

Degree Requirements, Geography

Graduate handbook information is updated and maintained by each program. Graduate handbooks are available within each program's office and online at <https://utexas.box.com/v/UTAustinGraduateHandbooks>. Please contact the program with concerns or questions.

Master of Arts

Students typically earn the Master of Arts in the course of work leading to a doctoral degree, rather than as an end in itself. The department does not admit students solely for a master's degree.

To obtain a master's degree in geography, students must complete either 30 semester hours of coursework, including 18 hours of geography, six hours in a minor subject, and 6 hours in the thesis course; or 36 semester hours of coursework, including 27 hours of geography, 6 hours in a minor subject, and 3 hours in the report course. Students who wish to substitute courses in another field for geography courses must demonstrate that these substitutions are appropriate to their program of study and must have the consent of the graduate adviser and the supervising professor for the courses substituted. First-year master's degree students must complete Geography 390K in the fall semester and Geography 390L in the spring semester, with a grade of at least *B* in each course. All students must also demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language or in a quantitative or qualitative method. The student's supervising committee and the graduate adviser oversee fulfillment of this requirement.

Each student must enroll in at least two organized courses in geography during their time in the graduate program. These courses must be taught by different full-time faculty members within the department, as approved by the graduate adviser. Geography 390K, 390L, 397, and 398T may not be counted toward this requirement. Geography 397, *Conference Course in Geography*, may be counted only once toward the degree. By the middle of the second semester, the student should have chosen a supervising committee.

When all course requirements and the language or methods requirement have been fulfilled, the student completes the degree by presenting independent research in the form of a thesis or report.

Doctor of Philosophy

All students undertaking doctoral study must hold a Master of Arts degree or the equivalent.

To qualify for advancement to candidacy, a student must do the following:

- a. Complete, with a grade of at least *B*, two required seminars, Geography 390K and 390L, in the first year of study. All doctoral students must also take three courses taught by different full-time faculty members within the department, as approved by the graduate adviser. Geography 390K, 390L, 397, and 398T may not be counted toward this requirement. Doctoral students may repeat Geography 397, *Conference Course in Geography*, but this course may be counted only twice toward the degree.
- b. Select a faculty supervisor and dissertation committee by the end of the second semester; the student may later change supervisors and alter the committee if appropriate.

- c. Fulfill the language requirement by demonstrating proficiency in one language other than English. Second language English speakers may fulfill the requirement by demonstrating proficiency in English. Proficiency must be approved by the student's dissertation supervisor and the graduate adviser.
- d. Fulfill the methods requirement by demonstrating proficiency in either a quantitative or a qualitative method, as approved by the student's dissertation supervisor and the graduate adviser.
- e. Present a Program of Work, indicated courses taken, that meets the approval of the dissertation supervisor.
- f. Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge in two areas of specialization in geography.
- g. Pass a qualifying examination.
- h. Present a proposal of the dissertation project for feedback and final approval by the dissertation committee.

After admission to candidacy, a student has completed the formal program of coursework and engages in the research and writing of the dissertation, culminating in an oral defense of the dissertation.

Dual Degree Program

The Department of Geography and the Environment offers the following dual degree program in cooperation with another division of the University. More information is available from the graduate advisor in each program.

Major(s)	Degree(s)
Community and regional planning	Master of Science