and spring quarters. Students are required to take GEO 297 two times. This seminar series has a faculty coordinator each quarter. Topics are typically selected late in spring quarter or early in fall quarter. Seminar topics have included history of California's landscapes, tourism, zoogeography, watershed science, the geography of food, and careers in geography.

### **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 Campus Graduate Guide, which is published over the web ONLY. The web address is <http://gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/>.

## 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)

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 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 also established an ucdavis.edu email list that you can directly post messages to. The GGG Program Coordinator (Carrie) "subscribes" all current students to this list at the beginning of the fall quarter each year, so if you do not want to be included, please let her know. The list is [geographystudent@ucdavis.edu](mailto:geographystudent@ucdavis.edu).

## What is Geography as Practiced at UC Davis?

The discipline of geography focuses on landscape patterns and the processes that shape them and is characterized by a distinct set of perspectives (place-based understanding, spatial interactions, and scale dependence) and methods of spatial representation and analysis. Geography focuses on the organization and character of the surface of the earth, and interactions between biophysical and human processes at the surface of the earth. As a cross-cutting discipline, geographers often attempt to transcend the boundaries traditionally separating the natural sciences, engineering, social sciences and humanities in order to provide a broad-based analysis of selected phenomena. Geography is an appropriate home for study of many critical issues facing society, including global climatic change, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, land-use change, globalization of the economy, effects of globalization on local places and peoples, and impacts of the technological revolution.

Training in geography at UC Davis is offered by an interdepartmental and interdisciplinary group of faculty who are interested in the relationship between humans and the environment. The group's membership includes faculty in the colleges of Agricultural and Environmental Science, Biological Sciences, Engineering, Law, Letters and Science, and Veterinary Medicine. Its members include faculty trained in geography as well as those trained in sister disciplines whose work relates to geographic theory and methods. The GGG is housed in the Department of Environmental Design and Landscape Architecture of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. The strengths of the campus and its faculty enable the program to focus on several areas of emphasis in geography where faculty expertise and student interest is the greatest.

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 in (GEO 297) the discipline and
2. Specialized methods and subject matter courses in one of four Areas of Geographic Depth, and as an additional option, also in one of three Specialized Areas of Study. Training in each Area of Geographic Depth and Specialized Areas of Study requires students to take a series of courses that fall within the broad subject area. Descriptions of these Areas of Emphasis and Concentrations, affiliated faculty, and their specific curricula can be found on the GGG web site: <http://geography.ucdavis.edu>. Areas of Geographic Depth generally involve faculty from several different Colleges and Departments, while Specialized Areas of Study (e.g., Global Environmental Change, Landscape Architecture and Environmental Design or Regional and Community Development) involve faculty from a single or small group of departments.

### **Areas of Geographic Depth**

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

### **Specialized Areas of Study**

- a. Global Environmental Change
- b. Landscape Architecture and Environmental Design
- c. Regional and Community Development

## **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 two DE 's: Social Theory and Comparative History, and Feminist Theory and Research. Other DE's may be added.

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

Students with undergraduate degrees not in geography will be required to complete additional courses or readings 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 180 --- Introduction to GIS  
ABT 181 --- GIS Modeling  
ABT 182 --- Environmental Analysis with GIS  
ABT/LDA 185 --- Concepts and Methods in GIS  
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. 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 - Computational Methods in Geography (4 units, spring quarter)

GEO 200DN - Methods of Socio-Spatial Analysis in Geography (4 units, winter

quarter)

GEO 297 - Geography Graduate Group Seminar (2 quarters)

### 2.b. Area of Emphasis or Concentration 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.

3) Restricted electives specified by the Area of Geographic Depth or Specialized Areas of Study.

## 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 - Computational Methods in Geography (4 units, spring quarter)

GEO 200DN - Methods of Socio-Spatial Analysis in Geography (4 units, winter 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 Geographic Depth or Specialized Area of Study 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.

**Geographic 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 first by their Guidance Committee and then the GGG Executive Committee:

- 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 Emphasis or Concentration.

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 six quarters, minimum, and are expected to accrue units such that transfer units (versus courses) are not an issue. The graduate adviser can assist students who wish to transfer courses from other institutions or through UC Extension (via petition) into their major and minor specialization program.

### **Language Requirement**

- 1) Competence in at least one language other than English: e.g. French, Spanish, American Sign Language or advanced computer languages (to name a few) must be demonstrated.
- 2) This language must have scholarly relevance to the designated theoretical or regional specialty.
- 3) Language competence must be satisfied before taking the Qualifying Examination. There are various means of satisfying this, including coursework, demonstration, translation, and oral conversation (see Graduate Adviser).
- 4) The GGG Advisor must certify completion of the language requirement.

### **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 program of study, and the area of proposed research. Written questions, submitted by each Committee member, are to be coordinated by the Qualifying Examination Committee Chair and administered at least one week before the scheduled oral examination, with the student having at least five full working days to complete the exam, and graded 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 1,000-1,500 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 a week (but preferably one month) before the oral exam. The oral part of the Examination last 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 each minor specialization.
- d) At least three members must be Geography Graduate Group members.
- e) The Chair of the Qualifying Examination committee may not chair the student's dissertation committee.
- f) The Chair of the Qualifying Examination Committee must be a Geography Graduate Group member, but unlike some other graduate groups, the dissertation chair (major professor) does typically serve on 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



**GEOGRAPHY GRADUATE GROUP**  
**Program of Study for Master's Degree (MA)**

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

	<b>Course Number</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Quarter</b>
<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>				

<b>Transfer Units</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Course Number</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>UG/G</b>

<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> _____
-----------------------------	------------------------

<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.*

# **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) Physical 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  
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

## Ph.D. Qualifying Exam Format

GGG Ph.D. Qualifying Exam format (first approved by Executive Committee March 2004 and modified [with subsequent approvals] as to the time to take written exam beyond 5 consecutive days; this has been widely distributed over the years to faculty and students multiple times]

Debbie Elliott-Fisk, 6 October 2011

1. **Eligibility to take qualifying examination** - The student must have passed all required coursework and the language requirement prior to the exam, or in approved cases be finishing their final courses that quarter. One of the Geography graduate advisers must sign off on the coursework form, and it is attached to the qualifying exam application. (Note: Carrie told us at the EC meeting on Sept. 30, 2011 that the approved coursework form is no longer sent to Graduate Studies). The student selects the 5 exam committee members in consultation with their major professor, and this committee must be approved by the Geography graduate adviser. We encourage the students to start on this process about 3 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).

3. **Written exam prior to oral exam** - The student receives two questions from each examiner, (with a choice of which of the two to write on), and writes a response 1,000-1,500 words in length or so 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 student has one-day to complete each question, and may write on these over consecutive or non-consecutive days up to a month before the exam. This is an open-book examination process administered on a trust basis, and the student should include citations to the literature in the essays. The questions should be compiled by the exam chair and given to the student at least 2 weeks before the exam but no earlier than 4 weeks before the exam. Questions and the five written essays must be distributed to the full committee for review prior to the oral exam, with this typically done over email, with at least 2 days lead time for the faculty to review these before the oral exam and preferably a full week.

4. **Dissertation proposal/prospectus** - The dissertation proposal should be given to the committee at least a week before the exam, and preferably a month before the exam. A draft proposal may be given to the committee earlier in their discussions with the student about the content of the exam. The proposal should be approved as defensible for the exam by the major professor.

**5. Oral exam content - The student is examined on the dissertation proposal, their declared major and minor areas, and on general geography.** (Might need to be changed now with our areas of emphasis/specializations? General geography has typically referred to the GEO core courses.)

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

1. 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.
2. 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.)
3. We will then give the student about 30 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 exam, and preferably a month before the exam.
4. The committee then asks questions on the proposal, and this typically lasts 15-30 minutes.
5. The group may then take a short break and come back for questions on the major and minor areas, etc. from each committee member. It is very likely that questions on the dissertation will also arise in this section. Each member will be given approximately 20 minutes to ask questions, with follow-up opportunities.
6. 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.
7. 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).