

# APPLIED GEOGRAPHY, M.A.

*This program is being discontinued pending SACSCOC approval and is not accepting applications for admission. The University is still authorized to offer the program and issue the associated credential for students who are currently enrolled in the program.*

The M.A. in Applied Geography offers three options: a thesis option or an internship option requiring a minimum of 34 credit hours, including a maximum of 6 credits dedicated to thesis or internship work, and a portfolio option requiring a minimum of 37 credits plus completion of a significant project. The two non-thesis options result in a terminal degree.

The program leads to the acquisition of research skills and expertise appropriate to geographic analysis in a range of related fields including: business site selection, environmental assessment, geographic techniques such as cartography, geographic information systems and remote sensing, transportation planning, as well as urban and regional development. Emphasis is placed in application of theoretical constructs in geography to solve real world problems at a variety of scales from the Triad and state to national and global issues.

For information regarding deadlines and requirements for admission, please see <https://grs.uncg.edu/programs/>.

In addition to the application materials required by the Graduate School, applicants must submit a 250-500 word personal statement concerning their interest in geography.

## Degree Program Requirements

**Required:** 34-37 credit hours

### Thesis Option

**Required:** 34 credit hours

| Code                                     | Title                        | Credit Hours |
|--|------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Required Core Courses (4 credits)</b> |                              |              |
| GES 601                                  | Research Trends in Geography | 1            |
| GES 620                                  | Spatial Analysis             | 3            |
| <b>Electives (24-33 credits)</b>         |                              |              |
| Select 24-33 credits *                   |                              | 24-33        |
| <b>Research Courses (3-6 credits)**</b>  |                              |              |
| GES 699                                  | Thesis                       | 3-6          |
| <b>Total Credit Hours</b>                |                              | <b>34</b>    |

\* *The student, in consultation with the advisor, will determine the appropriate courses to be taken in that individual's program, including any cognate courses.*

\*\* *Research courses comprise Capstone Experience.*

### Internship Research Option

**Required:** 34 credit hours

| Code                                     | Title                        | Credit Hours |
|--|------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Required Core Courses (4 credits)</b> |                              |              |
| GES 601                                  | Research Trends in Geography | 1            |
| GES 620                                  | Spatial Analysis             | 3            |

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>Electives (24-33 credits)</b>        |            |
| Select 24-33 credits *                  | 24-33      |
| <b>Research Courses (3-6 credits)**</b> |            |
| GES 695                                 | Internship |
| <b>Total Credit Hours</b>               |            |
| <b>34</b>                               |            |

\* *The student, in consultation with the advisor, will determine the appropriate courses to be taken in that individual's program, including any cognate courses.*

\*\* *Research courses comprise Capstone Experience.*

## Non-Thesis/Professional Portfolio Option

**Required:** 37 credit hours

| Code                                     | Title                        | Credit Hours |
|--|------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Required Core Courses (4 credits)</b> |                              |              |
| GES 601                                  | Research Trends in Geography | 1            |
| GES 620                                  | Spatial Analysis             | 3            |
| <b>Electives (24-33 credits)</b>         |                              |              |
| Select 24-33 credits *                   |                              | 24-33        |
| <b>Research Courses (3-6 credits)**</b>  |                              |              |
| GES 695                                  | Internship                   | 3-6          |
| or GES 699                               | Thesis                       |              |
| <b>Total Credit Hours</b>                |                              | <b>37</b>    |

\* *The student, in consultation with the advisor, will determine the appropriate courses to be taken in that individual's program, including any cognate courses.*

\*\* *Research courses comprise Capstone Experience.*

## Formal Review

- Approval of master's plan of study
- Assessment of academic performance, which will be determined by the approval of thesis, internship, or professional portfolio proposal
- Final thesis defense, internship presentation, or completion of portfolio

Details concerning specific core requirements, plans of study, theses, internships, and competency portfolios can be obtained from the Graduate Program Director.

## Geosciences Education for Teachers Concentration

**Required:** 38 credit hours

The Geosciences Education for Teachers concentration is directed towards students and educators interested in expanding their expertise in teaching geosciences. Completing the Master of Arts in Applied Geography with this concentration requires students to combine the core requirements of the M.A. degree with courses emphasizing the knowledge and skills needed to teach geosciences at the middle grades, secondary grades, and community college levels. The required core courses, formal reviews and examinations are the same as for the M.A. in Applied Geography, non-thesis, course work option with a competency portfolio. Within this framework, students will complete 38 credit hours by taking the required courses specified below. Note that GES 650 Applied Physical Geography and GES 651 Seminar in Regional Geography will be field course experiences for the concentration and students will

present their portfolios as part of GES 650 and GES 651. (Students' competency portfolios will be comprised of self-selected geosciences instructional modules designed while students were enrolled in GES 607 Earth Science for Educators, GES 608 Weather and Climate for Educators, GES 609 Hydrology for Educators, GES 610 Physical Geology for Educators, and GES 611 Natural Hazards and Society for Educators.

| Code                                      | Title                                     | Credit Hours |
|---|---|--------------|
| <b>Required Core Courses (38 credits)</b> |   |              |
| GES 601                                   | Research Trends in Geography              | 1            |
| GES 607                                   | Earth Science for Educators               | 5            |
| GES 608                                   | Weather and Climate for Educators         | 5            |
| GES 609                                   | Hydrology for Educators                   | 5            |
| GES 610                                   | Physical Geology for Educators            | 5            |
| GES 611                                   | Natural Hazards and Society for Educators | 5            |
| GES 620                                   | Spatial Analysis                          | 3            |
| GES 641                                   | Earth Surface Processes and Landforms     | 3            |
| GES 650                                   | Applied Physical Geography                | 3            |
| GES 651                                   | Seminar in Regional Geography             | 3            |
| <b>Total Credit Hours</b>                 |   | <b>38</b>    |

## Sustainability Concentration

**Required:** 34 credit hours

The Sustainability concentration in the M.A. in Applied Geography is directed towards students who have an interest in connecting approaches to addressing coupled human environmental problems in the context of broader studies in geography. Students completing this concentration will combine the core requirements of the M.A. in Applied Geography with departmental courses emphasizing interdisciplinary approaches to social and environmental challenges alongside classes from outside the department (chosen in consultation with the advisor). The concentration provides foundational and advanced knowledge and skills necessary for sustainability-related careers in a variety of sectors. The core seminar, GES 662 Sustainability, offers a translational experience around the unique definition of sustainability at UNC Greensboro, where academics, operations, and outreach are conducted with careful attention to the enduring interconnectedness of social equity, environment, economy, and aesthetics.

| Code   | Title  | Credit Hours |
|--|--|--------------|
| <b>Required Courses (10 credits)</b>                 |  |              |
| GES 601  | Research Trends in Geography                                 | 1            |
| GES 620  | Spatial Analysis   | 3            |
| GES 699  | Thesis   | 6            |
| <b>Sustainability Concentration Core (3 credits)</b> |  |              |
| GES 662  | Sustainability   | 3            |
| <b>Sustainability-Focused Electives (12 credits)</b> |  |              |
| Select 12 credits from the following:                |  | 12           |
| GES 602  | Sustainable Urban Planning in an Entrepreneurial Environment |              |
| GES 603  | Understanding Geographic Information Systems                 |              |
| GES 605  | Sustainable Regional Planning                                |              |
| GES 606  | Environmental Planning                                       |              |
| GES 612  | Natural Resource Geography                                   |              |

|   |   |           |
|---|---|-----------|
| GES 615                                     | National Parks and Protected Areas                |           |
| GES 618                                     | Biogeography                                      |           |
| GES 619                                     | Advanced Weather and Climate-Synoptic Climatology |           |
| GES 631                                     | Sustainable Transportation Planning               |           |
| GES 632                                     | Geography of Livable Cities                       |           |
| GES 641                                     | Earth Surface Processes and Landforms             |           |
| GES 664                                     | Environment                                       |           |
| <b>Sustainability Electives (9 credits)</b> |   |           |
| Select 9 credits from the following: *      |   | 9         |
| GES 660                                     | Sustainable Campus Operations                     |           |
| GES 682                                     | Topics in Ethics and Aesthetics                   |           |
| GES 684                                     | Topics in Development and Economics               |           |
| GES 686                                     | Topics in Equity and Society                      |           |
| GES 688                                     | Topics in Environmental Sciences                  |           |
| <b>Total Credit Hours</b>                   |   | <b>34</b> |

\* Up to 9 credits of courses from outside the Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability may be chosen in consultation with the adviser (these could include courses from Anthropology, Biology, Communication Studies, Community and Therapeutic Recreation, Economics, Education, Interior Architecture, Business, Sociology, or others).

## Urban Planning and Economic Development Concentration

**Required:** 15 credit hours (for the concentration)

The Urban Planning and Economic Development concentration is directed towards students who have an interest in preserving and enhancing the quality-of-life of urban areas and dealing effectively with growth and development issues. Students completing this concentration will combine the core requirements of the M.A. degree in Applied Geography with courses emphasizing the knowledge and skills required to provide effective leadership in urban and economic development for metropolitan areas. The required core courses, electives, research courses, collateral expertise, and formal reviews and examinations are the same as for the M.A. degree in applied geography. Within this framework, the following 15 credits must be completed:

| Code  | Title  | Credit Hours |
|---|--|--------------|
| <b>Required Core Courses (12 credits)</b>         |  |              |
| GES 602   | Sustainable Urban Planning in an Entrepreneurial Environment | 3            |
| GES 605   | Sustainable Regional Planning                                | 3            |
| GES 631   | Sustainable Transportation Planning                          | 3            |
| GES 632   | Geography of Livable Cities                                  | 3            |
| <b>Elective Courses (3 credits)</b>               |  |              |
| Select one course (3 credits) from the following: |  | 3            |
| GES 622   | GIS Applications in Urban Planning                           |              |
| GES 633   | Regional Economic Development                                |              |
| PSC 620   | Urban and Regional Development Policy                        |              |
| PSC 630   | Community and Economic Development Theory and Practice       |              |
| <b>Total Credit Hours</b>                         |  | <b>15</b>    |

# Accelerated B.A. to M.A. in Applied Geography

## Application and Admission

Qualified UNC Greensboro undergraduate students who are pursuing the B.A. in Geography may apply for admission to the Accelerated Master's Program (AMP). A cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.5 based on at least 30 credits earned at UNC Greensboro is required. Applicants must have completed at least 60 credits and may not apply for admission to the AMP before the first semester of the junior year. Applicants will not be required to take the GRE. All applicants must complete the Accelerated Master's Program information along with their application for admission to the graduate degree program.

## Courses

Admitted students may apply a maximum of 12 credits of graduate-level course work from the following course list toward completion of both the undergraduate and graduate degree, provided they earn a grade of B (3.0) or better in each course and fulfill graduate-level requirements:

| Code    | Title  | Credit Hours |
|---------|--|--------------|
| GES 602 | Sustainable Urban Planning in an Entrepreneurial Environment | 3            |
| GES 604 | Political Geography  | 3            |
| GES 618 | Biogeography   | 3            |
| GES 619 | Advanced Weather and Climate-Synoptic Climatology            | 3            |
| GES 632 | Geography of Livable Cities                                  | 3            |
| GES 650 | Applied Physical Geography                                   | 3            |
| GES 651 | Seminar in Regional Geography                                | 3            |
| GES 657 | Advanced Cartography   | 3            |
| GES 659 | Advanced Remote Sensing-Imaging                              | 3            |

Please consult with an advisor to determine how the courses taken at the graduate level will meet requirements in the bachelor's degree program. All degree requirements for the B.A. and M.A. degree in Geography remain the same.