The Ph.D. in Geography is an innovative program centered on the research-oriented application of geographical concepts and theories to the solving of real-world problems. The program requires 45-54 credit hours.

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.

**Degree Program Requirements**

**Required: 45-54 credit hours**

At least 27 of the 33 credits in required core and cluster courses (excluding dissertation) must be at the 600 level or higher. Up to 9 credits of course work may be transferred from another institution on approval of the department.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GES 701</td>
<td>History of Geographic Thought</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GES 702</td>
<td>Research Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GES 720</td>
<td>Advanced Spatial Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courses Required from Geography Clusters (24 credits)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select 24 credits from courses in the three geography clusters in the program</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation (12-21 credits)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GES 799</td>
<td>Doctoral Dissertation Research</td>
<td>12-21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Credit Hours** 45-54

*These three clusters are:*

- Geographic Information Sciences
- Human Geography
- Physical Geography

Students are required to complete two courses in each of the three clusters and an additional two courses related to the dissertation research cluster.

**Required Milestones***

- Diagnostic Exam
- Residency (Immersion)
- Plan of Study
- Research Competency
- Comprehensive Exam (Written & Oral)
- Dissertation Proposal
- Admission to Candidacy
- Dissertation Defense
- Filing the Final Approved Dissertation

*General information about milestones for doctoral programs is available in Section III (https://catalog.uncg.edu/academic-regulations-policies/graduate-policies/) page in the University Catalog. For information about how milestones are accomplished for a specific program, please refer to the doctoral program's handbook.*