



## DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

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# Academic Policies and Procedures Handbook

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Department of Geography

MS – Geography

MS – Cartography/Geographic Information Systems

(Thesis Option)

Ph.D. - Geography

<http://www.geography.wisc.edu/graduate/handbook.php>

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### Navigation tips:

- Table of Contents is clickable – click on a topic and you will be taken to that page

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I.	PROGRAM OVERVIEW .....	1
	Intention/Role of Handbook.....	1
	Key Individuals and Roles .....	1
	Program Vision/Mission statements .....	1
	Learning Outcomes/Training Goals .....	2
	Master’s Level.....	2
	Doctoral Level .....	2
	Graduate School Level .....	2
	MS and Ph.D. Program statistics – Fall 2021 .....	2
	Program Structure .....	2
	Graduate Program Manager.....	2
	Chair, Graduate Studies Committee (Director of Graduate Studies) .....	3
	Program faculty.....	3
	Interdisciplinarity.....	4
	Program defined in relation to the department, the school/college, and/or the university.....	4
	Program Delivery Method .....	4
	Defining the Discipline of Geography .....	4
II.	ADVISING .....	5
	Advisor / Advisee Roles for MS-Geography, MS-Cartography/GIS (thesis) and PhD-Geography .....	5
	Advisor: .....	5
	Advisee:.....	5
	Advising Resources .....	5
	Advisor Selection .....	5
	Additional Advising Contacts .....	6
III.	MASTERS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS.....	6
	Minimum credits.....	6
	MS – Geography and MS – Cartography/GIS (thesis option) .....	6
	GPA requirement .....	6
	Breadth requirements .....	6
	MS – Geography.....	6
	MS – Cartography/GIS (thesis).....	7
	Degree requirements.....	7
	MS – Geography.....	7
	MS – Cartography/GIS (thesis).....	7
	Advisor and Committee for thesis programs.....	8
	Public Talk for thesis programs.....	8
	Process for continuing to PhD .....	8

Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities.....	8
Checklist for Completion of MS Degree.....	8
Thesis programs (MS-Geography and MS-Cartography/GIS (thesis)) .....	8
Commencement .....	9
IV.    DOCTORAL DEGREE REQUIREMENTS .....	9
Minimum credits.....	9
GPA requirement .....	9
Breadth requirements .....	9
Degree requirements.....	9
Geography coursework.....	9
Minor .....	10
Skills .....	11
Qualifying exams.....	11
Dissertator Status .....	11
Advisor and Dissertation Committee.....	11
Public Talk .....	12
Milestone Requirements .....	12
Checklist for Dissertation/Defense .....	12
Commencement .....	12
V.    ENROLLMENT.....	13
Enrollment Requirements.....	13
Auditing Courses.....	13
Continuous Enrollment.....	13
Residence for Tuition Purposes .....	13
MS-Geography, MS-Cartography/GIS (thesis), PhD-Geography.....	13
Prior Graduate Course Work .....	13
VI.    SATISFACTORY PROGRESS – ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS.....	13
VII.   SATISFACTORY PROGRESS - CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS.....	14
Professional Conduct .....	14
Academic Misconduct.....	15
Non-Academic Misconduct.....	15
Research Misconduct.....	16
Hostile and Intimidating Behavior (Bullying) .....	16
VIII.  DISCIPLINARY ACTION AND DISMISSAL .....	16
Process / Committee / Possible Sanctions .....	17
Disciplinary Actions.....	17
IX.    GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES & INCIDENT REPORTING.....	17

Grievance Procedures.....	17
Incident Reporting (Hate, Bias, Sexual Assault, Hazing, Students of Concern, Bullying).....	18
X. ACADEMIC EXCEPTION PETITION .....	19
Process for students with guaranteed funding .....	19
XI. FUNDING AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION .....	20
Overview .....	20
Information on Guaranteed Funding.....	20
Finding Funding Without Guaranteed Appointment.....	20
Graduate Assistantships (TAs, PAs, RAs, Lecturer [SA] positions) .....	20
Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures.....	20
RA Appointment Policies .....	20
Stipend Levels and Paychecks.....	21
Tuition Remission and Payment of Segregated Fees.....	21
Health Insurance Benefits.....	21
Maximum Appointment Levels.....	21
Enrollment Requirements for Graduate Assistants .....	21
Fellowships .....	21
Graduate School Fellowships.....	22
Departmental/Campus Fellowships .....	22
External Funding/Fellowships.....	22
Fellows with Concurrent Appointments.....	22
Funding for Study Abroad.....	23
Funding for Conference/Research Travel.....	23
Loans.....	23
XII. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CAREER PLANNING .....	23
Local Resources for Professional Development and Career Planning .....	23
Travel to Meetings and Conferences.....	23
Campus-wide Resources for Professional Development.....	24
XIII. OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENT INVOLVEMENT .....	24
Student Representation in Governance .....	24
Associated Students of Madison (ASM).....	24
Teaching Assistants' Association (TAA).....	25
Registered Student Organizations .....	25
Outreach and Community Connections .....	25
XIV. STUDENT HEALTH AND WELLNESS .....	25
Securing Health Insurance Coverage .....	25
Disability Information .....	26

Mental Health Resources On and Off Campus .....	26
XV.    MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION FOR NEW STUDENTS .....	26
Activate your NetID .....	26
Get your UW Photo IDCard (Wiscard) .....	26
Enroll in classes .....	26
Pick up your free Madison Metro bus pass .....	26
Attend the New Graduate Student Welcome, hosted by the Graduate School .....	26
Attend Program Orientation Events .....	27
Program/Department Resources for Students .....	27
XVI.    ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS .....	27
International Student Services (ISS) .....	27
Student Visas .....	27
Documents required of new international students .....	27
Students with ESL requirements.....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Non-Native English Speakers as Teaching Assistants .....	27
SPEAK Test Guidelines .....	27
Services offered by the Program in English as a Second Language: .....	28
Funding for International Students .....	28
XVII.    APPENDIX: Graduate level Learning Goals.....	29
GEOGRAPHY Learning Goals .....	30
XVIII.    APPENDIX: Questions to ask of Prospective Advisors .....	31
XIX.    APPENDIX Degree plan sample forms .....	32
XX.    APPENDIX Criteria for Satisfactory Progress.....	36
XXI.    APPENDIX Internal MS to PhD transition process .....	38
XXII.    APPENDIX Seminar Requirement Policy .....	39
XXIII.    APPENDIX Minor Requirement Notes .....	41
XXIV.    APPENDIX –Notes about Skills .....	42
XXV.    APPENDIX – Qualifying Exam Principles .....	43
XXVI.    APPENDIX QUALIFYING EXAMS .....	44
Cartography/GIS .....	44
Earth Systems Geography.....	46
People-Environment Geography .....	52
Human Geography.....	54
XXVII.    APPENDIX Breadth Requirements .....	56
XXVIII.    APPENDIX TA hiring criteria .....	57
XXIX.    APPENDIX Graduate Award Information .....	58
XXX.    APPENDIX Graduate Student departmental involvement.....	61

XXXI.	APPENDIX – Welcome Week events - example .....	64
XXXII.	APPENDIX – Approval Form – Non-UW-Graduate-Faculty Committee Members .....	65
XXXIII.	APPENDIX Degree requirements worksheet .....	66

## I. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The UW-Madison Department of Geography is a leader in the field of geography and offers exceptional opportunities for graduate education. The Department has been consistently rated one of the best in the country and for over 100 years has been the training ground for generations of geographers.

Graduate study in the Geography Program is divided into four major thematic areas: Cartography/GIS, Earth Systems Geography, Human Geography, and People-Environment. The Geography Department faculty serves in prominent positions both within the university and in our larger professional communities. Our faculty have been recognized both by the university and within our profession with such honors as UW named chairs and American Association of Geographers (AAG) lifetime achievement awards. We are also proud of the accomplishments of our graduates, many of whom have gone on to prominence within government, industry, and academia.

### **Intention/Role of Handbook**

This handbook is intended for graduate students who are pursuing MS-Geography, MS-Cartography/GIS-Thesis and Ph.D.-Geography degrees. The UW-Madison Graduate School is the ultimate authority for granting graduate degrees at the University. The Department of Geography administers these degree programs under the authority of the Graduate School. The [Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures](#) provide essential information regarding general university requirements. Program authority to set degree requirements beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the Geography program faculty. The policies described in this handbook have been approved by the program faculty as a whole. Degrees and course requirements may change over time. However, students must meet the degree and course requirements in effect when they entered the program. In addition, administrative procedures and processes can change over time. Students are required to follow current procedures and processes. The information in this handbook should be supplemented by individual consultation with your advisor and committee so that individual needs/interests and all degree requirements are met. Additional information is available via the Department's web page. Students may also wish to consult the Graduate School's web page.

### **Key Individuals and Roles**

Graduate Program Manager: Marguerite Roulet, 143 Science Hall, maroulet@wisc.edu or 608-262-3861

Chair, Graduate Studies Committee (Director of Graduate Studies):  
Prof. Jenna Loyd, 430 Science Hall, jmloyd@wisc.edu

Other key program/unit/department staff members:

Department Chair: Prof. Sarah Moore, 243 Science Hall, sarah.moore@wisc.edu

Department/UG Svcs Specialist: Mariah Gorman, 160 Science Hall, mtgorman@wisc.edu or 608-262-2138

Department Administrator: Jacqueline Wild, 155 Science Hall, wild2@wisc.edu or 608-262-2139

Payroll and Benefits Specialist: Brian Shore, 170 Science Hall, brian.shore@wisc.edu or 608-262-0526

Senior Financial Specialist: Desi Gargano, 170 Science Hall, desi.gargano@wisc.edu or 608-265-0526

### **Program Vision/Mission statements**

The primary mission of the department is to engage in innovative and high impact geographic research, training, and service. The department's faculty and staff genuinely believe that we have an obligation to function as a balanced academy, a university-based unit that supports and encourages its representatives to contribute to the production of knowledge, the provision of high quality educational services (teaching, advising, mentoring) to students, and the support of the university community and the public (from the local to the global) via effective service.

## Learning Outcomes/Training Goals

### Master's Level

The MS-Geography and MS-Cartography/GIS (thesis) are both research-based degrees. Students completing these degrees are expected to achieve the following learning goals by the end of their degree work.

1. Demonstrate ability to develop a research proposal. *Students are assessed in their ability to achieve this goal in Geography 766 (Geographical Inquiry and Analysis: Techniques), a course required of all first-year master's students in the program.*
2. Engage in critical review of literature within the discipline at an advanced level. *Students are required to participate in (3-credit) Geography graduate seminars (900-level).*
3. Apply knowledge through critical thinking, inquiry, and analysis to solve problems. *Students are required to participate in (3-credit) Geography graduate seminars (900-level).*
4. Demonstrate ability to communicate original research both orally and in writing. *Students are required to write a thesis. They are expected to present and defend that work at a public departmental venue.*

### Doctoral Level

The PhD-Geography program requires that students complete a master's degree prior to entering the doctoral program, thus the doctoral level learning goals are inclusive of the master's level goals. The PhD-Geography is a research-based degree. Students completing this degree are expected to achieve the following learning goals by the end of their degree work.

1. Demonstrate ability to identify and define a research question, review and analyze relevant literature to research the question, and then acquire relevant data and analyze it. *Students are expected to demonstrate an ability to identify and define a research question and review and analyze relevant literature to research the question as part of their specific qualifying exams.*
2. Gain knowledge of 1-2 subfields to a level sufficient to teach in these subfields at the university level. *The general qualifying exam requires that students demonstrate broad knowledge in their subfield at the level taught in advanced courses.*
3. Demonstrate ability to develop and pursue research that will generate significant new knowledge. *The dissertation and oral defense provide a means to assess a student's contribution to the discipline. All dissertations are expected to result in publishable work in the form of refereed journal articles or a book-length manuscript.*

### Graduate School Level

Graduate level learning goals have been established both by the Graduate School and by the Department. See [Appendix](#).

### **MS and Ph.D. Program statistics – Fall 2024**

Student enrollment:   MS-Geography: 14  
                                  MS-Cartography/GIS (thesis): 10  
                                  PhD-Geography: 46

Typical time to degree:

For MS-Geography and MS-Cartography/GIS (thesis) degrees: 2-2.5 years.

For PhD, most students attain dissertator status in 2-4 years, followed by 2-3 years of research and writing. Thus, typical time to Ph.D. is 5-8 years after the master's.

### **Program Structure**

Graduate Program Manager: Marguerite Roulet, 143 Science Hall, 608-262-3861, [maroulet@wisc.edu](mailto:maroulet@wisc.edu)



The Graduate Program Manager is responsible for the administrative aspects of the graduate program. This ranges from responding to prospective student inquiries and organizing recruitment events through admissions, orientation and helping students track program requirements to assisting with final degree completion. The Manager is a member of the Graduate Studies Committee and provides staff support to that Committee.

Chair, Graduate Studies Committee (Director of Graduate Studies): Prof. Jenna Loyd, 430 Science Hall, [jmloyd@wisc.edu](mailto:jmloyd@wisc.edu)

The faculty member who chairs the Graduate Studies Committee works closely with the Graduate Program Manager to set the agenda and coordinate the meetings of the Graduate Studies Committee. The Graduate Studies Committee is comprised of faculty from each departmental subarea (Cartography/GIS, Earth Systems Geography, Human Geography, and People-Environment Geography), the Graduate Program Manager, and graduate student representatives. The committee meets monthly during the academic year and is responsible for managing the graduate admissions process and making final admissions decisions, writing and enforcing policy related to graduate student progress, TA budget and assignment decisions, nominations for both campus-wide and departmental TA and graduate student awards.

### Program faculty

Students in the graduate program have direct and frequent interaction with faculty in the department as well as the Graduate Program Manager. Although each student has a specific faculty advisor, students often take courses, work as graduate assistants and collaborate with a variety of the faculty in the program. See Advising for additional information about interaction with and access to faculty members or the graduate program manager. Below is a list of program faculty, grouped by subarea of focus. Note that some faculty have interests in multiple subareas.

#### Human Geography

Assistant Professor Lisa Bhungalia  
Associate Professor Jenna Loyd  
Assistant Professor Almita Miranda  
Professor and Chair Sarah A. Moore  
Professor Kris Olds  
Professor Keith Woodward  
Associate Professor Stephen Young

#### Cartography/GIS

Associate Professor Song Gao  
Professor Qunying Huang  
Assistant Professor Bill Limpisathian  
Assistant Prof and Director, GISPP, Jonathan Nelson  
Professor Robert Roth  
Professor A-Xing Zhu

#### People Environment Geography

Professor Ian Baird  
Associate Professor Asligül Göçmen  
Professor Lisa Naughton  
Professor Morgan Robertson  
Professor Matt Turner

#### Earth Systems Geography

Assistant Professor Christian Andresen  
Associate Professor Ken Keefover-Ring  
Professor Erika Marin-Spiotta  
Professor Joe Mason  
Professor John W. (Jack) Williams

Senior Lecturer: William (Bill) Gartner

#### Affiliate Faculty

Professor Samer Alatout (Dept. of Community & Environmental Sociology)  
Professor Anna Vemer Andrzejewski (Dept. of Art History)  
Professor Eric Carson (Dept. Environmental Sciences, UW-Extension; WI Geological & Nat Hist Survey)  
Professor Greg Downey (School of Journalism & Mass Communication, School of Library & Information Studies)  
Senior Scientist Matthew Edney (Dept. of Geography)  
Professor Holly Gibbs (Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies)

Professor Caroline Gottschalk Druscke (Dept. English)  
Professor Elizabeth Hennessy (Depts. of History and Environmental Studies)  
Professor Mutlu Ozdogan (Depts. of Forest & Wildlife Ecology and Environmental Studies)  
Professor Volker Radeloff (Dept. of Forest and Wildlife Ecology)  
Dean and Professor Paul Robbins (Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies)  
Professor Annemarie Schneider (Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment)  
Professor Revel Sims (Dept. Planning and Landscape Architecture)

### Interdisciplinarity

Students and faculty in Geography have wide-ranging interests and collaborations that cross many traditional academic boundaries. The resulting interdisciplinarity is encouraged. Many faculty in the program have affiliate status in multiple departments, and many graduate students take advantage of course offerings, seminars, lab facilities, and visiting speakers in other departments.

### Program defined in relation to the department, the school/college, and/or the university.

The Department of Geography is within the College of Letters and Science and, therefore, governed by the Dean of the College. The interdisciplinary nature of the field of Geography is such, however, that some of our Department faculty are members of the Social Science Division, some are members of the Humanities Division, and others are members of the Physical Science Division. Graduate programs in the Department are also governed by the Dean of the Graduate School.

### **Program Delivery Method**

The MS-Geography, MS-Cartography/GIS (thesis), and PhD-Geography are in-person, on-campus programs.

### **Defining the Discipline of Geography**

Geographers study the complicated spatial patterns and processes that crisscross the face of the earth. These diverse phenomena – ranging from urban settlements to animal migrations and from geologic formations to global commodity flows – give the discipline an analytic breadth and a built-in trans-disciplinarity that is increasingly unique within the academy. In today's geography departments, it is not uncommon to find a geomorphologist describing fluvial migrations across Belizean floodplains while – in the next classroom – a social theorist lectures on the politics of gender in public spaces. And again, the topic under discussion in the next room may radically differ from both; it might concern glaciology, cartography, ethnography, information science, ecology, climatology, history, or globalization. In short, geographers seek to interpret, represent, and understand the world in ways that emphasize human and non-human spatial relations and processes.

While broadly considering factors contributing to local and global change, Geography's diverse historic research traditions have contributed numerous approaches to interpreting spatial data, trends, and scales; to mining the influence of place, environment, boundaries, territory and other spatialities upon human relationships and experiences; and to mapping and other technical, representational, and critical skills common to the disciplinary toolkit.

This rich diversity introduces its own peculiar challenges to the discipline. These are muted in continental Europe and the U.K. (where Geography remains a highly popular major amongst undergraduates). However, due in no small part to its near-disappearance from American public school curricula, the field remains comparatively marginal in the U.S., sometimes leading to the mistaken conclusion that Geography is 'just maps.' While cartography is indeed an important component of the discipline, it is but one part of a much more complicated tapestry that has important implications for global climate change, global labor relations, and so on.

The Geography program at UW-Madison is organized into four major thematic areas: Cartography and GIS, Earth Systems Geography, Human Geography, and People-Environmental Geography, which are described in detail below. In summary fashion:

- *Earth systems geographers* specialize in non-human spatial phenomena ranging from landform dynamics to impacts of land use and climate change on soil development to reconstruction of past climates.
- *Human geographers* systematically explore the relationship between space and social life through a combination of specialized geographic ‘lenses’ that provide a variety of economic, social and cultural, environmental, urban, and political perspectives.
- *People-environment geographers* explore the relationships between human society and the environment as they relate to topics such as cultural meanings of the natural world, interaction of social and environmental change, the analysis of land-use and land-cover change, and the institutions and politics of environmental governance.
- *Cartography and Geographic Information Sciences* help bridge these subfields by providing a wealth of techniques for representing space and for generating, interpreting, and managing ‘geo-information’ and ‘geo-coded data,’ increasingly crucial components of the digital era.

There is intentional overlap among the thematic areas, and many of our faculty work across subfields (e.g., teach courses in both human and people-environment).

## II. ADVISING

### **Advisor / Advisee Roles for MS-Geography, MS-Cartography/GIS (thesis) and PhD-Geography**

#### Advisor:

The advisor serves a dual role: first, to assist the student in acquiring the highest level of knowledge and competence in the field that is possible; and second, to chair the committee that will determine whether the student has performed acceptably at each degree milestone. The chair or co-chair of the committee must be Graduate Faculty from the student’s program. Advisors often play a role in tracking the student’s progress toward degree completion, assisting with course selection and academic planning, and helping students identify possible research mentors, committee members, and opportunities.

#### Advisee:

Knowing the procedures and requirements of the university is the student's responsibility. Since the advisor's role can vary, students should discuss roles and expectations with their advisors or prospective advisors. Both the student and the advisor have a responsibility to make their expectations clear to each other.

### **Advising Resources**

There are many advising resources available to students. Students can refer to the program’s website ([www.geography.wisc.edu](http://www.geography.wisc.edu)), this Handbook, the Graduate School’s website (<http://grad.wisc.edu/>), and the Graduate School’s Academic Guidelines (<http://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/>). However, when students still need clarification on issues there are various faculty and staff resources also available (described below). Generally, faculty and staff are best able to assist students when students have researched a topic (using the resources mentioned above).

### **Advisor Selection**

Graduate students in Geography are initially assigned an advisor based on communication and information during the admissions process. Once on campus, however, a student may find that a different faculty advisor would be preferable. The student should discuss this with the current advisor and/or the Graduate Program Manager and then feel free to seek the change. Selection of an advisor, or a change of advisors, should be based on the faculty

member's ability to guide the student expertly into the chosen area of interest/research. When a student has selected, or changes, advisors, the student should notify the Graduate Program Manager.

The advisor should be a faculty member whose expertise and project/research interests match closely with those that the student intends to acquire. Students are encouraged to gather information from courses, faculty and student seminars, the program website, and publications to help identify faculty with matching interests. While no faculty member is obliged to accept a student's request to serve as advisor, invitations are usually accepted except in cases where the faculty member judges that a different advisor would serve the student's needs better. For more information see the Advisor policy from the Graduate School, <http://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/advisor>.

Students may see their official advisor listed in MyUW. (The official advisor is entered in SIS by the Graduate Program Manager.)

See [Appendix](#) for sample questions a student might consider asking a prospective advisor.

### **Additional Advising Contacts**

Students should always reference the program's website, this Handbook, the Graduate School's website (<http://grad.wisc.edu/>), and the Graduate School's Academic Guidelines (<http://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/>) for answers on various program-related questions. However, when students need further clarification on any of these policies or procedures they should contact the Graduate Program Manager. The Graduate Program Manager may play a role with issues including satisfactory academic progress, academic deadlines, graduation completion, program-related forms, advising/course holds and permissions, and course offerings.

[To request an exception or variation on how to complete a degree requirement](#), the student should submit a request to the Graduate Program Manager and the Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee with support from their advisor. The Committee, which meets monthly, generally discusses these requests in closed session.

## **III. MASTERS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

The Graduate Program Manager provides students with a personalized Degree Progress Form annually (see [Appendix](#) for sample degree plan forms). Each student should meet with his/her advisor to discuss this form and should submit the signed form with any updated information to the Graduate Program Manager. A student can request a personalized form at any time from the Graduate Program Manager.

### **Minimum credits**

#### MS – Geography and MS – Cartography/GIS (thesis option)

Students must complete 30 credits, 16 of which must be completed “in residence” (i.e., while enrolled as a UW-Madison graduate student). At least 50% (15 credits) must be “graduate coursework” credits. Such credits are earned by taking any course numbered over 699 or any course with a “graduate coursework” attribute (“50%”) in the Course Guide.

### **GPA requirement**

Students must maintain a grade point average of 3.0.

### **Breadth requirements**

#### MS – Geography

Students must complete the equivalent of one undergraduate-level course in each subarea (Cartography/GIS, Earth Systems Geography, Human Geography, People-Environment Geography).

Most students complete the coursework for breadth requirements prior to entering the program. Students who begin the program lacking one or more of the breadth courses are expected to complete such coursework during the master's program.

One course taken for breadth can also be used to fulfill degree requirements. Typically, these courses are not seminars.

### MS – Cartography/GIS (thesis)

Students must complete the equivalent of one undergraduate-level course in Quantitative methods, 2 courses in mathematics and 2 intermediate or advanced geography courses.

Most students complete the coursework for breadth requirements prior to entering the program. Students who begin the program lacking one or more of the breadth courses are expected to complete such coursework during the master's program.

One course taken for breadth can also be used to fulfill degree requirements. Typically, these courses are not seminars.

See [Appendix](#) for Breadth Requirement Policy

### **Degree requirements**

See [Appendix](#) for the Criteria for Satisfactory Progress policy.

### MS – Geography

Students are expected to complete the master's degree requirements by the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> semester in the program. In addition to the coursework listed below, students must complete a master's thesis. The thesis proposal is typically completed in Geography 766 during the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester in the program. A final thesis is expected to be defended and submitted in the spring or summer of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

Students in the MS-Geography program must complete the following coursework:

- Geography 765 (Geographical Inquiry and Analysis: An Introduction) – 1 cr.
- Geography 766 (Geographical Inquiry and Analysis: Techniques) – 3 cr.
- 2 Graduate-level (numbered 300 or above) courses in Geography (one can be double counted for Breadth)
- 2 (3-credit) 900-level Geography seminars involving 2 different Geography (or affiliate) faculty  
(Note: See [Appendix](#) for Seminar Requirement to learn more about the seminar policy.)

### MS – Cartography/GIS (thesis)

Students are expected to complete the master's degree requirements by the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> semester in the program. In addition to the coursework listed below, students must complete a master's thesis. The thesis proposal is typically completed in Geography 766 during the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester in the program. A final thesis is expected to be defended and submitted in the spring or summer of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

Students in the MS-Cartography/GIS (thesis option) program must complete the following coursework:

- Geography 765 (Geographical Inquiry and Analysis: An Introduction) – 1 cr.
- Geography 766 (Geographical Inquiry and Analysis: Techniques) – 3 cr.
- Geography 370 (Introduction to Cartography) – 4 cr.
- Geography 377 (Introduction to Geographic Information Systems) – 4 cr.
- Geography 378 (Geocomputing) – 3 cr.
- Geography 970 (Seminar in Geographic Information Science) – 3 cr.
- Two courses (6-8 credits) from the following list:
  - Geog 572 (Graphic Design in Cartography) – 3-4 cr.

- Geog 573 (Advanced Geocomputing & Geospatial Big Data) – tbd
- Geog 574 (Geospatial Database Design and Development) – 4cr.
- Geog 575 (Interactive Cartography and Geovisualization) – 4 cr.
- Geog 576 (Geospatial Web & Mobile Programming) – 4 cr.
- Geog 578 (GIS Applications) – 4 cr.
- Geog 579 (GIS and Spatial Analysis) – 4 cr.

### **Advisor and Committee for thesis programs**

*(NOTE: This committee structure was approved by the Geography faculty 5/7/2018)*

The chair (or co-chair) of a Masters student’s Committee is the student’s Advisor. This individual must be graduate faculty in Geography or affiliated with Geography. The Committee must have at least 3 members, two of whom must be graduate faculty (or former graduate faculty up to one year after resignation/retirement). Two of the three members must be affiliated with the Geography Department. The third member may be a qualified individual from within or outside UW-Madison. Inclusion of committee members who are not UW-Madison graduate faculty must be approved by the student’s Advisor.

See [Appendix](#) for Non UW-Madison Graduate Faculty Approval Form.

### **Public Talk for thesis programs**

*(NOTE: This public talk requirement was approved by the Geography faculty 3/18/2013)*

A public departmental talk (15-20 minutes in length) is required for MS candidates. It is the responsibility of the student to schedule the talk, which must be given within a month of the defense in a venue chosen by the student and approved by their advisor. (A common practice is for talks to coincide with the defense and precede a closed period of questioning by the committee.) The Graduate Program Manager must be informed of the date and location of the talk before a warrant is issued and is responsible for publicizing the talk widely on campus.

See [Appendix](#) for Degree Requirements Worksheet for a reference sheet of these requirements.

### **Process for continuing to PhD**

A clear process for applying to continue from the master’s program (either MS-Geography or MS-Cartography/GIS (thesis) to the doctoral program is articulated in the [Appendix](#).

### **Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities**

UW–Madison is a community founded around the principles of knowledge, learning, inclusion, and citizenship.

As we strive to educate and graduate good citizens of our campus, city and the world, our community has high standards and expectations for the conduct of its members. These expectations and responsibilities are described in detail here: <https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/>

### **Checklist for Completion of MS Degree**

Critical Graduate School deadlines are available online here:

<https://grad.wisc.edu/documents/deadlines/>

### **Thesis programs (MS-Geography and MS-Cartography/GIS (thesis))**

Students who are within a semester of completing the master’s degree are encouraged to meet with the Graduate Program Manager to confirm that they have completed the degree requirements and that they understand the process for completion.

At least three weeks prior to the oral defense, the student should email the Graduate Program Manager to request a master’s warrant. This email should include the student’s thesis title (128-character limit), proposed defense date, names of faculty on the committee, and details (time/day/room) for scheduled public talk.

Once completed, students are expected to submit a hard copy and a digital copy to the Geography Department as well as a digital copy to the Graduate School.

The Department of Geography follows the Graduate School format guidelines which can be found online here: <https://grad.wisc.edu/current-students/masters-guide/>

### **Commencement**

Once you have met your degree requirements, you may choose to attend a fall or spring commencement ceremony. Commencement occurs in May and December each year and is coordinated by the Office of the Chancellor. There is no summer commencement ceremony. If you plan to graduate in August, you may attend either the May or the December ceremony. If you want your name to be printed in the commencement program, you must [apply to graduate](#) through your MyUW Student Center by the deadline each semester. You may attend the commencement ceremony even if your name is not included in the commencement program. See [commencement.wisc.edu](http://commencement.wisc.edu) for more information.

## **IV. DOCTORAL DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

The Graduate Program Manager provides students with a personalized Degree Progress Form annually (see [Appendix](#) for sample degree plan forms). Each student should meet with his/her thesis advisor to discuss this form and should submit the signed form with any updated information to the Graduate Program Manager. A student can request a personalized form at any time from the Graduate Program Manager.

### **Minimum credits**

Students who entered the doctoral program PRIOR to Fall 2014 must complete 32 credits, all of which must be completed “in residence” (i.e., while enrolled as a UW-Madison graduate student).

Students entering the doctoral program Fall 2014 and beyond must complete 51 credits, 32 of which must be completed “in residence” (i.e., while enrolled as a UW-Madison graduate student). At least 50% (26 credits) must be “graduate coursework” credits. Such credits are earned by taking any course numbered over 699 or any course with a “graduate coursework” attribute (“50%”) in the Course Guide.

### **GPA requirement**

Students must maintain a grade point average of 3.0.

### **Breadth requirements**

Students must complete the equivalent of one undergraduate-level course in each subarea (Cartography/GIS, Earth Systems Geography, Human Geography, People-Environment Geography).

One course taken for breadth can also be used to fulfill degree requirements. Typically, these courses are not seminars.

Most students complete this coursework for breadth requirements prior to entering the program. Students who begin the program lacking one or more of the breadth courses are expected to complete such coursework by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester in the Ph.D. program.

See [Appendix](#) for Breadth Requirement Policy

### **Degree requirements**

#### Geography coursework

Students in the Ph.D.-Geography program must complete the following coursework:

- Geography 765 (Geographical Inquiry and Analysis: An Introduction) – 1 cr.

- 2 (3-credit) 900-level Geography seminars involving 2 different Geography (or affiliate) faculty
- 9 credits of Minor coursework (see below)
- 6 credits of Skills coursework (see below)

See [Appendix](#) for Seminar Requirement to learn more about the seminar policy.

### Minor

The PhD-Geography program requires 9 credits of minor coursework and is in accordance with the following Graduate School policy:

*Breadth is a required component of doctoral training at UW–Madison. Given there are multiple paths to breadth, the Graduate School leaves the choice of whether students achieve breadth through a doctoral minor (two options as described below), Graduate/Professional certificate, or other means up to the specific graduate program. The specific Breadth Requirement Policy, including information on certificates, is found here:*

*Minor options are as follows:*

**Option A** (external doctoral minor): Requires a minimum of 9 credits in a doctoral minor program (single disciplinary or multi-disciplinary). Fulfillment of this option requires the approval of the doctoral minor program.

**Option B** (distributed doctoral minor): Requires a minimum of 9 credits in one or more programs forming a coherent topic (\*\*see notes below for department requirement). Fulfillment of this option requires the approval of the doctoral major program.

*The Graduate School's minimum course requirements for the doctoral minor include:*

- An average GPA of 3.00 on all minor coursework;
- Coursework must be graded courses numbered 300 or above; no audits or pass/fail;
- Maximum 3 credits of independent study (e.g., 699, 799, 899, 999);
- Research and thesis cannot be used to satisfy the minor (e.g., 790, 890, 990);
- No more than 5 credits of coursework completed more than 5 years prior to admission to the doctoral program; coursework taken 10 years ago or more may not be used.

*A student cannot earn a doctoral minor and a Graduate/Professional certificate of the same name. Credits earned towards the doctoral minor may count towards the minimum graduate residence requirement, minimum graduate degree requirement, and the minimum graduate coursework (50%) requirement.*

<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1200>

The primary purpose of the minor is to increase the breadth of doctoral study. Coursework chosen to complete the minor requirement should be directly related to and supportive of a student's doctoral research. The minor coursework should deepen a student's understanding of a secondary discipline related to the dissertation topic. Coursework completed as a UW-Madison Geography graduate student can be used to satisfy the minor requirement whether taken before or during enrollment in the Ph.D. program.

\*\*\*Students who choose to pursue Option B (distributed minor) must complete all coursework for the minor outside of Geography.

\*\*\*Students who choose to complete the CHE minor can use no more than one Geography course for the minor and that course must be outside of the student's primary subarea of study.

\*\*\*Coursework may not be double counted for major requirements.

See [Appendix](#) for Notes about Minor Requirement.



## Skills

*(NOTE: These notes about the Ph.D. skills requirement were recommended by Graduate Studies Committee on 3/12/2013, distributed/discussed at Faculty/Staff meeting on 4/15/2013 and modified on 5/23/2013 and 12/3/2018).*

The PhD-Geography program requires 6 credits of skills coursework. Typically, students complete this requirement with one of these 4 options:

- Competence in language other than English
- Quantitative skills (6 cr of “intermediate” or “advanced” courses)
- Qualitative skills (6 cr of “intermediate” or “advanced” courses)
- Combination of quantitative and qualitative skills (6 cr of “intermediate” or “advanced” courses)

Typically these courses are not Seminars. Graduate-level coursework completed as a graduate student can be used for the Ph.D. skills requirement whether taken before or during the Ph.D. program.

Credits earned as independent study (999) or research (990) cannot be used to satisfy this requirement.

See [Appendix](#) for Notes about Skills Requirement.

### **Qualifying exams**

Qualifying exams are comprised of general and specific preliminary exams and a proposal defense. Requirements and processes for these exams are defined by each subarea. Students should work with their Advisor to prepare for these exams.

At least three weeks prior to the proposal defense, the student should request a “prelim warrant” from the Graduate Program Manager. This email request should include the student’s committee members and the proposed exam date.

In 2012, the Department adopted a set of Qualifying Exam Principles, intended to insure that students from different subareas had a similar qualifying exam experience even though the actual requirements vary. See [Appendix](#) for these Principles.

See [Appendix](#) for detailed qualifying exam requirements for each departmental subarea.

### **Dissertator Status**

A dissertator is a student who has successfully completed all requirements for the Ph.D. except for the dissertation (also known as “ABD” or “all but dissertation”). This includes coursework, residence requirements, minor requirements, skills requirements, qualifying exams. All requirements must be met BEFORE the first day of classes to be a dissertator for any given semester. Once a dissertator, a student must enroll continuously every fall and spring for 3 credits. At this point, time begins to matter, as well – you have 5 years to complete your degree or risk re-taking your Preliminary Exams.

The Graduate School policy on dissertator status is available here: <http://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/dissertator-status>

### **Advisor and Dissertation Committee**

*(NOTE: This committee structure was approved by the Geography faculty 4/23/2018)*

The chair (or co-chair) of a doctoral student’s Dissertation Committee is the student’s Advisor. This individual must be UW-Madison graduate faculty in Geography or affiliated with Geography. The committee must have at least 4 members, all designated as “readers” (responsible for reading the entire dissertation). The committee must have members from at least 2 University of Wisconsin-Madison graduate programs. Three members must be UW-Madison graduate faculty (or former graduate faculty up to one year after resignation/retirement). At least 2 members must be from UW-Madison Geography or affiliated with UW-Madison Geography. At least one committee member must be from outside the major field of study. The fourth member and any additional

members can be UW-Madison graduate faculty (or former graduate faculty up to one year after resignation/retirement) or qualified individuals from within or outside UW-Madison. Inclusion of committee members who are not UW-Madison graduate faculty must be approved by the student's Advisor. Students can add a 5th committee member, who can serve as "non-reader" (not responsible for reading the entire dissertation, able to provide input on specific areas of expertise).

See [Appendix](#) for Non UW-Madison Graduate Faculty Approval Form.

The Graduate School policy on committees is available here: <https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/committees>

### **Public Talk**

*(NOTE: This public talk requirement was approved by the Geography faculty 3/18/2013)*

A public departmental talk (30-40 minutes in length) is required for Ph.D. candidates. It is the responsibility of the student to schedule the talk, which must be given within a month of the defense in a venue chosen by the student and approved by their advisor. (A common practice is for talks to coincide with the defense and precede a closed period of questioning by the committee.) The Graduate Program Manager must be informed of the date and location of the talk before a warrant is issued and is responsible for publicizing the talk widely on campus.

See [Appendix](#) for Degree Requirements Worksheet for a reference sheet of these requirements.

### **Milestone Requirements**

Doctoral students are required to complete a master's degree prior to entering the program. Students making normal progress through the doctoral program should complete any outstanding breadth requirements by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, should complete the general preliminary exam by the start of the 5<sup>th</sup> semester and should reach dissertator status by the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> semester.

See [Appendix](#) for Criteria for Satisfactory Progress policy.

### **Checklist for Dissertation/Defense**

At least three weeks prior to the final defense, the student should email the Graduate Program Manager to request a final warrant. This email should include the student's dissertation title (128-character limit), proposed defense date, names of faculty on the committee and whether they are readers / non-readers, and details (time/day/room) for scheduled public talk.

Once completed, students are expected to submit a hard copy and a digital copy to the Geography Department.

The Department of Geography follows the Graduate School format guidelines which can be found online here: <https://grad.wisc.edu/current-students/doctoral-guide/>

Critical Graduate School deadlines are available online here:

<https://grad.wisc.edu/documents/deadlines/>

### **Commencement**

Once you have met your degree requirements, you may choose to attend a fall or spring commencement ceremony. Commencement occurs in May and December each year and is coordinated by the Office of the Chancellor. There is no summer commencement ceremony. If you plan to graduate in August, you may attend either the May or the December ceremony. If you want your name to be printed in the commencement program, you must [apply to graduate](#) through your MyUW Student Center by the deadline each semester. You may attend the commencement ceremony even if your name is not included in the commencement program. See [commencement.wisc.edu](http://commencement.wisc.edu) for more information.

## V. ENROLLMENT

The Graduate School has minimum requirements for enrollment each semester. Programs may only need to reference the enrollment requirements below that pertain to the program (summer enrollment, dissertator, non-dissertator, full time, part time, TA/PA/RA). All of the credit requirements (except F-1 and J-1 visa requirements) must be satisfied by graded, graduate-level courses; courses numbered below 300, audit, and pass/fail do not satisfy the minimum requirement.

### **Enrollment Requirements**

The Graduate School's policy on enrollment requirements is as posted at <http://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/Enrollment-Requirements>.

### **Auditing Courses**

Graduate School policy on Auditing Courses may be found at <http://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/auditing-courses>.

### **Continuous Enrollment**

Graduate School policy on Continuous Enrollment may be found at <http://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/continuous-enrollment-requirement>.

### **Residence for Tuition Purposes**

MS-Geography, MS-Cartography/GIS (thesis), PhD-Geography

Residency is used to determine tuition rates on campus. The details of the Graduate School Residency for Tuition Purposes can be found here <http://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/residence-for-tuition-purposes> as well as the full Registrar's Office policy. <https://registrar.wisc.edu/residence/>.

### **Prior Graduate Course Work**

Effective for students beginning the graduate program in Geography in Fall 2014, some prior graduate credits can be counted towards the UW-Madison graduate degree.

Graduate students in Geography may request approval from the Department to count graduate coursework from other institutions as follows:

- MS-Geography, MS-Cartography/GIS (thesis): up to 6 credits
- PhD-Geography: up to 9 credits

Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master's degree or earned ten or more years prior to admission to a doctoral degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

The Graduate School policy on prior coursework may be found at <https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216>

## VI. SATISFACTORY PROGRESS – ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

The Geography Department follows the Graduate School Satisfactory Progress Guidelines (available online here: <http://grad.wisc.edu/documents/satisfactory-progress>), but has also established more specific benchmarks for progress through the graduate program in Geography. Please note that the funding guarantees offered by the department are contingent on maintaining satisfactory progress as defined by these benchmarks. In addition, progress through these benchmarks is one criterion used to determine priority for funding, for students who do not have guarantees.

Master's students in both the Geography and Cartography/GIS (thesis) programs are expected to complete the degree by the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> semester. Ph.D. students are expected to complete a master's degree by the start of

the 1<sup>st</sup> semester in the doctoral program and are expected to complete breadth requirements by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. General preliminary exams should be completed by the start of the 5<sup>th</sup> semester, and dissertator status should be achieved by the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> semester.

See [Appendix](#) for complete departmental satisfactory progress policy. This policy provides details about the benchmarks and the consequences for not meeting the expectations.

## VII. SATISFACTORY PROGRESS - CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

### **Professional Conduct**

The Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards maintains detailed guidance on student rights and responsibilities related to learning in a community that is safe and fosters integrity and accountability. You are responsible for keeping aware of their policies and procedures, found at the following page:

[conduct.students.wisc.edu](http://conduct.students.wisc.edu)

All students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of professional behavior and ethics. Students should avoid even an appearance of improper behavior or lack of ethical standards while in Graduate School at UW-Madison, in all professional settings, and in their personal lives. Students should conduct themselves according to the standards expected of members of the profession to which the student aspires. Concerns about infractions of Professional Conduct may be effectively handled informally between the instructor/advisor and the student. If a resolution is not achieved, a graduate program representative may be included in the discussion. Separate and apart from a violation of Professional Conduct, a student may face University disciplinary action with regard to the same action. Students are responsible for reading the information here as well as the information published on all the relevant web sites. Lack of knowledge of this information does not excuse any infraction.

1. **Professional Ethics:** Students shall show respect for a diversity of opinions, perspectives and cultures; accurately represent their work and acknowledge the contributions of others; participate in and commit to related opportunities; aim to gain knowledge and contribute to the knowledge base of others; understand the UW Student Code of Conduct; represent their profession and the program; and strive to incorporate and practice disciplinary ideals in their daily lives. Resumes/CVs must reflect accurate information.
2. **Honesty and Integrity:** Students shall demonstrate honesty and integrity as shown by their challenging of themselves in academic pursuits; honesty and ethics in research and IRB applications—including honesty in interpretation of data, commitment to an unbiased interpretation of academic and professional endeavors; and the need to document research activities, protect subject/client confidentiality and HIPPA regulations. Students shall follow-through and pull their weight in group activities and understand where collaboration among students is or is not allowed; not plagiarize others or past work (self-plagiarism), cheat, or purposefully undermine the work of others; and avoid conflicts of interest for the duration of their time in the program. As a professional, honesty and integrity also extends to personal behavior in life outside of the academic setting by realizing that students are representatives of the program, UW-Madison, and the profession as a whole.
3. **Interpersonal and Workplace Relationships:** Students shall interact with peers, faculty, staff and those they encounter in their professional capacity in a manner that is respectful, considerate, and professional. This includes and is not limited to attending all scheduled meetings, honoring agreed upon work schedules, being on-time and prepared for work/meetings, contributing collaboratively to the team, keeping the lines of communication open, offering prompt response to inquiries, and employing respectful use of available equipment/technology/resources. Chronic or unexplained absences are unprofessional in the workplace and could be grounds for termination or removal of funding. To facilitate the free and open exchange of ideas, any criticism shall be offered in a constructive manner, and the right of others to hold different opinions shall be respected.

4. **Commitment to Learning:** Students are expected to meet their educational responsibilities at all times. Be actively prepared for class and be ready for questions and answers. Be on time for every class and always show courtesy during class or if you have to leave class early. If possible, students should notify the instructor at least one day in advance of a planned absence. Students who are unable to attend class are responsible for finding out what occurred that day and should not expect instructors to give them individual instruction. Recognizing that the pursuit of knowledge is a continuous process, students shall show commitment to learning by persevering despite adversity and seeking guidance in order to adapt to change. Students shall strive for academic excellence and pursue and incorporate all critique, both positive and negative, in the acquisition of knowledge in order to understand and respect the community in which they work.
5. **Professional Appearance:** Students shall convey a positive, professional appearance in order to represent the program in a dignified manner. Appearance includes a person's dress, hygiene, and appropriate etiquette/protocols for the environment (including safety protocols and protective clothing in environments that require them).

This graduate program, the Graduate School, and the Division of Student Life all uphold the UW-System policies and procedures in place for academic and non-academic misconduct. In addition, graduate students are held to the same standards of responsible conduct of research as faculty and staff. Furthermore, unprofessional behavior towards clients/subjects, faculty, staff, peers and public are significant issues in the evaluation and promotion of students. In turn, we hold expectations for the highest level of academic integrity and expect professional, ethical, and respectful conduct in all interactions. Students may be disciplined or dismissed from the graduate program for misconduct or disregard for professional conduct expectations regardless of their academic standing in the program. Separate and apart from a violation of Professional Conduct, a student may face University disciplinary action with regard to the same action. Students are responsible for reading the information here as well as the information published on all the relevant web sites. Lack of knowledge of this information does not excuse any infraction.

### **Academic Misconduct**

Academic misconduct is governed by state law, UW System Administration Code Chapter 14. For further information on this law, what constitutes academic misconduct, and procedures related to academic misconduct, see:

#### **The Graduate School**

**Academic Policies & Procedures: Misconduct, Academic**  
[grad.wisc.edu/documents/misconduct-academic](http://grad.wisc.edu/documents/misconduct-academic)

#### **Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards**

**Academic Misconduct Website**  
[conduct.students.wisc.edu/academic-misconduct](http://conduct.students.wisc.edu/academic-misconduct)

**Academic Misconduct Flowchart**  
[conduct.students.wisc.edu/documents/academic-misconduct-flow-chart](http://conduct.students.wisc.edu/documents/academic-misconduct-flow-chart)

### **Non-Academic Misconduct**

Non-academic misconduct is governed by state law, UW System Administration Code Chapters 17 and 18. For further information on these laws, what constitutes non-academic misconduct, and procedures related to non-academic misconduct, see:

#### **The Graduate School**

**Academic Policies & Procedures: Misconduct, Non-Academic**  
[grad.wisc.edu/documents/misconduct-nonacademic](http://grad.wisc.edu/documents/misconduct-nonacademic)

**Office for Student Conduct and Community Standards**  
**Non-Academic Misconduct Website**  
[conduct.students.wisc.edu/nonacademic-misconduct](http://conduct.students.wisc.edu/nonacademic-misconduct)

**University of Wisconsin System (UWS)**  
**Chapter 17: Student Non-Academic Disciplinary Procedures**  
[docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin\\_code/uws/17](http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/uws/17)

**Chapter 18: Conduct on University Lands**  
[docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin\\_code/uws/18](http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/uws/18)

### **Research Misconduct**

Trust in the accuracy and veracity of the scholarly record are fundamental to science. When that record is tainted, whole fields of study can be set back or questioned. Moreover, when scientists have been found to engage in misconduct, partners and the public lose faith in the ability of all scientists to address society's grand challenges.

Per the [UW-Madison policy](#), "*research misconduct is defined as fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results.*" The policy applies to all those involved in the research process including graduate students.

For more information, please visit the [Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research research misconduct page](#).

If you have questions or concerns about research misconduct or integrity, this can be discussed confidentially with the Research Integrity Officer ([rio@research.wisc.edu](mailto:rio@research.wisc.edu)).

### **Hostile and Intimidating Behavior (Bullying)**

Hostile and intimidating behavior (HIB), sometimes referred to as "bullying," is prohibited by university policy applicable to faculty, academic staff, and university staff. For further definition, policy, and procedures related to HIB see: [hr.wisc.edu/hib](http://hr.wisc.edu/hib). Students who feel they have been subject to HIB are encouraged to review the informal and formal options on the "Addressing HIB" tab of this website.

## **VIII. DISCIPLINARY ACTION AND DISMISSAL**

The status of a student can be one of three options:

1. Good standing (progressing according to standards; any funding guarantee remains in place).
2. Probation (not progressing according to standards but permitted to enroll; abeyance of funding guarantee; specific plan with dates and deadlines in place in regard to removal of probationary status).
3. Unsatisfactory progress (not progressing according to standards; not permitted to enroll, dismissal, leave of absence or change of advisor or program).

Students may be disciplined or dismissed from the graduate program for any type of misconduct (academic, non-academic, professional, or research) or failure to meet program expectations regardless of their academic standing in the program. Separate and apart from a violation of Professional Conduct, a student may face University disciplinary action with regard to the same action. Concerns about infractions of the Professional Conduct may be effectively handled informally between the student and the advisor/faculty member. However, if a resolution is not achieved, the issue may be advanced for further review by the program.

### **Process / Committee / Possible Sanctions**

The Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) administers the regulations established by the faculty. It makes sure students are meeting the program expectations and imposes sanctions when appropriate. Faculty and faculty committees determine whether the quality of a student's work and conduct are satisfactory, while the GSC determines whether the student is satisfying the academic requirements in a timely fashion and meeting program conduct expectations. Students who are falling behind academically or not meeting conduct expectations are first warned, then put on probation, and then dropped from the program if they cannot complete the requirements or remedy their conduct. Within boundaries set by the faculty, the GSC is authorized to take account of individual circumstances and problems, and to grant extensions of deadlines and waivers of requirements.

### **Disciplinary Actions**

Depending on the type and nature of the misconduct, the Graduate Studies Committee may also have grounds to do one or more of the following:

- Written reprimand
- Denial of specified privilege(s)
- Imposition of reasonable terms and conditions on continued student status
- Removal of funding
- Probation
- Restitution
- Removal of the student from the course(s) in progress
- Failure to promote
- Withdrawal of an offer of admission
- Placement on Leave of Absence for a determined amount of time
- Suspension from the program for up to one year with the stipulation that remedial activities may be prescribed as a condition of later readmission. Students who meet the readmission condition must apply for readmission and the student will be admitted only on a space available basis. See the Graduate School Academic Policies & Procedures: Readmission to Graduate School: <http://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/readmission>
- Suspension from the program. The suspensions may range from one semester to four years.
- Dismissal from the program
- Denial of a degree

Depending on the type and nature of the misconduct, the Division of Student Life may also have grounds to do one or more of the following:

- Reprimand
- Probation
- Suspension
- Expulsion
- Restitution
- A zero or failing grade on an assignment on an assignment/exam
- A lower grade or failure in the course
- Removal from course
- Enrollment restrictions in a course/program
- Conditions/terms of continuing as a student

## **IX. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES & INCIDENT REPORTING**

### **Grievance Procedures**

If a student feels unfairly treated or aggrieved in an employment context by faculty, staff, or another student, the University offers several avenues to resolve the grievance. Students' concerns about unfair treatment are best



handled directly with the person responsible for the objectionable action. If the student is uncomfortable making direct contact with the individual(s) involved, they should contact the advisor or the person in charge of the unit where the action occurred (program or department chair, section chair, lab manager, etc.). Many departments and schools/colleges have established specific procedures for handling such situations; check their web pages and published handbooks for information. If such procedures exist at the local level, these should be investigated first. For more information see the Graduate School Academic Policies & Procedures: Grievances & Appeals: <https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/grievances-and-appeals>

Procedures for proper accounting of student grievances:

1. The student is encouraged to speak first in a timely manner with the person toward whom the grievance is directed to see if a situation can be resolved at this level.
2. Should a satisfactory resolution not be achieved, the student should contact the program's Grievance Advisor or Director of Graduate Studies to discuss the grievance. The Grievance Advisor or Director of Graduate Studies will promptly facilitate problem resolution through informal channels and facilitate any complaints or issues of students. The first attempt is to help students informally address the grievance prior to any formal complaint. Students are also encouraged to talk with their faculty advisors regarding concerns or difficulties if necessary.
3. If the issue is not resolved to the student's satisfaction the student can submit the grievance to the Grievance Advisor or Director of Graduate Studies in writing, within 60 calendar days of the alleged unfair treatment.
4. On receipt of a written complaint, a faculty committee will be convened by the Grievance Advisor or Director of Graduate Studies to manage the grievance. The program faculty committee will obtain a written response from the person toward whom the complaint is directed. This response will be shared with the person filing the grievance.
5. The faculty committee will determine a decision regarding the grievance. The Grievance Advisor or Director of Graduate Studies will report on the action taken by the committee in writing to both the student and the party toward whom the complaint was directed within 15 working days from the date the complaint was received.
6. At this point, if either party (the student or the person toward whom the grievance is directed) is unsatisfied with the decision of the faculty committee, the party may file a written appeal. Either party has 10 working days to file a written appeal to the School/College.
7. Documentation of the grievance will be stored for at least 7 years. Significant grievances that set a precedent will be stored indefinitely.

Please see the Geography Department's "[policies](#)" page in guide.wisc.edu for additional information about campus resources, policies and procedures regarding grievance procedures.

### **Incident Reporting (Hate, Bias, Sexual Assault, Hazing, Students of Concern, Bullying)**

The Office of Student Assistance and Support maintains a portal to report incidents of hate, bias, sexual assault, hazing, dating/domestic violence, stalking, missing students, and students displaying other concerning behaviors at UW-Madison:

#### **Office of Student Assistance and Support Incident Reporting**

[osas.wisc.edu/report-an-issue/](https://osas.wisc.edu/report-an-issue/)

As noted above in "Conduct Expectations," students who feel they have been subject to hostile and/or intimidating behavior (i.e., bullying) are encouraged to review the informal and formal options for addressing this behavior (including filing complaints when desired) at:

#### **Human Resources Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Website**

[hr.wisc.edu/hib](https://hr.wisc.edu/hib)



## X. ACADEMIC EXCEPTION PETITION

Academic exceptions are considered on an individual case by case basis and should not be considered a precedent. Deviations from normal progress are discouraged, but the program recognizes that there are in some cases extenuating academic and personal circumstances. Petitions for course exceptions/substitutions or exceptions to the Satisfactory Progress Expectations (academic or conduct) shall be directed to the Director of Graduate Studies or the Graduate Studies Committee. The following procedures apply to all petitions:

1. The specific requirement/rule/expectation pertinent to the petition must be identified.
2. The student should provide a letter explaining why they are seeking the exception. If it involves a course substitution or use of a prior course to meet a program requirement, the student should include the syllabus/syllabi of the course(s) they would like to use to meet the requirement(s).
3. The student's academic advisor must provide written support for the petition.
4. Both letters and supporting materials should be emailed as a single pdf to the Graduate Program Manager, who will bring them to a meeting of the Graduate Studies Committee.
5. All coursework substitutions and equivalencies will be decided by the Graduate Studies Committee.

### Extensions

The Graduate Studies Committee, in consultation with the student's advisor, may also grant extensions to normal progress requirements for students who face circumstances (similar to tenure extensions) as noted in university regulations. This includes childbirth, adoption, significant responsibilities with respect to elder or dependent care obligations, disability or chronic illness, or circumstances beyond one's personal control. Where warranted, the petition should provide good evidence of plans and ability to return to conformance with the standard and to acceptably complete the program. The normal extension will be one semester; anything beyond this will be granted *only in the event of highly extraordinary circumstances*. Extensions will be granted formally with a note of explanation to be placed in the student's file.

### Process for students with guaranteed funding

Funding guarantees granted upon admission to the program are generally considered to be "continuous" for a set number of years, regardless of whether or not the student takes advantage of the funding offered. It is not uncommon, however, for students to have very good reasons to request that a funding guarantee be deferred for a period of time for a leave.

The Graduate Studies Committee will entertain requests to defer a funding guarantee (not admission) under the following conditions:

- Endorsement of the request by the student's advisor
- Clearly stated purpose for the request. Most commonly, this is expected to be a need to be away from campus to conduct thesis research (either MS or Ph.D.) or other personal circumstances (e.g., lifecycle events, health, etc.). In the case of personal circumstances, confidentiality will be maintained by the Graduate Studies Committee.
- Funding during the time away must not have ANY relationship to UW. (Note: Any funding payrolled through the University will count against the initial funding guarantee.

Students may request such a deferral only once. Deferral may not exceed one year. The Graduate Studies Committee will evaluate requests based on available resources. Except under extreme circumstances, funding deferral requests must be submitted prior to the intended leave of absence.

## XI. FUNDING AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### Overview

All applicants (domestic and international) to the MS-Geography MS-Cartography/GIS (thesis) and PhD-Geography programs are considered for guaranteed funding. This funding typically takes the form of teaching assistantships (TAs) during the academic year. Only incoming students are eligible for multi-year (usually 2 years for MS and 3 or 4 years for Ph.D.) guarantees. Some students are eligible for project assistantships (PAs) or research assistantships (RAs), but those assistantships are faculty-specific and most commonly are awarded to students of the faculty with appropriate funding. Teaching assistantships are rarely available in summer. The bulk of our graduate students typically have funding during the academic year, although the department only hires ~25 TAs in a given semester. TA positions are filled based on the Geography department hiring criteria (see [Appendix](#)). Students with questions about funding should contact the Graduate Program Manager.

Please note that the funding guarantees offered by the department are contingent on maintaining satisfactory progress as defined by these benchmarks. In addition, progress through these benchmarks is one criterion used to determine priority for funding, for students who do not have guarantees. (See [Appendix](#) for complete Satisfactory Progress Policy).

### Information on Guaranteed Funding

Most guaranteed funding in the Department is in the form of TAs. An online application form is used to gather teaching preferences from graduate students who intend to use their guaranteed TAship. This form is generally available in mid-October for spring appointments and mid-April for fall appointments.

### Finding Funding Without Guaranteed Appointment

If you do not have a departmental funding guarantee and are looking for funding to support your graduate studies, the Graduate School provides information, at <https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/>.

### Graduate Assistantships (TAs, PAs, RAs, Lecturer [SA] positions)

A call for TA applications is typically sent to all graduate students in October (for spring appointments) and April (for fall appointments). Available positions are filled based on the Geography department TA hiring criteria (see [Appendix](#)).

Project and Research Assistantships are typically available from and offered by specific faculty who have been awarded funds for such positions. In most cases, advisees of the faculty member with the funding hold these positions.

The Geography Department typically hires 1-3 lecturers each academic year as well as in the summer. These positions are advertised within the Department and, in many cases, are posted in the University's Position Vacancy Listing.

All Graduate Assistants receive a formal offer letter with the details of the specific appointment. Recipients are encouraged to read these letters carefully to be sure the benefits and responsibilities of the position are well-understood. Questions about the appointments can be directed to the Payroll and Benefits Specialist (room 170 Science Hall) or the Graduate Program Manager (room143 Science Hall).

### Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures

Please see <https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/> for policies and procedures for Project (PA) Teaching (TA) and Research (RA) Assistants.

### RA Appointment Policies

A research assistant is a UW-Madison graduate student working towards a Master's or Ph.D. degree. An appointment as a research assistant is appropriate if the activity performed by the research assistant is primarily for the benefit of the individual's course of study and research and directly applicable to the individual's thesis or

dissertation. Tasks which are irrelevant or unnecessary to the appointee's academic program or repetitive beyond that which is necessary to achieve excellence in the activity are not appropriate for an individual appointed as a research assistant.

The appointee is required to register for a full load of graduate courses and research. A maximum research assistant stipend is established annually on an institution-wide basis, although the amount of each individual stipend may vary among departments.

A research assistant is to be supported from federal research funds only if it can be documented that the activities of the research assistant constitute necessary work towards the objectives of the sponsored research project which provides the funding.

### **Stipend Levels and Paychecks**

Stipend rates for graduate assistantships are set by the University. Current rates for TAs, PAs, and RAs can be found online here: <https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/graduate-assistantships/>

Graduate assistants are paid on a monthly basis and stipends are usually deposited directly into students' bank accounts. You can authorize direct deposit by filling out the Authorization for Direct Deposit of Payroll form (<https://uwservice.wisc.edu/docs/forms/pay-direct-deposit.pdf>) and returning it to the Payroll & Benefits Specialist.

### **Tuition Remission and Payment of Segregated Fees**

TAs, PAs, RA, and Lecturers (Student Assistants) with appointments of 33.3% or higher (approximately 13 hrs/week) receive remission of their full tuition (in- and out-of-state, as applicable). Students with these appointments are still responsible for paying segregated fees.

### **Health Insurance Benefits**

TAs, PAs, RA, and Lecturers (Student Assistants) with appointments of 33.3% or higher (approximately 13 hrs/week) for at least the length of a semester are eligible to enroll in a health insurance program. Information about health insurance options can be found at <http://www.ohr.wisc.edu/benefits/new-emp/grad.aspx>.

Current monthly premiums can be found at <https://www.wisconsin.edu/ohrwd/benefits/premiums/>.

Questions about health insurance can be directed to the Geography Department Payroll and Benefits Specialist (170 Science Hall)

### **Maximum Appointment Levels**

The Graduate School sets the maximum levels of graduate assistantship appointments. International students should be especially aware of maximum levels of employment. For more information on these policies, please visit <https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/maximum-levels-of-appointments>

### **Enrollment Requirements for Graduate Assistants**

Students with graduate assistantships must be enrolled appropriately. Detailed information about enrollment requirements can be found in the Graduate School's academic policies at <http://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/enrollment-requirements>

### **Fellowships**

There are many different kinds of fellowships on campus. Some are awarded by the program, some are awarded by the school/college, and still others are awarded by the Graduate School. In addition, a number of students have applied for and won fellowships from federal agencies, professional organizations, and private foundations. The terms and conditions of fellowships across campus vary widely. If you have a fellowship, make sure you understand the obligations and benefits of that fellowship, including stipend, health insurance eligibility, eligibility for tuition remission, pay schedule, etc.

## Graduate School Fellowships

The Graduate School administers a number of different fellowships on campus, including: the University Fellowships, the Dickie Fellowships, and a variety of external fellowships. If you have questions about these fellowships, please contact the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Funding, <https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/>.

## Departmental/Campus Fellowships

Many students in the Department successfully apply for FLAS (Foreign Language Area Study) Fellowships. Information about these funds is online here: <http://flas.wisc.edu/>

## External Funding/Fellowships

We encourage all students to seek out and apply for funding from sources external to the university (e.g., federal agencies, professional organizations, private foundations). The Graduate School supports selected federal/private fellowships through the provision of tuition support and health insurance. These are listed at <https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/fellowships/>.

The Graduate School also provides remission of the non-resident portion of students' tuition (if applicable) to students who win external fellowships that are payrolled through the university and provide an academic year (9-month) stipend or an annual year (12-month) stipend at a certain level. (Please note that this data may change / update.)

Students should be aware that fellowships and awards from external sources will each have unique terms and conditions that you should take time to understand. Questions on external fellowships can be directed to the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Funding: <https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/> and [offr@grad.wisc.edu](mailto:offr@grad.wisc.edu).

The following are some sources of information on external funding:

1. Major external fellowships, prepared by the Office of Fellowships and Funding Resources: <https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/fellowships/> (bottom of webpage)
2. The Grants Information Collection (GIC) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Memorial Library <http://grants.library.wisc.edu/> The GIC is a great collection of print and on-line resources to help students find external fellowships and scholarships. You can learn how to set up a personalized profile on several on-line funding databases, and get regular notices of relevant funding opportunities. PLEASE REMEMBER: the timetable for identifying, applying for and receiving such external funding is generally quite long; plan on 9-12 months between the time you start your search and the time you may receive funding.

Once you find a fellowship, scholarship, or award to which you want to apply, consider contacting the Writing Center (<https://writing.wisc.edu/>). The Writing Center staff can provide valuable advice on crafting your application.

## **Fellows with Concurrent Appointments**

Students with fellowships payrolled through the university may hold concurrent graduate assistantships and/or student hourly appointments within the limits set out in the current university policy. Whenever assistantships (RA, TA, or PA) are combined with fellowships or traineeships, total compensation cannot exceed the department's full-time RA rate that was reported to the Graduate School for the current year. (fellowship/traineeship + assistantship = total compensation). The list of approved program rates can be found on the Graduate Assistantships <https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/graduate-assistantships/>, under Assistantship Stipends by Program. Concurrent appointment policies will vary across external agencies, so please be sure to review the terms and conditions for your award. If you have any questions about concurrent work along with your fellowship, please feel free to contact the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Funding: <https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/>.

### **Funding for Study Abroad**

The Institute for Regional and International Studies provides information about opportunities for international research, grants, scholarships and other funding: <http://iris.wisc.edu/funding/>.

### **Funding for Conference/Research Travel**

The Department annually awards a number of Trewartha/Odeboldt Conference Travel Awards and Trewartha Research Awards. These awards are intended to support graduate student conference travel and thesis- and dissertation-related research. The travel grant may be used for participation in major conferences in any of the subfields of geography.

See [Appendix](#) for information about Department of Geography Graduate Awards.

The Graduate School provides a limited amount of research travel and conference presentation funding, as well. For more information about this funding, visit <https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/grants-competition/>.

### **Loans**

The Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA) (<https://financialaid.wisc.edu/>) assists graduate students whose personal and family resources are not adequate to cover the expenses involved in attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The office also provides counseling to help students manage their money effectively, information on other potential sources of financial assistance (such as employment), debt management counseling, and small short-term loans for emergency situations.

## **XII. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CAREER PLANNING**

UW-Madison offers a wealth of resources intended to enrich your graduate studies and enhance your professional skills. It is expected that you will take full advantage of the resources that best fit your needs and support your career goals. Since our alumni thrive not only in academia but also in industry, corporate, government, and non-profit arenas, we strive to be in-tune, holistic, and innovative in our approach to meeting the diverse professional development needs of our students. By actively participating in these professional development opportunities, you will build the skills needed to succeed academically at UW-Madison and to thrive professionally in your chosen career.

Professional development and career planning should be on your mind from the start of your studies – don't wait until graduation to start thinking about these topics. In particular, an individual development plan (IDP) created by the student and faculty advisor can be a great mechanism to start and maintain a conversation about ongoing professional development and career planning. Learn more about developing an IDP here: <https://grad.wisc.edu/professional-development/individual-development-plan/>

### **Local Resources for Professional Development and Career Planning**

The Graduate School offers an increasingly broad array of professional development opportunities. Learn more about those offerings here: <https://grad.wisc.edu/professional-development/>

### **Travel to Meetings and Conferences**

An important part of the professional development of graduate student is participation in professional meetings and conferences. Consult your advisor about the appropriate venues for you to attend. Some advisors may have access to funds to help support travel costs. Students should also explore volunteer opportunities at conferences to offset registration costs. All Geography graduate students are eligible to apply for Trewartha/Odeboldt Conference Travel funds, awarded semi-annually. (See [Appendix](#) for information about graduate student awards.) Eligible graduate students can participate in the Graduate School Research Travel Award competition and the Conference Presentation Funds competition. Information about both is available online here: <https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/grants-competition/>.

### **Campus-wide Resources for Professional Development**

In addition to opportunities at the local level, the Graduate School Office of Professional Development (<https://grad.wisc.edu/professional-development/>) provides direct programming in the areas of career development and skill building, and also serves as a clearinghouse for professional development resources across campus. The best way to stay informed is to watch for the weekly newsletter, **GradConnections**, and to visit the webpage <https://grad.wisc.edu/uw-events/> for an up-to-date list of events. For example, typical topics covered throughout the year are:

- Individual development plans
- Planning for academic success
- Dissertation writing support
- Communication skills
- Grant writing
- Teaching
- Mentoring
- Research ethics
- Community engagement
- Entrepreneurship
- Career exploration: academic, non-profit, industry, government, etc.
- Job search support
- Pursuing postdoctoral training

Be sure to keep a pulse on programs offered by the following campus services as well.

- Writing Center <http://www.writing.wisc.edu/>
- Grants Information Collection <http://grants.library.wisc.edu/>
- Student Technology Training (STS):  
<https://at.doit.wisc.edu/training/software-training-for-students/>
- Delta Program <http://www.delta.wisc.edu>
- UW Teaching Academy <https://teachingacademy.wisc.edu/>
- UW Center for the Humanities <http://humanities.wisc.edu>
- Morgridge Entrepreneurial Bootcamp <https://wsb.wisc.edu/programs-degrees/programs-nonbusiness-majors/morgridge-entrepreneurial-bootcamp>

### **XIII. OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENT INVOLVEMENT**

As a graduate student at UW-Madison, you have a multitude of opportunities to become involved on campus and in your academic discipline. This involvement enhances your academic, professional, and social development.

The Department hosts a graduate student organization (Geograds), and students serve as representatives to a number of standing departmental committees. In addition, students take on responsibility for several departmental social events.

See the [Appendix](#) for a complete list of opportunities for graduate student involvement.

#### **Student Representation in Governance**

##### Associated Students of Madison (ASM)

The Associated Students of Madison (ASM) is the campus-wide student governance organization at UW–Madison. Graduate and undergraduate representatives are elected to the ASM Student Council based on their respective

college or school. The student council has regular biweekly meetings open to all students. Learn more here: <http://www.asm.wisc.edu/>

#### Teaching Assistants' Association (TAA)

The Teaching Assistants' Association (AFT Local 3220) is the labor union for TAs and PAs at UW-Madison. As a result of decades of organizing and by working together as a union, graduate students at UW-Madison have achieved good health benefits, tuition remission, and many other gains. The TAA is a democratic union run by the members. All key policy decisions are made at monthly membership meetings. Learn more here: <http://taa-madison.org/>

#### Registered Student Organizations

There are more than 750 student organizations on campus. The best way to seek out current organizations is to visit the **Center for Leadership and Involvement (CFLI)** website, <https://cfl.wisc.edu/>, and visit the Registered Student Organization directory. This list will not include unregistered student organizations, and you may find that there are groups in your department that you would like to get involved with as well. If you are interested in officially registering an organization in which you are involved, you must register at <https://cfl.wisc.edu/>. Once registered through CFLI, your organization is eligible for funding from ASM, and your group can reserve rooms in the Union and access other resources.

#### Outreach and Community Connections

The Wisconsin Idea is the principle that education should influence and improve people's lives beyond the university classroom. For more than 100 years, this idea has guided the university's work.

The Morgridge Center for Public Service connects campus with community through service, active civic engagement, community-based learning and research, and more. Explore opportunities at <http://www.morgridge.wisc.edu/> and <https://morgridge.wisc.edu/students-get-connected/volunteer-resources-and-opportunities/>.

## XIV. STUDENT HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Students who pay segregated fees are eligible for University Health Services (<https://www.uhs.wisc.edu/>). There is no charge to students for many basic services including counseling sessions, because services are paid through tuition and fees. Personal health and wellness services are also available in addition to medical services.

### **Securing Health Insurance Coverage**

Graduate students who hold an appointment as an assistant of 33.3% or more or who have a fellowship may be eligible for health insurance and other benefits beyond University Health Services. Contact the staff benefits and payroll coordinator in the unit where you have been hired to select one of several health care plans within 30 days of your hire date.

Graduate students who pay segregated fees and are currently enrolled, but do not have an assistantship or fellowship can use the services of University Health Services (UHS), the campus health clinic. Many services are provided at no extra cost, including outpatient medical care during regular business hours, Monday through Friday. UHS is located in the Student Services Tower at 333 East Campus Mall, 608-265-5000. For more info, visit the UHS web site at [www.uhs.wisc.edu](http://www.uhs.wisc.edu).

Prescription medications, emergency room visits and hospitalization are not included in UHS benefits. Therefore, supplemental insurance covering these drugs and services is recommended for all students and is required for international students. The UHS Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) is an excellent option for many students. More information about SHIP is available here: <http://www.uhs.wisc.edu/ship/>.



### **Disability Information**

Students with disabilities have access to disability resources through UW-Madison's McBurney Disability Resource Center. As an admitted student, you should first go through the steps to "Become a McBurney Client" at <http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu/students/howto.php>

Additional [non-academic] disability campus resources (not found through the McBurney Center) can be found at <https://mcburney.wisc.edu/>

A list of Campus Accessibility Resources can be found at <https://www.wisc.edu/accessibility/> at

### **Mental Health Resources On and Off Campus**

University Health Services (UHS) is the primary mental health provider for students on campus. UHS Counseling and Consultation Services offers a wide range of services to the diverse student population of UW-Madison. They offer immediate crisis counseling, same day appointments and ongoing treatment. Go to <https://www.uhs.wisc.edu/?s=counseling> or call 608-265-5600.

UHS service costs are covered for students through tuition and segregated fees.

There are many mental health resources throughout the Madison community, but UHS Counseling and Consultation Services is the best resource for referrals to off-campus providers. Call 608-265-5600 for assistance in finding an off-campus provider.

## **XV. INFORMATION FOR NEW STUDENTS**

The Graduate School maintains a checklist for new graduate students at <http://grad.wisc.edu/newstudents/checklist/>

### **Activate your NetID**

You will need your NetID and password to access the My UW-Madison portal. To activate your NetID click on the ACTIVATE NETID button from the My UW Madison login screen. Enter your 10-digit student campus ID number and birthdate. The NetID you create and password you enter are keys to your access to the MyUW portal so make a record of it and keep it private. If you are unsure about your NetID and password, contact the [DoIT Help Desk](#) at 608-264-4357.

### **Get your UW Photo IDCard (Wiscard)**

Get your UW ID card - Wiscard - photo taken at the Wiscard Office (<http://www.wiscard.wisc.edu/contact.html>) in Union South, Room 149, M-F 8:30 am - 5:00 pm. You must be enrolled and have valid identification, such as a valid driver's license, passport, or state ID) to get your photo ID.

### **Enroll in classes**

Incoming students are eligible to enroll in early July. Students should connect with their faculty advisor and/or the Graduate Program Manager to discuss appropriate course plans for the first semester. Many of these connections happen once the student arrives on campus in August.

### **Pick up your free Madison Metro bus pass**

Students who pay segregated fees are entitled to a free Madison Metro bus pass. <https://transportation.wisc.edu/commuter-solutions/bus/student-bus-pass-program/>

### **Attend the New Graduate Student Welcome, hosted by the Graduate School**

This event provides a great opportunity to mingle with Graduate School deans and staff, hear from a panel of current students about grad student life, learn about the many campus and community resources available to you, and meet other new graduate students from across campus. Learn more here: <https://grad.wisc.edu/new-students/>



*Graduate Student Life* is published annually by the Graduate School and contains a wealth of essential information for new graduate students. It covers information about the city of Madison, student services, finances, employment, housing, transportation, shopping, local services, recreation, and healthy living. Check it out at <https://gradlife.wisc.edu/>

### **Attend Program Orientation Events**

The Geography Department hosts orientation events for incoming, on-campus students, training for new TAs and a welcome lunch during Welcome Week each year. A sample orientation schedule can be found in the [Appendix](#).

### **Program/Department Resources for Students**

On-campus Geography graduate students are provided with office space in Science Hall if available and a mailbox in 388 Science Hall. Public-use computers are available in the Map Library. Copiers, scanners and printers are available in Science Hall, as well.

The Science Hall Help Desk provides IT support to the Geography Department. Information about IT support services is available online here: <http://helpdesk.shc.wisc.edu/>

## **XVI. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

### **International Student Services (ISS)**

International Student Services (ISS) is your main resource on campus and has advisors who can assist you with visa, social, and employment issues. Visit their website for more information at <http://www.iss.wisc.edu> or to schedule an appointment.

### **Student Visas**

Please see ISS website regarding I-20 and visa processing. <https://iss.wisc.edu/>

### **Documents required of new international students**

Many students are admitted with a condition that they submit their final academic documents after arrival on campus. Please submit your documents to the Graduate School admissions office at 228 Bascom Hall. The admissions requirements page <http://grad.wisc.edu/admissions/requirements/> has a drop down menu under “degrees” which lists the documents required for each country.

### **Non-Native English Speakers as Teaching Assistants**

UW System policy requires that non-native English speakers demonstrate proficiency in spoken English before they are assigned classroom duties as teaching assistants. Students who were admitted to the MS-Geography, MS-Cartography/GIS (thesis) or PhD-Geography programs with the TOEFL, IELTS or Duolingo English Test may need to demonstrate proficiency in spoken English through the SPEAK test before they are permitted to TA. <https://esl.wisc.edu/ita-training/speak/>

The offer of a guarantee of long-term support to a non-native English speaking student is contingent on demonstration of the requisite level of spoken English proficiency. Potential teaching assistants must complete the SPEAK to assess such proficiency. Graduate students who are not qualified in English will not be permitted to serve as teaching assistants, and any problems in this area should be brought to the attention of L&S administration without delay.

### **SPEAK Test Guidelines**

- Students with a score greater than or equal to 50 may teach with no further English language testing requirements.
- Students with a score of 45 can perform instructional duties that require spoken English only if also enrolled in a program to improve English skills.

- Students with a score lower than 45 cannot perform instructional duties that require spoken English.

The ESL Program administers the SPEAK Test on a regular basis.

\* International students who score a 26/30 or higher on the speaking section of the iBt TOEFL test or 8.0 or higher in the speaking section of IELTS are exempt from taking the SPEAK test and are eligible to teach with no further English language testing requirements.

Services offered by the Program in English as a Second Language:

The ESL program offers several special services for International Teaching Assistants (ITAs), including:

- ITA Support Services for non-native English speaking TAs interested in improving their teaching performance. This service includes classroom visits by an expert observer, private and confidential analysis with strategies for improvement, and individualized follow-up.
- A modular training course for potential and current international TAs. This course, which complements departmental and College ITA training efforts, focuses on both language improvement and teaching skills, with four videotaped presentations.
- Regular ESL courses

**Funding for International Students**

International students in the MS-Geography, MS-Cartography/GIS (thesis) and PhD-Geography programs are eligible for Teaching, Project, and Research Assistantships on campus as well as University Fellowships through the Graduate School. They may not be employed more than 20 hours per week on campus while enrolled full-time.

New international students with assistantships should work with International Students Services to obtain a social security number (<http://www.iss.wisc.edu/employment/social-security>). New students with fellowships and no other appointment types are not considered employees and are not eligible for social security numbers. These students should work with ISS to obtain an International Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN, <https://iss.wisc.edu/employment/individual-taxpayer-identification-number-itin/>)

XVII. APPENDIX: Graduate level Learning Goals

Overarching Learning Goals Approved by GFEC (11/14/14)

	<b>Master's Level</b>	<b>Doctoral Level</b>
Introduction	All UW-Madison students enter the Graduate School's graduate programs with at least a bachelor's degree. Graduates obtaining a master's degree from the Graduate School, whether it be a research-based, project-based, or course-work-only master's degree, are expected to achieve the following learning goals by the end of their degree work.	Regardless of whether an individual is awarded a master's degree, the doctoral level learning goals are inclusive of the master's level learning goals. Research-based doctoral programs culminate in a dissertation. Professional doctoral programs culminate in a project or performance. Additionally, students receiving a doctoral degree from the Graduate School in both research-based and professional programs are expected to achieve the following learning goals by the end of their degree work.
Knowledge and Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Articulates, critiques, or elaborates the theories, research methods, and approaches to inquiry or schools of practice in the field of study.</li> <li>• Identifies sources and assembles evidence pertaining to questions or challenges in the field of study.</li> <li>• Demonstrates understanding of the primary field of study in a historical, social, or global context.</li> <li>• Selects and/or utilizes the most appropriate methodologies and practices.</li> <li>• Evaluates or synthesizes information pertaining to questions or challenges in the field of study.</li> <li>• Communicates clearly in ways appropriate to the field of study.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Articulates research problems, potentials, and limits with respect to theory, knowledge, or practice within Geography.</li> <li>• Formulates ideas, concepts, designs, and/or techniques beyond the current boundaries of knowledge within Geography.</li> <li>• Creates research, scholarship, or performance that makes a substantive contribution.</li> <li>• Demonstrates breadth within their learning experiences.</li> <li>• Advances contributions of Geography to society.</li> <li>• Communicates complex ideas in a clear and understandable manner.</li> </ul>
Professional Conduct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognizes and applies principles of ethical and professional conduct expected in Geography / Cartography/GIS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fosters ethical and professional conduct.</li> </ul>

GEOGRAPHY Learning Goals MS LO's revised – faculty approved 11/6/2023; for GUIDE Fall 2024

	<b>MS-Geog</b>	<b>MS-Cart/GIS</b>	<b>Ph.D.</b>
Introduction	All UW-Madison students enter the Graduate School's graduate programs with at least a bachelor's degree. Graduates obtaining a research-based master's degree in Geography from the Graduate School are expected to achieve the following learning goals by the end of their degree work.	All UW-Madison students enter the Graduate School's graduate programs with at least a bachelor's degree. Graduates obtaining a research-based master's degree in Cartography/GIS from the Graduate School are expected to achieve the following learning goals by the end of their degree work.	Regardless of whether an individual is awarded a master's degree, the doctoral level learning goals are inclusive of the master's level learning goals. Research-based doctoral programs culminate in a dissertation. . Additionally, students receiving a doctoral degree in Geography from the Graduate School are expected to achieve the following learning goals by the end of their degree work.
Knowledge and Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Articulates, critiques, or elaborates the concepts, theories, methods, and/or approaches to design and inquiry in Geography</li> <li>• Identifies sources, assembles evidence, and/or builds justification for addressing questions or challenges in Geography</li> <li>• Demonstrates understanding of Geography in a historical, social, global and/or technological context.</li> <li>• Selects and/or utilizes the most appropriate methods, technological solutions, and practices to address challenges in Geography</li> <li>• Analyzes, synthesizes, and evaluates information pertaining to questions or challenges in Geography and related fields</li> <li>• Communicates clearly in written, verbal, and visual ways appropriate to Geography</li> <li>• Demonstrates state-of-the-art technical skills relevant to future careers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Articulates, critiques, or elaborates the concepts, theories, methods, and/or approaches to design and inquiry in Cartography/GIS.</li> <li>• Identifies sources, assembles evidence, and/or builds justification for addressing questions or challenges in Cartography/GIS.</li> <li>• Demonstrates understanding of Cartography/GIS in a historical, social, global and/or technological context.</li> <li>• Selects and/or utilizes the most appropriate methods, technological solutions, and practices to address challenges in Cartography/GIS.</li> <li>• Analyzes, synthesizes, and evaluates information pertaining to questions or challenges in Cartography/GIS for addressing broad questions in Geography and related fields</li> <li>• Communicates clearly in written, verbal, and visual ways appropriate to Cartography/GIS</li> <li>• Demonstrates state-of-the-art technical skills relevant in Cartography/GIS.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Articulates research problems, potentials, and limits with respect to theory, knowledge, or practice within Geography.</li> <li>• Formulates ideas, concepts, designs, and/or techniques beyond the current boundaries of knowledge within Geography.</li> <li>• Creates research, scholarship, or performance that makes a substantive contribution.</li> <li>• Demonstrates breadth within their learning experiences.</li> <li>• Advances contributions of Geography to society.</li> <li>• Communicates complex ideas in a clear and understandable manner.</li> </ul>
Professional Conduct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognizes and applies principles of ethical and professional conduct.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognizes and applies principles of ethical and professional conduct.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fosters ethical and professional conduct.</li> </ul>

## XVIII. APPENDIX: Questions to ask of Prospective Advisors

Adapted from [Integrated Program in Biochemistry \(IPiB\) Graduate Handbook](#)

Many of these questions are not simple and may not elicit a quick answer. However, any advisor should be willing to discuss these important issues with you. You may also want to discuss these issues with any students who are currently in the prospective advisor's group/lab. This list is by no means complete; you should spend some time thinking about what is most important to you in your graduate training.

What thesis projects would be available to me if I were to join your group?

Would these projects expose me to a variety of different approaches?

In general, how available will you be to answer questions I might have?

What is your philosophy regarding the amount of guidance the advisor should provide to a student during preparation of the thesis proposal, literature seminars, thesis, etc.?

What are your expectations for the amount of time I should spend each day/week in your group/lab?

What regularly scheduled activities (e.g., group meetings, joint group meetings, and research clubs) does your group participate in that provide an opportunity to get outside input on my (research) project and to hear about the work of other students and postdocs?

Do you encourage your students to attend seminars and journal clubs, including those that may be outside of their narrow field of interest/research?

Do students in your group/lab have the opportunity to attend professional meetings where they can interact with colleagues/researchers from other institutions?

Do you include your graduate students in professional activities that will familiarize them with their field of interest/research, such as reviewing manuscripts and meeting with visiting speakers?

How long do you think it should take me to get my degree?

What are your former graduate students (if any) doing now?

What is your general philosophy of graduate training and what goals do you have for your graduate students?

## UW-Madison M.S. Geography Degree Plan – current term

### XIX. APPENDIX Degree plan sample forms

<p><u>Name</u> <b>Committee</b></p> <p>Cum GPA =</p>	<p><u>Advisor:</u> Current term support: Current term= <b>nth</b> semester of funding Remaining funding guarantee= <b>x</b> semesters Started <u>MS-Geog (initial degree term)</u></p>	<p><u>CampusID</u></p>
--	--	------------------------

BA/BS degree info:

**Breadth Requirements**      *Date Planned/Completed*  
*(Note –“waived” if completed prior to this degree program)*

Earth Systems geog.  
 Human geography  
 People-environment  
 Cartography/GIS

*(Note –one can double count for program requirements.)*

**Program Requirements**      *Date Planned/Completed - Course*

Geography 765  
 Geography 766 (thesis proposal)  
 Seminar 1 (900-level) (3 cr)  
 Seminar 2 (900-level) (3 cr)  
 Core course 1  
 Core course 2

**Credit Requirement**      *Fall 2014 and beyond start – 30 cr req'd*

Cumulative + in progress credits  
 Required credits still needed

**Graduate Coursework Requirement – 15 credits required**

<u>Courses</u>	<u>Credits earned</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
		Completed:
		remaining:

**Defense - Request final warrant 3 weeks before defense!**

To request your warrant, email Title, defense date, committee membership to Graduate Program Manager

**New/Updated information and notes**

*This form is intended as a tool to facilitate discussion between advisor and student about a student’s progress through the program. Return updated form to the Graduate Director.*

# UW-Madison MS-Cart/GIS (thesis option) Degree Plan – current term

Name  
Committee

Advisor:  
Current term support:

CampusID

Current term = **nth** semester of funding  
Remaining funding guarantee=**x** semesters  
Started MS-Cart/GIS (initial degree term)

Cum GPA =

BA/BS degree info:

## Breadth Requirements

*Date Planned/Completed*  
*(Note –“waived” if completed prior to this degree program)*

Quantitative methods  
Mathematics 1  
Mathematics 2  
Geography 1  
Geography 2

## Program Requirements

*Date Planned/Completed - Course*

Geography 765  
Geography 766 (thesis proposal)  
Geography 370  
Geography 377  
Geography 378  
Core course 1  
Core course 2  
Geography 970 (3 credits)

## Credit Requirements

*30 credits required*

Cumulative + in progress credits  
Required credits still needed

## Graduate Coursework Requirement – 15 credits required

<u>Courses</u>	<u>Credits earned</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
		Completed:
		remaining:

## Defense - Request final warrant 3 weeks before defense!

To request your warrant, email Title, defense date, committee membership to Graduate Program Manager

## New/Updated information and notes:

*This form is intended as a tool to facilitate discussion between advisor and student about a student’s progress through the program. Return updated form to the Graduate Director.*

## UW-Madison PhD. Geography Degree Plan – current term

(for students entering the program BEFORE Fall 2014)

Name

Advisor:

CampusID

**Committee**

Current term support:

Current term= **nth** semester of funding

Remaining funding guarantee= **x** semesters

Started PHD (initial degree term)

Years pre ABD =

Years post ABD =

Cum GPA =

MS degree info:

cum credits =

BA/BS degree info:

**Breadth Requirements**

*Date Planned/Completed*

*(Note –“waived” if completed prior to this degree program)*

Earth Systems geog.

Human geography

People-environment

Cartography

Statistical methods

**Program Requirements**

*Date Planned/Completed - Course*

Geography 765

Seminar 1 (900-level)

Seminar 2 (900-level)

**Minor (9 crs):**

*Date Planned/Completed – Course*

*(Note: can use coursework taken as a UW-Madison Geography graduate student)*

Option:

Area:

**Skills (6 crs):**

**Credit Requirements**

*Pre Fall 2014 start – 32 cr req'd (16 req'd as UW-MSN grad)*

Cumulative + in progress credits

Required credits still needed

**Preliminary Exams**

*Date Planned/Completed*

*(prelim warrant should be requested 3 weeks prior to proposal defense)*

General qualifying exam

Specific qualifying exam

Proposal defense

**Warrants (Prelim + Final Defense) - request 3 weeks before you need it!**

To request your prelim warrant, email proposal defense date and committee membership to Graduate Program Manager

To request your final defense warrant, email title, defense date, committee membership to Graduate Program Manager

**New/Updated information and notes:**

*This form is intended as a tool to facilitate discussion between advisor and student about a student's progress through the program. Return updated form to the Graduate Director.*

We recommend that this form be used as a tool to facilitate discussion between advisor and student about a student's progress through the program. Return updated form to the Graduate Director.



## UW-Madison PhD. Geography Degree Plan – current term

*(for students entering the program AFTER Fall 2014)*

Name

Advisor:

CampusID

**Committee**

Current term support:

Current term= **nth** semester of funding

Remaining funding guarantee= **x** semesters

Started PHD (initial degree term)

Cum GPA

Years pre ABD =

Years post ABD =

MS degree info:

BA/BS degree info:

**Breadth Requirements**

*Date Planned/Completed*

*(Note –“waived” if completed prior to this degree program)*

Earth systems geog.

Human geography

People-environment

Cartography

**Program Requirements**

*Date Planned/Completed - Course*

Geography 765

Seminar 1 (900-level)

Seminar 2 (900-level)

**Minor (9 crs):**

*Date Planned/Completed – Course*

*(Note: can use coursework taken as a UW-Madison Geography graduate student)*

**Skills (6 crs):**

*Date Planned/Completed – Course*

*(Note: can use any coursework taken as a graduate student )*

Option:

Area:

**Credit Requirements**

*Fall 2014 and beyond start – 51 cr req'd (32 req'd as UW-MSN grad)*

Cumulative + in progress credits

—

Required credits still needed

—

**Graduate Coursework Requirement – 26 credits required**

Courses

Credits earned

TOTAL

Completed:

remaining:

**Preliminary Exams**

*Date*

*Planned/Completed*

*(prelim warrant should be requested 3 weeks prior to proposal defense)*

General qualifying exam

Specific qualifying exam

Proposal defense

**Warrants (Prelim + Final Defense) - request 3 weeks before you need it!**

To request your prelim warrant, email proposal defense date and committee membership to Graduate Program Manager

To request your final defense warrant, email title, defense date, committee membership to Graduate Program Manager

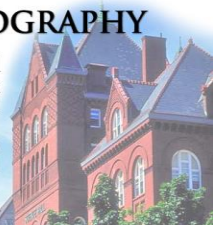
**New/Updated information and notes:**

We recommend that this form be used as a tool to facilitate discussion between advisor and student about a student's progress through the program. Return updated form to the Graduate Director.



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XX. APPENDIX Criteria for Satisfactory Progress

### UW-MADISON DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY CRITERIA FOR SATISFACTORY PROGRESS

**Adopted November 14, 2011**

**Modified August 1, 2016**

From the Graduate School: (<https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/satisfactory-progress> )

#### **Satisfactory Progress**

*Continuation in the Graduate School is at the discretion of a student's program, the Graduate School, and a student's faculty advisor.*

*The Graduate School sets minimum standards that all graduate students in the university must meet. Many departments and programs have additional requirements that exceed these Graduate School minimum requirements. The definition of satisfactory progress varies by program. The Graduate School Guide, <http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/>, includes the Graduate School's minimum degree requirements and each program's minimum criteria for satisfactory progress.*

*The Graduate School requires that students maintain a minimum graduate GPA of 3.00 in all graduate-level work (300 or above, excluding research, audit, credit/no credit, and pass/fail courses) taken as a graduate student unless probationary admission conditions require higher grades. The Graduate School also considers Incomplete (I) grades to be unsatisfactory if they are not removed during the subsequent semester of enrollment; however, the instructor may impose an earlier deadline.*

*A student may be placed on probation or suspended from the Graduate School for low grades or for failing to resolve incompletes in a timely fashion (<https://grad.wisc.edu/documents/probation/>). In special cases the Graduate School permits students who do not meet these minimum standards to continue on probation upon recommendation and support of their advisor.*

*Most programs require satisfactory progress to continue guaranteed funding support.*

#### **Five-Year Rule**

*Students have five years from the date of their preliminary examination to take their final oral examination and deposit their dissertation.*

### **Department of Geography Requirements**

The Department expects graduate students to progress through a sequence of benchmarks within prescribed time periods. These benchmarks constitute a reasonable rate of accomplishment for full-time students holding teaching or research appointments. We recognize that individual circumstances vary, and not all students progressing toward their academic goals will hit the benchmarks exactly. Thus a student's progress is considered unsatisfactory only after a period of time elapses following an unmet benchmark. A student not making satisfactory progress is placed on probation. Benchmarks and triggers for probationary status are shown in the following table. Note: Semesters with no enrollment are excluded in computing elapsed time.

	<u>Expected Progress</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory Progress</u>
<b>MS-Geography and MS-Cartography/GIS (thesis option) Students</b>		
MS Completion	End of 4 <sup>th</sup> semester	12 <sup>th</sup> week of 5 <sup>th</sup> semester
<b>PhD Students</b>		
MS Completion	Start of 1st semester	12 <sup>th</sup> week of 1 <sup>st</sup> semester
Breadth Requirements	End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester	End of 4 <sup>th</sup> semester*
General Prelim Exam	Start of 5 <sup>th</sup> semester	N/A†
Dissertator Status	End of 6 <sup>th</sup> Semester	End of 8 <sup>th</sup> semester*

\* Can be determined at 12<sup>th</sup> week

† The standard expectation is that general prelims will be completed by the start of the 5<sup>th</sup> semester, but in practice wide variation exists and therefore no benchmark for unsatisfactory progress is set.

A student's annual degree plan will inform him/her of any looming benchmarks. The graduate program manager will provide formal notification if a student enters probationary status. The consequences of unsatisfactory progress are as follows:

- a) The student is required to submit a plan for completion of the relevant benchmark(s) and remaining program requirements by the start of the following semester. This plan requires approval of the student's advisor and the Graduate Studies Committee. A hold will be placed on enrollment until the plan is approved.
- b) Unless a funding guarantee is active, the student will have a lower priority for departmental funding than students in good standing. That is, everything else being equal, a student in good standing will be appointed before a student on probation.
- c) Funding guarantees will lapse for: (i) Ph.D. students admitted from other departments who have not completed the MS by the 12<sup>th</sup> week of their first semester, and (ii) UW-Geography students transitioning from the MS to Ph.D. who have not completed their MS by the 12<sup>th</sup> week of their 5<sup>th</sup> semester. In either case the guarantee will not resume until the academic-year semester that follows the academic-year semester in which MS requirements are met prior to its twelfth week. During the lapse period the student will have a lower priority for funding as explained in (b) above. Any university support provided to the student during the lapse period will count against contract duration.
- d) If a student is on probation for 4 consecutive semesters s/he will not be allowed to continue in the program.

A student remains on probation until the benchmark is met. In the case of late MS completion future benchmark dates are adjusted accordingly. For example, all Ph.D. benchmarks would advance two semesters for a UW-Geography student who finishes the MS in the 6<sup>th</sup> semester.

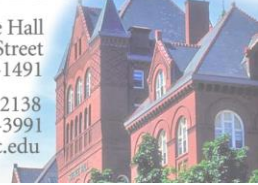
Students may request exceptions for extenuating circumstances by contacting the Graduate Studies Committee. Students wishing to appeal a Committee decision should first request reconsideration by the Committee, and then the Department Chair (if necessary), and finally the Graduate School as a last resort.

This policy will be in effect for students entering the graduate program in Fall 2012. Current students and those who enter prior to Fall 2012 will be reviewed under this policy starting in Fall 2013.



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### XXI. APPENDIX Internal MS to PhD transition process

#### Internal MS → PhD transition process Approved November, 2010

Master's students who intend to continue on to the Ph.D. program must apply to the Graduate Admissions Committee by January 5 in the second year of their master's program by submitting the following materials:

- statement of interest indicating plans for the Ph.D.
- letter of support from current (MS) advisor
- letter of support from prospective PhD advisor (if different)

The Graduate Admissions Committee will evaluate these internal applications in the spring semester (typically in February) along with all other applications to decide which of these internal applicants will be admitted to the Ph.D. program.

With admission, students who entered the program with a multi-year funding guarantee will receive the remaining three years of support. Students who entered the program without a multi-year funding guarantee can be admitted into the PhD program with or without 3 years of financial support.

**Receipt of guaranteed Ph.D. funding is conditional on successful completion of MS requirements (including defense of thesis).** If the student fails to complete MS requirements by the end of the twelfth week of their fifth MS semester, the student's guaranteed support from the department will be deferred. Guaranteed support will not resume until the academic-year semester that follows the academic-year semester when MS requirements are met prior to its twelfth week. Any university support provided to the student during the lapse period will count against contract duration.

If circumstances beyond the control of the student prevent the student from meeting the deadline, an appeal may be made to the Graduate Studies Committee to use one semester of the financial aid allotment from the Ph.D. program to complete the MS requirements. In their appeal, the student must clearly explain the circumstances that prevented completion in two years.

#### **November 2014 –addendum**

*(approved, Grad Studies Committee, Oct 15, 2014)*

Students admitted to continue to the Ph.D. program following the above process who do not complete the MS requirements and begin the Ph.D. program by one year after application to continue must submit these materials:

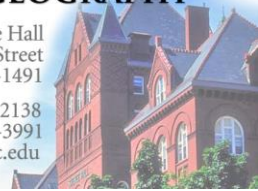
- a new letter of support from Ph.D. advisor
- explanation of delay in MS completion

These materials should be submitted to the Graduate Program Manager by the 12<sup>th</sup> week of the last semester of the master's.



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### XXII. APPENDIX Seminar Requirement Policy

#### **Department of Geography Graduate Seminar Requirement Policy, Purpose, Exceptions**

*(Approved - Fac/staff meeting: 11/15/10; Modified, Grad Studies Committee, 3/12/13; Modified policy distributed/discussed at FacStaff meeting – 4/15/2013)*

Seminar requirement policy: Currently, our Geography graduate programs (MS-Geog and PhD-Geog) each require students to complete 2 graduate seminars (900-level). The current requirement states:

*Two three-credit seminars (with final papers) in the Geography Department, involving at least two different Geography (or affiliate) faculty members*

For the MS-Geography program, the two seminars can be counted toward the four graduate-level course requirement.

For the PhD-Geography program, the requirement specifically excludes seminars taken as part of the MS-Geography program at UW-Madison. However, seminars taken in the last semester of a UW master's program may be used to satisfy Ph.D.-Geography requirements if the following conditions are met:

- The ONLY requirement remaining for the master's is defense/completion/submission of the thesis.
- Student has been formally admitted to the Ph.D.-Geography program and begins that program in the subsequent fall/spring semester.
- Ph.D. committee chair must approve the seminar coursework.

For a fall seminar to be counted, the thesis must be submitted to Memorial Library before the December Graduate School degree deadline. A spring semester seminar can count only if the thesis is submitted before the August Graduate School degree deadline.

Seminars are expected to be 900-level Geography courses taught by Geography faculty. These courses are typically low enrollment (<15 students), require a final paper, and are almost exclusively comprised of graduate students.

Purpose of the seminar requirement: The seminar requirement serves multiple purposes. These include, but are not restricted to:

- Developing an understanding of geography within and outside of student's subarea
- Building an identity as a geographer
- Sharing a common intellectual experience with fellow graduate students
- Building relationships with individual faculty members who might later become thesis committee members.
- Providing an opportunity to gain specialized, in-depth knowledge critical to the student's research.

Exceptions to the requirement: Given these purposes, the granting of exceptions to these rules is rare. Replacing one of the two required geography seminars with a non-Geography seminar may, under unusual circumstances, be granted to MS students and those Ph.D. students who took two Geography seminars in our department for their MS. For these cases, there are two situations in which a one seminar exception might be made:

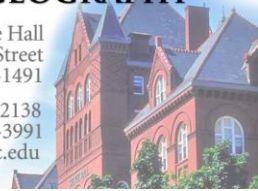
- *Timing:* Students in the MS-Geography program are expected to finish the program in two years and, as a result, might not find sufficient seminar offerings within the department during that timeframe.
- *Need for specialized knowledge:* The breadth of geography is such that many of our students have need of specialized knowledge for their research that is not available in the department. Normally, specialized knowledge outside of the department can be obtained by taking outside seminars in addition to required geography seminars. Petitions will be considered by the committee only if an argument can be made that a student's progress would be significantly impeded by a strict adherence to the two Geography seminar requirement.

Outside seminars taken as substitutes must be small (< 15 students), require a final paper, and almost exclusively be comprised of graduate students. Students who wish to be granted a one-seminar exception can make a formal request to the Graduate Studies Committee. In order for the Committee to consider this request, a student must have support of his/her advisor, state the projected date of degree completion, explain why geography seminar offerings available prior to degree completion are insufficient, provide a syllabus of the proposed seminar substitute, and demonstrate that the outside seminar is directly related and uniquely necessary to his/her research topic.



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### XXIII. APPENDIX Minor Requirement Notes

#### Notes about completing the Ph.D.-Geography Minor Requirement

*Recommended by Graduate Studies Committee – 3/12/13; Distributed/Discussed at Faculty/Staff meeting – 4/15/2013; Modified by Graduate Studies Committee – 3/16/2016; modified & approved Faculty/Staff 5/1/23*

**Minor requirement policy:** Currently, our PhD-Geography program requires students to complete 9 credits of minor coursework and is in accordance with the following Graduate School policy:

*Breadth is a required component of doctoral training at UW–Madison. Given there are multiple paths to breadth, the Graduate School leaves the choice of whether students achieve breadth through a doctoral minor (two options as described below), Graduate/Professional certificate, or other means up to the specific graduate program. The specific Breadth Requirement Policy, including information on certificates, is found here:*

*Minor options are as follows:*

**Option A (external doctoral minor):** Requires a minimum of 9 credits in a doctoral minor program (single disciplinary or multi-disciplinary). Fulfillment of this option requires the approval of the doctoral minor program.

**Option B (distributed doctoral minor):** Requires a minimum of 9 credits in one or more programs forming a coherent topic (\*\*see notes below for department requirement). Fulfillment of this option requires the approval of the doctoral major program.

*The Graduate School's minimum course requirements for the doctoral minor include:*

- *An average GPA of 3.00 on all minor coursework;*
- *Coursework must be graded courses numbered 300 or above; no audits or pass/fail;*
- *Maximum 3 credits of independent study (e.g., 699, 799, 899, 999);*
- *Research and thesis cannot be used to satisfy the minor (e.g., 790, 890, 990);*
- *No more than 5 credits of coursework completed more than 5 years prior to admission to the doctoral program; coursework taken 10 years ago or more may not be used.*

*A student cannot earn a doctoral minor and a Graduate/Professional certificate of the same name. Credits earned towards the doctoral minor may count towards the minimum graduate residence requirement, minimum graduate degree requirement, and the minimum graduate coursework (50%) requirement. <https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1200>*

**Minor requirement purpose:** The primary purpose of the minor is to increase the breadth of doctoral study. Coursework chosen to complete the minor requirement should be directly related to and supportive of a student's doctoral research. The minor coursework should deepen a student's understanding of a secondary discipline related to the dissertation topic.

**Minor requirement timing:** Coursework completed as a UW-Madison Geography graduate student can be used to satisfy the minor requirement whether taken before or during the Ph.D. program.

**Note:** Students who choose to pursue Option B (distributed minor) must complete all coursework for the minor outside of Geography.

**Note:** Students who choose to complete the CHE minor can use no more than one Geography course for the minor and that course must be outside of the student's primary subarea of study.

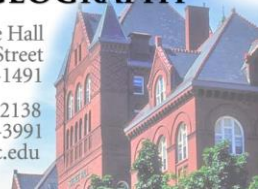
**Note:** Coursework may not be double counted for major requirements.





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### XXIV. APPENDIX –Notes about Skills

#### Notes about completing the Ph.D.-Geography Skills Requirement

*Recommended by Graduate Studies Committee – 3/12/13*

*Distributed/Discussed at Faculty/Staff meeting – 4/15/2013*

*Modified – 5/23/2013 – smk*

*Modified by Graduate Studies Committee – 3/16/2016*

*Modified by GSC and approved at Faculty/Staff meeting – 12/3/2018*

Skills requirement policy: Currently, our PhD-Geography program requires students to complete 6 credits of skills coursework. Typically, students complete this requirement with one of these 4 options:

- Competence in language other than English
- Quantitative skills (6 cr of “intermediate” or “advanced” courses)
- Qualitative skills (6 cr of “intermediate” or “advanced” courses)
- Combination of quantitative and qualitative skills (6 cr of “intermediate” or “advanced” courses)

Typically these courses are not Seminars. Graduate-level coursework completed as a graduate student can be used for the Ph.D. skills requirement whether taken before or during the PhD. program.

Credits earned as independent study (999) or research (990) cannot be used to satisfy this requirement.

#### Skills courses within Geography

The Department’s intermediate/advanced research methods courses (currently, Geog 500, Geog 503, Geog 560) can be used by all students to fulfill skills requirements. In addition, students may take Cartography/GIS courses to fulfill skills requirements, within the following parameters:

#### ***Students specializing in Earth Systems, Human, and People/Environment Geography, and Students specializing in Cartography/GIS who did not complete the MS-Cartography/GIS degree in the Geography Department:***

Intermediate/advanced courses in Cartography/GIS (300 level and above) beyond those used to fulfill breadth requirements

#### ***Students specializing in Cartography/GIS who completed the MS-Cartography/GIS degree in the Geography Department:***

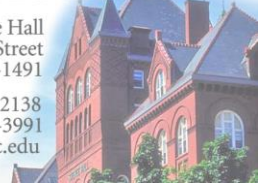
Intermediate/advanced courses in Cartography/GIS (300 level and above) beyond those used to fulfill MS-Cart/GIS course requirements





## DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

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### XXV. APPENDIX – Qualifying Exam Principles

Qualifying Exam Principles  
Department of Geography  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Approved 3/12/12

The graduate program of the Department of Geography has four subareas: Cartography/GIS, Earth Systems Geography, Human Geography, and People-and-Environment Geography. While overlapping, these subareas have distinct intellectual traditions and bodies of knowledge. Subarea faculty should enjoy a degree of flexibility in tailoring the qualifying exam process to best serve the needs of their programs. But for it to serve as the qualifying examination in Geography, its implementation in each of the four subareas should adhere to the same general principles.

#### *Qualifying Exam Principles*

The qualifying exam in Geography is used by subarea faculty to evaluate the examinee's knowledge of a subfield to a level sufficient to teach in that subfield at the university level. Reflecting the different needs of the subareas, the qualifying exam must consist of a general exam and may also include a specific examination. No matter the structure adopted by each subarea, the following principles should be adhered to for qualifying exams:

1. A core body of material should be common to all examinations within a subarea. Excessive tailoring of the body of knowledge tested to the examinee's research interests violates the purpose of the qualifying examination.
2. The performance of an examinee should be evaluated by subarea faculty. Tradition in the department has interpreted this basic feature as being addressed by an examining committee of at least three geography faculty members through the evaluation of written responses to at least three questions.
3. Exam procedures should ensure prompt feedback by examining faculty and discussion with student about his/her responses.
4. Tradition in the department specifies that there are two outcomes of a qualifying exam: pass or fail. In cases of a failed exam, clear procedures for appeal and for a one-time retaking of the exam should be developed.
5. Core bodies of knowledge (e.g. reading lists) and exam procedures (including appeal and retaking) should be clearly described in a written document available to students.

**Cartography/GIS**

**Department of Geography  
University of Wisconsin-Madison**

**General Information and Reading List for  
Ph.D. Qualification Examinations  
In  
Cartography & Geographic Information Systems Specialty  
(As a supplement to *Graduate Study in Geography Handbook*)**

*Approved: April 25, 2022*

**I. EXPECTATION**

There are two qualification examinations: general and specific. The general exam tests the candidate's broad understanding in Cartography and Geographic Information Systems (referred to as Cartography and GIS, or GIScience sometimes). Its scope and depth are motivated by the faculty's belief that any student earning a Ph.D. should be able to teach an introductory course in Cartography & GIS. It follows, therefore, that students should be able to demonstrate knowledge at the intermediate level in all areas of GIScience (including both GIS and cartography).

The specific exam evaluates a candidate's preparation for original work in Cartography & GIS. It focuses on how well the candidate understands the theories, techniques, and issues in his/her dissertation research area. The specific exam is administered by candidate's Ph.D. thesis adviser.

**II. FORMAT**

**II.1 The General Qualification Exam**

The general is a 9-hour open-book written exam with three questions (3-hours for each question) and can be taken over a two-day period. Students should use a computer when preparing their exam responses.

The general exam covers the breadth of Cartography & GIS. The general exam evaluates core conceptual and theoretical perspectives underpinning common Cartography and GIS techniques and is designed to test ability to explain and teach introductory level cartography and GIS courses. This exam is administered and assessed by a set of three faculty with specialty in Cartography and GIS. Accordingly, the general exam covers two major knowledge areas. **1) *Cartography and Visualization* (subareas: *Cartographic Design, Interactive Visualization, Critical Cartography*) and 2) *Geographic Information Systems* (subareas: *Principles in Geographic Information Systems, Spatial Statistics, Remote Sensing*).**

Students with research emphasis in Cartography will construct a qualification exam committee with two Cartography experts and one GIS expert, and receive four questions in cartography (choose two, one from each committee member) and two questions in GIS (choose one). Students with research emphasis in GIS will construct a committee with one Cartography expert and two GIS experts and receive four in GIS (choose two, one from each committee member) and two questions in Cartography (choose one). Students working on transdisciplinary research may assemble a committee of one Cartography, one GIS, and one broader Geography faculty with approval from the Cart/GIS subgroup and the Graduate Studies Committee, receiving two questions from each member (choosing one). Thus, all students will answer ***three questions total spanning nine hours of writing*** (three hours for each question).

Services on the general qualifying exam from other professionals (including affiliated faculty members) should be approved by the thesis advisor based on the needs of the student and the qualification of the professional.

Within two weeks of the written portion of the exam, there will be an oral clarification meeting between the student and the qualification committee members. This meeting provides an opportunity for the faculty to ask questions about the written answers to the general exam. A final decision on the general exam will be reached by the faculty after this oral meeting.

## **II.2 The Specific Qualification Exam**

The specific examination evaluates the candidate's proficiency for conducting research in a particular research area chosen by the student. This proficiency is demonstrated by an in-depth literature review that ultimately serves as an introductory chapter in the dissertation. The exam is set and graded by his/her thesis advisor. Students should consult with their own thesis advisor for a reading list for the specific exam.

## **II.3 Exam Outcome**

*The outcome from an exam can be pass or fail. For answers which require additional clarification, the student will be asked to conduct additional work in the form specified by the examination committee and may be graded by the committee or by the committee member(s) who have the expertise of the work specified.*

*Should a student fail either the general or the specific exam, the student may request to retake that part one additional time. Decisions regarding exam outcomes and requests for a second attempt may be appealed by petitioning the Graduate Studies Committee.*

## **III. SUGGESTED READING LIST**

The students should seek out the examination committee members for reading materials.

## Earth Systems Geography

### INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIC TO GRADUATE WORK IN EARTH SYSTEMS GEOGRAPHY (1/2019 & Summer 2022)

(in addition to the information provided in the Graduate Student Handbook)

#### FACULTY

- C. Andresen:** Arctic hydrology, ecology, climate change, high-res mapping and remote sensing, Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drones)
- E. Carson (affiliate, UW-Extension):** fluvial geomorphology, geological mapping, paleohydrology, Quaternary stratigraphy, water resources
- K. Keefover-Ring: biogeography, plant-animal interactions and response to climate change, chemical ecology**
- J. Mason:** soils, geomorphology, Quaternary paleoenvironments, GIS applications in geomorphology
- E. Marín-Spiotta:** biogeochemistry, land-use & climate change, soils, ecosystem ecology, biogeography
- J. Williams:** biogeography, vegetation dynamics, Quaternary paleoecology & paleoclimatology, climate change, eco/geo-informatics
- A. Zhu:** GIS, environmental modeling, natural resources.

#### OVERVIEW OF REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MSC AND PHD

The coursework and other requirements for the MSc and PhD are outlined in the Geography Graduate Student Handbook, and students are urged to consult this resource. Where questions arise about departmental requirements, students should talk to their advisor, the Graduate Student Director, or a faculty member of the Graduate Studies Committee.

In addition to coursework, successful completion of the Masters in Geography requires the completion of a Master's Thesis, representing original research conducted by the student, and an oral defense of that thesis by the student to his or her committee. A Master's degree is required for admittance to the PhD program.

In addition to coursework, successful completion of the PhD in Geography requires the completion of a general preliminary exam, a specific preliminary exam, a proposal defense, the written Dissertation, and an oral Dissertation defense. Details on the exams and defenses are provided below. The scope and content of the Dissertation is to be determined by the student and his/her advisor, in consultation with the student's committee.

Master's candidates intending to enter the Ph.D. program should discuss their goals with the committee chair. If a change in major professor is contemplated, that individual should be consulted as well. For such students the Master's defense will include consideration of admission to the Ph.D. program.

Note that the Earth Systems Geography Guidelines are supplemental to the Graduate Student Handbook, and the Handbook should be consulted as well when planning one's graduate studies and research.

#### COURSES (\* identifies a core course in a subfield)

**Climatology:**

- \*GEOG/AOS/IES 332 Global Warming: Science and Impacts  
\*GEOG/AOS/IES/GEOL 335 Climatic Environments of the Past

*Courses in Other Departments:*

- ATM OCN 310/311 Dynamics of the Atmosphere and Oceans I/II  
ATM OCN 330/340 Physics of the Atmosphere and Oceans I/II  
ATM OCN 425 Global Climate Processes  
IES 360 Climatic Principles for Engineering and Environmental Design  
ATM OCN 501/502 Atmospheric Sciences (usually required for the Minor)  
ATM OCN/IES 520 Bioclimatology  
ATM OCN 528 Past Climates and Climatic Change  
ATM OCN 531 Global Climates  
SOIL SCI/ATM OCN 532 Environmental Biophysics

**Geomorphology & Quaternary Studies:**

- \*GEOG/GEOSCI 320 Geomorphology  
GEOG/IES 325 Analysis of the Physical Environment  
GEOG/GEOSCI 326 Landforms-Topics and Regions (Fluvial)  
GEOG 329 Landforms and Landscapes of North America  
GEOG/GEOSCI 420 Glacial and Pleistocene Geology  
GEOG/GEOSCI 523 Advanced Paleoecology  
GEOG/GEOSCI 524 Advanced Landform Geography  
GEOG 526 Transforming Earth Systems  
GEOG/GEOSCI 527 Quaternary Period

*Courses in Other Departments:*

- GEOSCI 551 Oceanography: Recent Marine Sediments  
GEOSCI 610 Geochronology  
GEOSCI 720 Glaciology  
GEOSCI 740 Micropaleontology I  
GEOSCI 750 Problems in Oceanography

**Biogeography:**

- \*GEOG 338 Environmental Biogeography  
GEOG/GEOSCI 523 Advanced Paleoecology

*Courses in Other Departments:*

- BOTANY/ZOOL/FOREST 460 General Ecology  
BOTANY 422 Plant Geography  
BOTANY/FORESTRY 455 Vegetation of Wisconsin  
BOTANY 801 Advanced Plant Community Ecology  
F&W ECOL 550 Forest Ecology

F&W ECOL 635  
F&W ECOL 660  
F&W ECOL 672  
F&W ECOL 879  
GEOSCI 541

Forest Stand Dynamics  
Climate Change Ecology  
Historical Ecology  
Advanced Landscape Ecology  
Paleobiology

**Soils and Biogeochemistry:**

\*GEOG/SOIL SCI 525  
GEOG 526  
SOILS 430

Soil Geomorphology  
Transforming Earth Systems  
Environmental Soil Contamination

*Courses in Other Departments:*

SOIL SCI 301  
SOIL SCI 305  
SOIL SCI 315  
SOIL SCI 325  
FORESTRY 355  
SOIL SCI 451

General Soil Science  
Field Study of the Soil  
Soil Science for Land Use Planning  
Pedology  
Forest Soil Science  
Environmental Biogeochemistry

**Skills:**

The following courses are pre-approved as skills courses. Students should seek the approval of their advisor if they wish to use other courses to meet the skills requirement.

GEOG 325  
GEOG 378  
GEOG 523  
GEOG 560  
GEOG 574  
GEOG 577

Analysis of the Physical Environment: Field Methods  
Introduction to Geocomputing  
Advanced Paleoecology  
Advanced Quantitative Methods  
Geospatial Database Design & Development  
Environmental Modelling with GIS

*Courses in Other Departments:*

IES/GEOG/... 371/372  
GEOSCI 701  
MICROBIOLOGY 657  
STAT 303-305  
STAT 571  
STAT 572  
SOIL SCI 695  
SOIL SCI 875

Introductory/Intermediate Environmental Remote Sensing  
Quantitative Geomorphology  
Bioinformatics for Microbiologists  
R for Statistics, I, II, III  
Statistical Methods for Bioscience I  
Statistical Methods for Bioscience II  
Applications of GIS in Natural Resources  
Using R – Data Management

**OTHER COURSE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Students in Earth Systems Geography are strongly urged have a good background in the basic physical sciences, such as calculus, physics, chemistry, and in tools such as statistics, programming, GIS and remote sensing. Such courses are, in fact, prerequisites for courses required in some of the minor

programs such as Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences (formerly Meteorology) and Geoscience (formerly Geology and Geophysics).

*Note:* All requirements for seminars, skills, and the minor are **minimum requirements**.

### **PH.D. MINOR (9 credits)**

Coursework for the PhD includes 9 credits in a minor chosen by the student.

Students specializing in Climatology normally minor in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences.

Students specializing in Geomorphology normally minor in Geosciences, Soil Science, Anthropology, or Civil Engineering.

Students specializing in Soils normally minor in Geosciences, Soil Science, or Anthropology

Students specializing in Biogeography normally minor in Botany or in a distributed minor in Ecology

A **distributed minor** (courses in two or more departments outside of Geography) in Quaternary Studies, Geoarchaeology, Biogeochemistry, Ecology, Statistics, etc. can also be designed.

### **STUDENT RESEARCH ADVISORS AND COMMITTEES**

The duty of a student's committee is to guide and evaluate the scholarship and professional development of the student, and so a student's committee should be constituted to provide a range of expertise in areas of knowledge relevant to the student's research. The composition of the committee is determined by the student, in consultation with their advisor. However, both departmental and Graduate School rules constrain the choice of committee members; see the Geography Graduate Student Handbook for further details. The committee for a MSc student must have at least three members, including the student's advisor, who chairs the committee. The committee for a PhD student must have at least five members, including the student's advisor, who chairs the committee.

Although there is no formal timetable for when a student should form and meet with their committee, students should form their committee sooner rather than later, and regular meetings (at least once per year) are advised. During particularly active times, more frequent committee meetings may be appropriate. Regular committee meetings are essential to a student's smooth progress.

### **PHD GENERAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION**

In order to pass the general prelim, a PhD candidate must demonstrate sufficient general knowledge of Earth Systems Geography to be able to teach an introductory course in it. Students should be able to discuss basic concepts within and linkages between the following subfields:

<b><u>Subfield</u></b>	<b><u>Subject Examiner</u></b>
Geomorphology	J. Mason
Soils	J. Mason and E. Marin-Spiotta
Biogeography	J. Williams, E. Marin-Spiotta, and K. Keefover-Ring
Climatology	J. Williams and C. Andresen

The general prelim will have up to four exams, representing each of the four subfields. The Subject Examiners listed for each subfield will determine the reading materials necessary to prepare for the exam and will formulate and grade the exam questions. **The general prelim examination for each subfield is a written examination consisting of two questions, with 2 hours allowed for each question.** Each exam will be graded on a Pass/Fail basis. A student who fails the exam in a subfield will be required to take additional course work in that subfield and/or retake the preliminary exam in that subfield. The Subject Examiners evaluate the general prelims and determine what remedial actions, if any, are needed. Exams will normally be graded and returned within two weeks, except under unusual circumstances.

**A student may opt out of up to two of the four subfield exams** by completing (at UW-Madison) at least one of the core courses in those subfields (marked with an \*), **with a grade of AB or better.** Furthermore, students using a core course to opt out of a subfield exam normally will be assigned additional readings or other work to supplement the standard course material, with the scope and amount of the additional work left to the discretion of the instructor. Students taking a core course to opt out of a subfield exam must notify the instructor of their intent at the beginning of the semester. Opting out of a subfield exam does not mean that subfield is completely eliminated from the general prelim; it might still be included in the context of linkage/interaction between subfields. For example, while a student might opt out of the climatology exam, the biogeography exam might focus on the connection between vegetation and climate.

PhD students are expected to complete their coursework by the end of the fourth semester and ideally by the end of the third semester. For this reason, **students must take the general examinations no later than the end of the fourth semester of PhD studies.**

To prepare for the general prelim, students should talk to the appropriate Subject Examiners about the material to be covered **at least 6 months prior to the time they plan to take the exams.** When scheduling a general preliminary exam, students must contact their Major Advisor and the Subject Examiner **at least 3 weeks in advance.**

## **PHD SPECIFIC PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION AND PROPOSAL DEFENSE**

The intent of the specific prelim is for the student to demonstrate knowledge of the foundational and current literature related to their proposed area of research. The intent of the proposal defense is for the student to demonstrate that they have developed a research project that: a) will generate significant new knowledge and b) is achievable given the student's skills and given the normal time span of a PhD dissertation.

Because the intents of these exams overlap, they are combined into a single event. The PhD candidate must write a dissertation proposal that: a) includes a literature review that demonstrates their depth of knowledge in the literature relevant to the questions that they will pursue, and b) describes the questions, hypotheses, methods, and-anticipated contributions to theory and/or knowledge evolving from their dissertation research. The depth and quality of the literature review should be at least as strong as those found in the introductions of peer-reviewed journal articles. This literature review ultimately can be the



basis for the introductory chapter in the written Dissertation. This dissertation proposal will then be the foundation of an oral defense, in which the student's full committee will evaluate the merits of the proposal and whether the student has the skills and intellectual foundation necessary to successfully completing the work. Possible outcomes include: a full and unqualified pass; a pass conditional on taking additional courses and/or skill developments; a pass conditional on additional readings and a revised literature review; a failed exam with the opportunity to retake the proposal defense; and a failed exam with no opportunity to retake the proposal defense.

Students may not take the specific prelim and proposal defense until the general prelim has been satisfactorily passed or the Earth Systems Geography faculty otherwise feels confident that the student has the proper background to proceed.

The dissertation proposal must be approved by the student's advisor before copies go to the rest of the committee. The proposal may have to go through several drafts before being ready to go to the full committee, and students should allow **a minimum of two weeks** for comments and revisions of each draft. **The committee must receive the proposal at least two weeks prior to the proposal defense.**

## **MSC THESIS DEFENSE AND PHD DISSERTATION DEFENSE**

The oral defense of the thesis or dissertation follows reading by all members of the student's committee. **The student must distribute the thesis to the committee at least two weeks prior to the thesis defense**, to allow time for reading. Similarly, **dissertations must be distributed three weeks prior to the dissertation defense**. As with the dissertation proposal, theses and dissertations must be approved by the student's advisor before copies go to the rest of the committee, and several drafts usually are necessary before theses and dissertations are distributed to the committee.

The thesis defense and dissertation defense both include a public presentation of the student's research, with time allotted for questions by a general audience, followed by a closed committee session for questions and discussion.

A thesis or dissertation may be accepted or not accepted by the committee as having sufficient merit to qualify for completion of the MSc or PhD. Usually, the acceptance of the thesis or dissertation will be conditional upon revisions that are specified by the committee. The oral defense of the MSc thesis will also include consideration for admission to the Ph.D. program.

## People-Environment Geography

### Qualifying Exams

#### People-and-Environment Geography

*Version as of 4/19/2014*

To achieve dissertator status, the student must successfully complete necessary coursework, the qualifying exams and dissertation proposal defense. This document outlines the procedure for qualifying examinations, which are composed of a general qualifying examination and a specific qualifying examination. Typically, students will complete these qualifying exams prior to defending their dissertation proposal. The purpose of the general qualifying examination is to evaluate the student's general knowledge of the people-and-environment subfield – knowledge which serves as a common intellectual foundation for research and for future teaching at the introductory-to-intermediate undergraduate level. The specific qualifying examination evaluates two topics that are more narrowly focused on the student's dissertation research.

#### General Qualifying Exam

The general qualifying exam is composed of three questions related to three reading lists on important areas of people-and-environment geography scholarship. The student in consultation with his/her major advisor will choose three people-and-environment areas for the general qualifying exam – matching each of these with a member of the Geography faculty to form an examination committee of three. There are eight pre-approved areas:

Ecosystems and conservation	Environmental history
Environment and development	Environmental justice
Environment and political economy	Land-change science
Environmental governance	Political ecology

For each of these areas, a core body of readings has been identified. All lists in these areas must include the core readings plus additional readings jointly agreed upon by the student and the examiner. In some cases, an advisor and student may agree that other general areas of interest in people-and-environment geography or other areas of geography not captured among the pre-approved areas should be included in the student's general qualifying exam. Most commonly these cases will involve including general areas of geographical scholarship within Human, Earth Systems, and Cart/GIS. Only one area from outside people-and-environment geography is permitted.

We suggest that reading lists should be drafted and finalized at least 6 and 3 months respectively prior to the general qualifying exam; ideally, students and their examiners should try to have draft lists prepared by the end of the student's first year in PhD program, and largely finalized by early the following fall semester. The length of these lists will range from 40-60 articles and books. Once finalized, copies of the reading lists should be circulated among all examiners and the director of the graduate program. General qualifying examinations will occur within a two-week period, with 12 hours allotted to each of the three

questions associated with the three reading lists. The student is allowed to consult any materials during the examination period.

Within a month (preferably two weeks) of the student's completion of the written portion of the general qualifying exam, the student will meet with the faculty on his/her examining committee for the oral portion of the exam of up to 2 hours in length. During the oral portion of the exam, faculty will provide feedback and request clarifications of the student's written exam.

Two outcomes are possible after the general qualifying exam: pass or fail. If the examining committee finds that one or more of the three responses is of "pass" quality but would benefit from further elaboration (even after the oral portion of the exam), the committee may seek clarification by requiring the student to write an "addendum" to his/her question typically completed within two weeks of the oral portion of the exam. The addendum does not meet the expectations of the full examining committee, the committee can fail the student at this time. Those students who fail the exam have the opportunity to take the exam once again within ninety days of the original exam. If failing the second exam, the student will not be allowed to continue in the Ph.D. program.

### Specific Qualifying Exam

The form of the specific qualifying exam varies according to the major advisor's evaluation of what would best serve his/her student's intellectual development, especially in preparing for dissertation research. The specific preliminary exam has two parts. Most traditionally, the two parts involve two questions with each tied to a reading list. Students have been given anywhere from eight hours to a couple of weeks for writing responses to the two questions; again, what governs such choices is the advisor's judgment of what will be maximally beneficial for the particular student in preparing for the dissertation. As with the general preliminary exam, the two possible outcomes are pass or fail.

## **Human Geography**

### **Human Geography Qualifying Examination Guidelines**

(February 2014)

The Human Geography Preliminary Examination process proceeds by the 'rule of threes': the candidate works with three committee members to produce three reading lists, from which will be drawn three exam questions, each of which the candidate will have three days to answer. Within two weeks of completing the exam, the candidate will meet with the committee for an oral defense, and then again, finally, for a dissertation proposal defense.

Preliminary Exams provide an opportunity for exploration and interrogation of (i) the range of approaches, philosophical positions, debates, and substantive concerns in contemporary human geography, (ii) the historical development of a core body of texts, key concepts, approaches, and frameworks in human geography, and their subsequent contestation, and (iii) the historical and/or critical development of the areas of specialization that will be foundational for the candidate's future research. Candidates are assessed on their ability to identify, assess, and adjudicate between key moments in relevant debates within the topic.

The general qualifying examination evaluates the student's general knowledge of Human Geography – knowledge which serves as a common intellectual foundation for research and for future teaching and advising in undergraduate and graduate programs.

The specific qualifying examination evaluates two topics that are more narrowly focused on the student's prospective dissertation topic.

#### **A. Preliminary Examination**

Candidates will work with their Prelim Committee to develop one general and two specific reading lists. The committee will set the questions and assess the papers. Lists should take no more than a semester to progress from initial compilation to final approval; candidates and committees can expect their lengths to vary. Human Geography provides several 'starter' texts for lists in different areas of specialism (see below). These are based upon typical areas of interest. However, candidates and committees may also opt to construct lists grounded in other areas of specialism.

For the General portion of the exam, candidates develop one reading list that reflects a broad, generalist appreciation of the range of different philosophical, theoretical, and methodological approaches that constitute human geography, together with an understanding of the debates and currents that have shaped the course of its development. In this sense, the immediate empirical and substantive content of the readings is less important than, first, the distinctive approaches to human geography that they each exemplify, and second, the more general ways that they have contributed to the development of theory and practice in the field.

The candidate also should work closely with key committee members who have expertise in the relevant areas to develop two specific reading lists that address and substantively cover areas of specialization relating to the candidate's proposed areas of research.

The Human Geography Prelim is an open book examination consisting of one general and two specific questions, three in total. The candidate has 3 days to answer each question, with the examination period for each beginning at the point (preferably first thing in the morning) that the question is presented/mailed to the candidate. The answer is due to the advisor, via email, three days (72 hours) after the question is received. The schedule should generally include two days break (at least) between each question answering session.

*Variations on these arrangements are permissible, but must be approved in advance by the Graduate Studies Committee.*

### **B. Oral Defense**

Within the two-week period immediately following the completion of the exam, the Prelim Committee will hold a 90-minute oral defense with the candidate. This should serve as an opportunity for the committee to elaborate on the responses to the exam. Further, the oral defense is a discussion venue for considering the next steps in the candidate's progress - the dissertation proposal and review paper, both of which might be developed out of the exam answers.

The candidate will receive the Prelim exam grade within one day of the Oral Defense.

In the case of a failed exam, the candidate has a maximum of 90 days from the date of the Oral Defense to submit an appeal to the committee to retake the exam. Retakes are permitted on condition of the agreement of 2/3 of the committee members. The retake will consist of two new questions – one general and one specific, one day each, two days total – followed by a second 90-minute Oral Defense. The Preliminary Exams cannot be taken a third time.

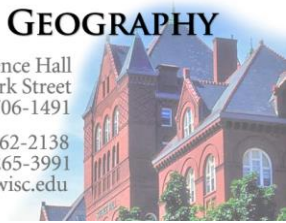
### **C. PhD Dissertation Proposal and Oral Defense**

Following on from the Oral Defense, the candidate should begin preparing a PhD Dissertation proposal that comprehensively outlines the intellectual, substantive, and methodological context for the dissertation research.



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### XXVII. APPENDIX Breadth Requirements

#### Breadth requirement policy

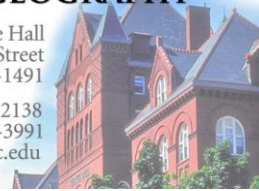
*Students admitted to an MS program with one or two required courses must meet the requirement before the Master's is awarded; students with more than two required courses must complete at least two before the Master's is awarded. All breadth requirements must be completed prior to reaching Ph.D. dissertator status.*

Approved – Geography Fac/Staff meeting 5/14/12



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### XXVIII. APPENDIX TA hiring criteria

#### **Hiring priority/criteria for Geography TA positions:**

When assigning students to Geography TA positions, a variety of factors play a role. Ultimately, these assignments are at the discretion of the Graduate Studies Committee however, the Committee is strongly influenced by the preferences of the faculty member teaching the course and generally follows these priority guidelines:

1. Geography grads with guaranteed contracts
2. Geography grads without current guarantees  
TA applicants in this category are generally ranked based on these criteria, roughly ranked by order of importance
  - a. A student with background and skill in the course material who has demonstrated excellent teaching performance has priority.
  - b. Students who are making satisfactory progress towards their degree goal have priority.
  - c. Current students have priority over incoming students
  - d. Students who have exhausted their funding guarantee recently have priority over those whose funding guarantee was exhausted less recently.
  - e. Ph.D. students have priority over MS students
3. Non-Geography grads who have successfully TA'd for Geography in recent semesters
4. Non-Geography grads who have never TA'd for Geography.

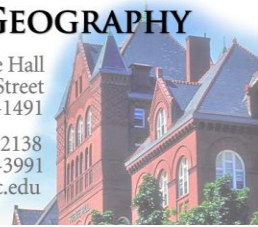
#### Notes:

- In a case with unusual circumstances, these hiring priorities can be overridden by the Graduate Studies Committee.
- The Graduate Studies Committee should consult with the course instructor and resolve any disagreement about a specific assignment prior to finalization of the assignment.
- A tentative roster will be prepared by the Graduate Director and the Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee and presented to the Graduate Studies Committee. Once approved, the Graduate Director will work with the Payroll/Benefits Specialist and the Department Administrator to make offers and formalize TA appointments.



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### XXIX. APPENDIX Graduate Award Information

#### 2024-25 Call for Graduate Award nominations

##### **Trewartha/Odebolt Conference Travel Awards:** **multiple awards ~\$500 each**

**Due September 15/February 15**

Intended to support graduate student conference travel. The travel grant may be used for participation in major conferences in any of the subfields of geography. However, not all conferences are qualified. The Graduate Studies Committee will decide on the qualification of conferences for this travel fund and the amount to be awarded per request depending on the costs of attending the conference and the number of people who have applied.

**Eligibility** Each Master's student may receive conference travel support once during their tenure as Master's student in the department and no more than once each academic year. Each Ph.D. student may receive conference travel support up to 5 times during their tenure as Ph.D. student in the department. Typically, Ph.D. students will receive travel support no more than once each academic year; however, they may receive two awards in the same academic year one time during their tenure as Ph.D. student in the department, preferably toward the end of their Ph.D. career, within the overall limit of 5 awards. Activities that qualify for this travel support are: presentation of paper or poster, serving as a judge at paper competition or a panelist/discussant or as chair of a session at the qualified conferences.

**Application Procedure** Application should be submitted as a single PDF document to Marguerite Roulet ([maroulet@wisc.edu](mailto:maroulet@wisc.edu)) and should include:

- conference name, location, date; title of paper, poster, or session + an abstract as appropriate
- an image representative of your work for use in dept news/PR (Any raster format or PDF, EPS, or AI)
- itemized budget (eg, travel, registration, other)

##### **Whitbeck Graduate Dissertator Awards**

**Due March 15 – 2 awards**

Intended to support dissertators while they are in the final writing stages of the Ph.D.

**Eligibility:** Must be Ph.D. candidates (ABD) in their final year A Ph.D. student may receive Whitbeck Dissertator Award once during their tenure in the department. A maximum of 2 awards of equal amounts will be awarded.

**Application Procedure** Application should be submitted as a single PDF document to Marguerite Roulet ([maroulet@wisc.edu](mailto:maroulet@wisc.edu)) and should include the first three items:

- Curriculum vitae
- Description of dissertation (not to exceed two pages or approximately 1000 words)
- Plan as to how this award will directly facilitate the final write up of the dissertation and completion of the Ph.D. degree
- A supporting letter from the major advisor should be sent separately by the advisor to Marguerite Roulet ([maroulet@wisc.edu](mailto:maroulet@wisc.edu)).

##### **The Leopold Geomorphology Graduate Research Award**

**Due March 15 – 1 award**

Intended to support Ph.D. research work in the area of geomorphology.

**Eligibility** Ph.D. students whose Ph.D. work substantially engages with the field of geomorphology are entitled to this support. A Ph.D. student may receive the Whitbeck Dissertator Award (see above) or the Leopold Geomorphology Graduate research support once during their tenure in the dept.

**Application Procedure** Application should be submitted as a single PDF document to Marguerite Roulet ([maroulet@wisc.edu](mailto:maroulet@wisc.edu)) and should include the first three items:



- Curriculum vitae
- Description of research (not to exceed two pages or approximately 1000 words)
- Plan as to how this award will directly facilitate the research activities and the completion of the Ph.D. degree, including proposed budget
- A supporting letter from the major advisor should be sent separately by the advisor to Marguerite Roulet (maroulet@wisc.edu).

**Trewartha Research Grants**

**Due October 15/March 15**

**awards are typically ~\$600 for MS students and ~\$1000 for Ph.D. students; however, the Graduate Studies Committee will decide on the specific maximum award available per year depending on the availability of funding**

Trewartha Research Grants are intended to defray costs related to thesis and dissertation research, including research travel to study site, purchases of research experiments and materials, and similar costs.

**Eligibility:** A Master's student may receive this support once during their tenure here as a Master's student. Master's students should apply during their first year so that the funds can be used for the summer. Ph.D. students may receive this support once during their tenure here as a Ph.D. student.

**Application Procedure:** Application should be submitted as a single PDF document to Marguerite Roulet ([maroulet@wisc.edu](mailto:maroulet@wisc.edu)) and should include:

- Description of research (not to exceed one page or approximately 500 words)
- Plan as to how this award will directly facilitate the research activities and the completion of the graduate degree
- Proposed itemized budget, including other pending funding sources that could be used for this research

**Olmstead Departmental Award for Outstanding Teaching**

**Due March 15**

**\$100 award**

This award may be given for accomplishment in any aspect of teaching by a graduate student in the department, including:

- mentorship of others teaching in the department
- lecturing or classroom acumen
- conscientious use of pedagogy
- an articulate teaching philosophy
- graduate students nominated by the department for other campus teaching awards.

Nomination letters should include the name of this award and the course(s) in which the individual has taught and should be submitted to Marguerite Roulet (maroulet@wisc.edu).

**Olmstead Award for Outstanding Publication by a Graduate Student**

**Due March 15**

**\$100 award**

Graduate students are encouraged to submit a publication as nomination for this award. Nominations should include a PDF of the publication and a cover letter indicating (a) why the publication (and journal) is significant and of particular merit and (b) the student's specific contribution (especially if there are multiple authors).

Submit materials to Marguerite Roulet (maroulet@wisc.edu).

**Olmstead Award for Outstanding Citizenship**

**Due March 15**

**\$100 award**

This award may be given in appreciation of outstanding participation in departmental activities and culture by a graduate student. Qualifications for nominations may include:

- vision or effort in representing the student body in departmental committees
- active involvement in departmental events, such as Yi-Fu Tuan lectures, the recruitment weekend, and social occasions
- initiative in organizing cultural events and outings related to the department
- furthering geography's contribution to the Wisconsin Idea

Nomination letters should include the name of this award and the nature of the nominee's participation and should be submitted to Marguerite Roulet (maroulet@wisc.edu).

***Barbara Bartz Petchenik Memorial Graduate Award in Cartographic Design    Due early April***

Given to students for excellence in cartography and map design. Open to any geography student who made a map in the past year. Submit map(s) to Prof. Rob Roth.

XXX. APPENDIX Graduate Student departmental involvement

	Graduate student positions (preferred # of reps)	Timing of Duties	Duties (updated Summer 2015)
Executive Committee	<b>Reps to Faculty/Staff Meetings (2)</b>	year-round, ~monthly fac-staff meetings + ~monthly meetings with grad executive committee	Act as liaison between grad students and faculty; Represent grad students at faculty/staff meetings (present grad student consensus when necessary); Disseminate key messages from fac/staff meetings to all grad students; Coordinate next year's committees each spring and in conjunction with executive committee recruit short-term and ad-hoc reps as needed; Work closely with grad reps to Graduate Affairs Committee to stay abreast of all issues of concern to graduate students; with executive committee approve requests in regard to spending of flexible funds line in budget
	<b>Reps to Graduate Studies Committee (2)</b>	year-round, ~biweekly grad affairs committee meetings + ~monthly meetings with grad executive committee	Represent grad students at bi-weekly graduate affairs committee meetings; Contribute to committee work related to strategic issues in planning and making changes to the graduate program including grad/TA awards, grad studies and TA policies and grievances; Work closely with Grad reps to fac/staff meetings to ensure consistency between the two forums as well as consistent communication to all grad students; participate in grad executive committee for coordination and budget planning. Serve as primary contact for Geograds as a Registered Student Organization. Responsible for re-registering Geograds each year and designating a grad student(s) to attend alcohol awareness training.
	<b>Graduate Student Treasurer (1)</b>	year-round, ~monthly meetings with grad executive committee	Responsible for managing Geograds' checking account at the UW Credit Union (track balance, etc.); Point person for handling monetary requests/questions/transactions between the Geograds and the Department; Works with grad executive committee to develop annual budget request to the Department (typically in advance of the start of the fall semester) and allocate flexible funds throughout year; Responsible for annual registration of Geograds with the campus Center for Leadership & Involvement
Additional Members of Planning Committee	<b>Department Community Coordinators (2-3)</b>	3 major planning pushes: end of summer/first week of fall, end of fall semester, and end of spring semester	Coordinate Fall picnic, winter Holiday party, and Spring picnic for the department (set date, reserve park shelter, coordinate food arrangements, publicize). Plan opportunities to engage incoming students with department especially at fall picnic. As necessary, create pairings for one-on-one grad mentoring (i.e. for grads entering labs with few existing advisees). At least one Coordinator should attend the Bucky Step-Up Alcohol Training.
	<b>Reps to Climate Committee (2)</b>	Year-round, probably with monthly meetings	One of the grad reps should be an integral member of WIGs, possibly a coordinator, and ideally one who has been involved in the design and implementation of the department Climate Survey. The committee will discuss general climate issues in the department and plan proactive interventions. The grad reps will participate in editing and running the Climate Survey every 1-2 years and in coordinating the post-survey, department-wide discussion. This committee will not deal with individual grievances.

<b>AAG Coordinators (1-2)</b>	primarily in first part of spring semester	With department staff, help to plan, coordinate, and publicize the Wisconsin Geography party at the annual AAG meeting. Post ride-share information; reach out to participating undergrads; other coordination around AAG as necessary.
<b>Grad Symposium Coordinators (1-2)</b>	one event per year - traditionally in mid-spring though timing is flexible	Plan, coordinate, and publicize the Geography Student Symposium: schedule rooms and necessary equipment, plan lunch or refreshments, recruit graduates and undergraduates to present their research; recruit senior graduate student or alumnus to be keynote speaker (optional)
<b>Women in Geography (WIG) Coordinators (1-2)</b>	year-round, ~ 2-4 events per semester, reps can trade-off semesters if desired	Coordinate WIG meetings, schedule, speakers and sponsored events. Coordinate refreshments as necessary. Announce talks and manage listserve. Reserve Room.
<b>HERD Coordinators (1-2)</b>	year-round, biweekly on average, traditionally Fridays at noon but timing open to negotiation, reps can trade-off semesters if desired	Coordinate schedule, topics, and presenters for Human Environment Research Discussion Group (HERD). Set regular meeting day and time at beginning of semester if other than Friday at noon. Announce talks and manage listserve. Reserve room.
<b>HUGS Coordinators (1-2)</b>	Year-round, monthly meetings, reps can trade-off semesters if desired	Coordinate meetings, topics, presenters and schedules for the Human Geography Interest Group (HUGS). Coordinate refreshments as necessary. Announce talks and manage listserv. Reserve room as necessary.
<b>Co-Lab Coordinators (1-2)</b>	year-round, biweekly to monthly lunch meetings, reps can trade-off semesters if desired	Coordinate schedule and topics for Co-Lab Lunches aiming to foster communication among sub-disciplines of department (former iteration was UNCAGED)
<b>Reps to YFT Speakers Committee (1-2)</b>	year-round, Treacy lecture invitations in November and visit coordination in April, speaker selection over summer, email with coordination with hosting committees every few weeks, reps can trade-off semesters if desired	Participate in committee planning for annual Yi-Fu speaker series; Ensure Geography Graduate Students are officially registered as a campus student group for purposes of sponsoring speakers; Coordinate Treacy Lecture including grad student selection, setting date for talk, hosting the visitor, and arranging graduate student reception or dinner, ensure that the sponsors of each weeks' talk are aware of protocol for breakfasts, receptions, etc. and have designated people to set-up and clean-up and purchase food for reception
<b>Rep to Undergraduate Committee and Geography Club (1-2)</b>	year-round, ~ monthly meetings with undergraduate committee + mentoring or club meetings	Meet with and participate in the Undergraduate Committee; Periodically meet with Geography Undergraduate Club; support their interests, research and activities; Assign grad mentors to grads as desired
<b>Rep to Curriculum Committee (1-2)</b>	year-round, ~ monthly meetings	Meet with curriculum committee; propose changes to the faculty in time for the spring course timetable deadline or TA budget deadline; Represent graduate interests on committee; Report back to graduate community on committee progress
<b>TAA Union Steward (1-2)</b>	year-round, *named by TAA, not Geo-grads,	Encourage incoming and existing grads to become official members of the TAA (all TAs, PAs and RAs are by default part of the TAA bargaining unit and pay union dues); Act as liaison with TAA; answer grads' questions regarding the TA/PA/RA contract; represent Geography grads' concerns to the TAA; Keep Geography grads informed of key TAA business and issues; Actively recruit grads to attend key TAA meetings; Attend TAA Stewards Committee meetings and report key information back to Geography grads

<b>Development &amp; External Relations Committee (1)</b>		See Tanya Buckingham. Note: This volunteer position is distinct from the paid hourly position.
<b>Archivist (1)</b>	Year-round	Maintain organization of the Geograts team drive through UW-Madison G Suite (UW's version of google drive). Duties involve adding new students to the drive at the beginning of each academic year, reminding grad students of the repository, and reminding grads 1-2x/semester to upload resources that may be of use to the grad community. These include non-sensitive documents such as prelims reading lists, successful funding proposals, tips for applying to jobs, fieldwork resources, etc.
<b>Library Rep (1)</b>	year-round	Liaison for grads with Library Committee during closure and renovation of Geography Library space.

XXXI. APPENDIX – Welcome Week events - example

**2018 Geography Department Welcome Week, August 27-August 31, 2018**

	Monday Aug 27	Tuesday Aug 28	Wednesday Aug 29	Thursday Aug 30	Friday Aug 31
9-9:30	9-12:15 Comm B Training -- <b>req new 101 TAs</b> 6191 Helen C. White, 600 N. Park	9-12:15 Comm B Training -- <b>req new 101 TAs</b> 6191 Helen C White, 600 N. Park	ISS Orientation (9-11); Grad Assistant Benefits Seminar (9-10:30)	9am-4:30pm L&S TA Training -- <b>req all NEW GEOG TAS</b> 3650 Mosse Humanities Building	Degree Dash: check-in 7:15am; Doctoral 8:00am; Masters 8:30am <a href="https://grad.wisc.edu/degree-dash/">https://grad.wisc.edu/degree-dash/</a>
9:30-10					
10-10:30					
10:30-11					
11-11:30					
11:30-12					
12-12:30					
12:30-1		12:30pm-2pm Dept Welcome Lunch 110 Science Hall	11am-4:30pm Graduate School Welcome Union South		1pm - 2pm <b>Orientation all new PhD students,</b> including students from MS to PhD Trewartha Rm
1-1:30	1pm-2pm <b>Orientation all new Geography students</b> 110 Science Hall				
1:30-2					
2-2:30	2pm - 3:30pm <b>Orientation all new MS students</b> 110 Science Hall	2pm-3:45pm TA training -- <b>all Geog TAs,</b> <b>including new TAs</b> 350 Science Hall			
2:30-3					
3-3:30					
3:30-4	Technology Assistance with Jay Scholz M376 Science Hall (across from Cart Lab)				
4-4:30					
4:30-5					
5-5:30				Multicultural Graduate Network Welcome Celebration 5:00-7:00PM Gordon Commons	
5:30-6					
6-6:30					
6:30-7					
<b>Graduate Assistant Benefits Seminars</b>			<b>International Students Services - REQUIRED</b>		<b>SPEAK test dates</b>
Mon, Aug 27, 5:30-7pm Grainger, Morgridge Aud			Thurs, Aug 23, 3-5pm, Grainger Hall		Mon Aug 20, 9am
Tues, Aug 28, 2-3:30pm Helen C. White Rm 6191			Mon, Aug 27, 3-5pm, Grainger Hall		Mon Aug 27, 9am
Wed, Aug 29, 9-10:30am Union South			Wed, Aug 29, 9-11am, Union South		Wed Aug 29, 9am
Th, Aug 30, 10-11:30am, 21 N. Park St, Rms 1106/1108					
Th, Aug 30, 2:30-4pm Babcock Hall Rm 205					
Fri, Aug 31, 1:30-3pm 21 N. Park St Rms 1106/1108					

<https://iss.wisc.edu/home/orientation/fall-orientation/> (ISS Orientation – required for international students)

<https://esl.wisc.edu/ita-training/speak/> (Test of Spoken English – international TAs)

<https://www.ohr.wisc.edu/benefits/docs/grad-seminar.pdf> (2018 Benefits Seminar)

<https://grad.wisc.edu/degree-dash/> (Degree-Dash registration information)

XXXII. APPENDIX – Approval Form – Non-UW-Graduate-Faculty Committee Members

**Nomination of committee members who are not members of the UW Graduate Faculty to MS Committees and PhD Dissertation Committees**

*May 2018; Adapted from Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies policy from April 22, 2016*

UW Graduate School regulations permit inclusion of members on M.S. and Ph.D. dissertation committees who are not part of the UW Graduate Faculty. (Please see Graduate School and department guidelines for committee structure requirements.) To document that these persons meet the standards expected of committee members, please provide the following information. The information will be added to the student's academic file.

**Student**

Name and contact information (email):

Advisor's name:

Date of request:

Thesis/dissertation title or very brief (1-2 sentence) description of the topic of the thesis/dissertation:

**Proposed Committee Member**

Name and contact information (email):

Highest academic degree, including institution and field of study:

Current position and title (if multiple, please list all or the one most relevant to service on a graduate committee):

Brief description of the relevance of their expertise with respect to the thesis or dissertation project:

Approved by \_\_\_\_\_ (advisor name) on \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Advisor signature

XXXIII. APPENDIX Degree requirements worksheet

Geography Grad Program Requirements - effective for students entering Fall 2014 and beyond			
	MS-Geog	MS-Cart/GIS (thesis option)	PhD
<b>Min cr</b>	30 cr (16 cr taken as UW-MSN grad)	30 cr (16 cr taken as UW MSN grad)	51 cr (32 cr taken as UW MSN grad)
<b>Maintain GPA</b>	3.0	3.0	3.0
<b>Breadth</b> (typically not seminars)	Phys + Hum + P/E + Cart/GIS one can be doublecounted for coursework	Quant Methods + 2 math courses + 2 int or adv geog courses one can be doublecounted for coursework	Phys + Hum + P/E + Cart/GIS
<b>Coursework requirements</b> (min of 50% must be graduate coursework - see definition below)	Geog 765 (1 cr)	Geog 765 (1 cr)	Geog 765 (1 cr)
	Geog 766 (3 cr)	Geog 766 (3 cr)	2 (3 cr) 900-level Geog seminars with 2 diff faculty
	2 grad courses 300-level and above Both must be Geography One can doublecount for breadth Cannot include seminars	Geog 370 (Intro Cart) (4 cr) Geog 377 (Intro GIS) (4 cr) Geog 378 (Intro Geocomputing) (3 cr) Geog 970 (GIScience Seminar) (3 cr)	Cannot use seminars completed as MS student
	2 (3-cr) Geog seminars with 2 diff faculty Seminars are 900-level	Two courses (6-8 cr) of Geog 572 Geog 573 Geog 574 Geog 575 Geog 576 Geog 578 Geog 579	
<b>Master's thesis</b>	Proposal typically in Geog 766 (2nd semester) Research/data analysis in summer + 3rd sem Final draft submitted/defended in 4th sem +/- summer		N/A
<b>Minor</b>	N/A	any coursework completed as a UW Madison grad student can be used Opt A - 9 cr in one, non-Geog dept Opt B (Dist) - 9 cr in 2+ non-Geog depts	
<b>Skills</b>	N/A	(4 options) - any coursework completed as a graduate student can be used *Competence in non-Eng lang *Quant skills (6 cr of int or adv courses) *Qual skills (6 cr of int or adv courses) *Quant + Qual (6 cr of int or adv courses)	
<b>Preliminary or Qualifying Exams</b> (completion advances student to "Dissertator" status)	N/A	General exam Covers one of the breadth areas Specific exam Divided and graded by individual's committee Dissertation proposal Proposal must be orally defended before a thesis committee	
<b>Dissertation</b>	N/A	Follow Grad School formatting requirements Must be orally defended	
<b>Advisor</b>	Your Advisor, who is also the chair (or co-chair) of your Committee, must be graduate faculty in Geography (or affiliated with Geog).		
<b>Committee</b>	Committee must have a min of 3 members 2 must be grad faculty (or former grad faculty up to 1 year after resignation/retirement) 2 must be Geography faculty / affiliated with the Geography Department The third member may be a qualified individual from within or outside UW-Madison Inclusion of non UW Madison graduate faculty members must be approved by the Advisor.	Committee must have a min of 4 members, all of whom are readers Committee must have members from at least 2 UW-Madison graduate programs. 3 members must be grad faculty (or former faculty up to 1 year after resignation/retirement) At least 2 members must be Geography faculty or affiliated with Geography Students can add a 5th committee member who can serve as 'non-reader.' Inclusion of non UW Madison graduate faculty members must be approved by the Advisor.	
<b>Public Talk</b>	15-20 minute public talk required Should be within a month of final defense Must be in venue open to all members of the department	30-40 minute public talk required Should be within a month of final defense Must be in a venue open to all members of the department	
<b>Graduate Course Work definition</b>	Graduate course work can include UW Madison courses (including but not limited to online, thesis/research, independent study, and practicum/internship credits) that satisfy one of the following guidelines: *numbered 700 and above; OR *numbered 300-699 that are specifically designated for graduate students in a graduate program; OR *numbered 300-699 that hold graduate students to higher standards of learning than undergraduate students in the same course		
<b>Prior Course work</b>	With approval, students can count up to 6 credits of grad course work from other institutions	With approval, students can count up to 9 credits of grad course work from other institutions.	