

JOINT DEGREE PROGRAM  
LEADING TO THE  
MASTER OF URBAN PLANNING  
AND  
MASTER OF ARTS IN GEOGRAPHY  
DEGREE



## **JOINT DEGREE PROGRAM LEADING TO THE MASTER OF URBAN PLANNING AND MASTER OF ARTS IN GEOGRAPHY DEGREE**

### **PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

Urban Planning and Geography have a long history of interaction and connection. Responsible planning in urban communities requires an understanding of the human and physical geographies of these communities, and contemporary planning practice demands familiarity with advanced geographic techniques and information systems. Conversely, expertise in geography – and particularly concentration in urban geography – may require an understanding of and competence to deal with the planning dynamics of urban communities.

The objective of this program is to meet the needs of both Urban Planning and Geography for interdisciplinary knowledge by offering a dual degree program for the graduate student who intends to engage professionally in both planning and geography. The program combines in three years the normal two-year Master of Urban Planning (48 credit hours) offered by the School of Architecture, Design, and Planning and the normal two-year Master of Arts (MA) degree in Geography (30 credit hours) offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

### **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

To be admitted to the combined MUP/MA program, a student must meet the admission requirements for both degree programs and should submit a separate application to each program. It is preferable that a student be admitted to both programs prior to beginning their graduate work. If a student decides to enter the combined program after the completion of his or her second semester in either the Graduate Program in Urban Planning or the regular MA program in Geography, he or she should discuss those plans with both programs as soon as possible.

Both programs require the following application items:

1. A completed application form.
2. A statement of the applicant's career goals and substantive interests in urban planning and/or geography and rationale for undertaking graduate study at the University of Kansas.
3. One copy of official transcripts from all colleges or universities attended.
4. Three letters of recommendation from persons qualified to comment on the applicant's academic abilities and probable success in graduate study.
5. Scores from the Graduate Record Examination (see further information below).
6. TOEFL scores, if the student's native language is not English.
7. Payment of the current application fee.
8. Financial statement for international students (In 2013, it is necessary to have a minimum of US\$25,000 for Kansas residents, or \$35,000 for non-residents, per school year to cover the cost of your studies).

Application forms are submitted on-line. To apply on-line go to [www.graduate.ku.edu](http://www.graduate.ku.edu).

*Urban Planning Applications:*

Persons whose previous records indicate ability to succeed with advanced work may be admitted to the Graduate School through the Graduate Program in Urban Planning. Ordinarily, admission requires a bachelor's degree and a grade-point average of approximately B (3.0 on a 4 point scale) from the University of Kansas or another institution with substantially equivalent requirements for the bachelor's degree. Admissions decisions are based on the information supplied in the application materials. The GRE is required of all applicants. For further information about the program, please contact:

Dr. Stacey White, Chair  
Graduate Program in Urban Planning  
School of Architecture and Urban Design  
The University of Kansas  
1465 Jayhawk Blvd., Room 317  
Lawrence, KS 66045  
[sswhite@ku.edu](mailto:sswhite@ku.edu)

*Geography Applications:*

Admission to the Geography graduate program is based primarily on the applicant's undergraduate and/or graduate record, letters of references from persons familiar with the applicant's work, GRE scores (required), and a statement of academic objectives prepared by the applicant. As with the Urban Planning program, admission into the Geography program requires a bachelor's degree and a grade-point average of approximately B (3.0 on a 4 point scale) from the University of Kansas or another institution with substantially equivalent requirements for the bachelor's degree.

One of the most important facets of graduate study is the relationship between the graduate student and the faculty advisor/mentor. Because of this, we recommend that you review the research programs of our faculty members to identify an individual whose teaching and research matches or complements your interests. We also strongly encourage and welcome you to contact and correspond with potential advisors prior to and during the application process. Questions concerning the Geography program or the application procedure should be directed to:

Dr. Nathaniel Brunsell  
Graduate Advisor  
Department of Geography  
The University of Kansas  
Lawrence, KS 66045-7613  
Phone: 785-864-2021  
Fax: 785-864-5378  
[brunsell@ku.edu](mailto:brunsell@ku.edu)

Information concerning application deadlines, course requirements and descriptions, faculty, and so on is available on the Urban Planning and Geography web sites. The Urban Planning Chairperson and the Geography Director of Graduate Studies are also available to provide further assistance to applicants.

## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

A.		<u>For MUP</u>	<u>For Geography MA</u>	<u>Total</u>
	Total combined program			
	Required courses for combined degree	21 cr	7 cr	28 cr
	Concentration, electives & thesis			
	Courses for combined program	<u>18 cr</u>	<u>15 cr</u>	<u>33 cr</u>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39 cr</b>	<b>22 cr</b>	<b>61 cr</b>

### B. Urban Planning Courses Required of all Joint Degree Candidates

#### Required Courses:

UBPL 705 – Economic Analysis for Planners	3 credits
UBPL 736 – Planning Institutions	3 credits
UBPL 741 – Quantitative Methods I	3 credits
UBPL 742 – Quantitative Methods II	3 credits
UBPL 763 – Professional Practice	3 credits
UBPL 815 – History and Theory of the Planning Process	3 credits
UBPL 850 – Urban and Regional Theory	<u>3 credits</u>
	<b>21 credits</b>
Specialization Courses in Urban Planning:	12 credits
Elective Courses in Urban Planning:	6 credits
<b>TOTAL URBAN PLANNING COURSE WORK:</b>	<b>39 credits</b>

### C. Geography Courses Required of All Combined Degree Candidates

#### Required Courses:

GEOG 805 – Perspectives in Geography	2 credits
Two-day (non-credit) orientation before classes begin in the fall semester	
GEOG 980 (Seminar in Geography: Colloquium) for 1 credit hour during each of the first 2 semesters of residence at KU	2 credits
One Techniques course	3 credits
One Human Geography course	3 credits
One Physical Geography course	3 credits
Elective courses in Geography	3 credits
<u>Thesis Hours:</u>	
GEOG 899 – Master’s Thesis	6 credits
<i>The Chair of the Master’s thesis committee must come from the Department of Geography. At least one thesis committee member must come from the Urban Planning program.</i>	
<b>TOTAL GEOGRAPHY COURSE WORK</b>	<b>22 credits</b>

Students will choose Techniques courses from among the following:

GEOG 513 – Cartographic Design  
GEOG 514 – Visualizing Spatial Data  
GEOG 517 – Data Handling and Map Symbolization  
GEOG 526 – Remote Sensing of Environment I  
GEOG 558 – Intermediate GIS  
GEOG 716 – Advanced Geostatistics  
GEOG 726 – Remote Sensing of Environment II  
GEOG 758 – Geographic Information Science  
GEOG 858 – Environmental GIS  
GEOG 911 – Seminar in Cartography  
GEOG 912 – Seminar in Quantitative Methods  
GEOG 926 – Seminar in Remote Sensing

*Other Geography courses at the 500-level or above may be used to fulfill requirements in this category on the basis of petition.*

Students will choose Human Geography courses from among the following:

GEOG 552/752– Topics in Urban/Economic Geography  
GEOG 556 – Geography of the Energy Crisis  
GEOG 557 – Cities and Development  
GEOG 571/771 – Topics in Cultural Geography  
GEOG 572/772 – Political Geography  
GEOG 575 – Geography of Population  
GEOG 670 – Cultural Ecology  
GEOG 719 – Development of Geographic Thought  
GEOG 970 – Seminar in Cultural Geography  
GEOG 972 – Seminar in Political Geography

*Other Geography courses at the 500-level or above may be used to fulfill requirements in this category on the basis of petition.*

Students will choose Physical Geography courses from among the following:

ATMO 525 – Air Pollution  
GEOG 521 – Microclimatology  
GEOG 531 – Topics in Physical Geography  
GEOG 535 - Soil Geography  
GEOG 541 - Geomorphology  
GEOG 731 – Topics in Physical Geography  
GEOG 733 – Advanced Biogeography Field and Laboratory Techniques  
GEOG 735 – Soil Geomorphology  
GEOG 935 – Seminar in Soil Geography

*Other Geography courses at the 500-level or above may be used to fulfill requirements in this category on the basis of petition.*

## **SUMMARY**

Individually, the Master of Arts (MA) degree in Geography (30 credit hours) and Master of Urban Planning degree (48 credit hours) require 78 credit hours to complete. Typically, this

process takes four years. The joint degree program reduces 17 credit hours from this arrangement and allows a student to complete both degrees in three years. Nine credit hours have been reduced from the Urban Planning degree and eight from the Geography degree under this proposal, a comparable reduction on each side. It should be noted that Urban Planning accreditation requirements (as established by the Planning Accreditation Board) dictate a minimum of 39 hours of Urban Planning coursework for master's students; in other words, the Urban Planning Program must maintain at least 39 hours in any joint degree in order to maintain its status as an accredited professional program.

**M.A. Program and Coursework.** The program at the M.A. level continues the general training of the bachelor's degree, but also provides for the development of some concentration in preparation for employment or further study. Upon a student's admission to the department, the Graduate Studies Committee will appoint an advisor. Early in the first semester (preferably in the first week of classes), the student should meet with this advisor to outline a tentative program of coursework for the degree. Such programs should be solidified by the time of enrollment for the second semester and submitted to the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) for approval. The student and advisor then continue to discuss and update programs each semester, bearing in mind that any substantive changes must be approved by the GSC. Program sheets are available in the department office and must be filed before the comprehensive oral examination can be scheduled. All candidates must pass a proposal defense (after a substantial portion of the coursework is complete) and then submit and successfully defend a thesis in a final oral defense.

**The M.A. Committee.** The Chair of the Master's thesis committee must come from the Department of geography. At least one thesis committee member must come from the Urban Planning program. The third member of the committee must be a member of the Geography faculty. All committee members must be approved by the GSC. Additional committee members beyond the minimum of three may be appointed to the M.A. committee if desired and if approved by the GSC. Members of the M.A. committee conduct the proposal defense, read the thesis, and conduct the final thesis defense.

**Proposal Defense.** Each M.A. student will undergo a proposal defense with members of his or her M.A. committee to demonstrate that he or she is prepared to conduct research that will result in a satisfactory thesis. This examination should take place after a substantial portion of the coursework is complete and after at least one full draft of the proposal has been submitted to the advisor for review. The proposal defense may address all components of the proposal, including the problem statement, the literature review, and, particularly, the methods of research and analysis to be applied.

At the conclusion of the proposal defense, the committee awards an evaluation of either Satisfactory or Needs Revision. In cases where the committee determines that the proposal needs to be revised, the student is provided specific criticisms that need to be addressed. Once the criticisms have been addressed, the proposal is circulated to the advisor and then to the committee members. There is no need for the committee to formally meet again unless the advisor deems it necessary. Once the proposal is determined to be satisfactory by all committee members, the advisor forwards the decision to the Graduate Studies Committee.

**M.A. Final Examination.** A final general examination in geography is required of all M.A. students. This examination, a defense of the thesis, is normally held during the semester of the student's final enrollment in course work but cannot occur until the entire thesis has been completed and has received approval from the advisor. The examination should be scheduled for a two-hour time slot, and in no case is it to extend beyond three hours. This final examination is separate from, and should not be confused with, the proposal defense, which is held earlier in the program when the proposal is complete and the student is ready to begin research.

### **Other M.A. Procedures.**

**Continuous Enrollment.** All master's students who have completed required coursework for their degrees are required to be continuously enrolled until all requirements for the degree are completed. No enrollment is necessary for the summer term unless the degree will be completed at that time. The Graduate School has established a maximum time limit of seven years between initial graduate enrollment and completion of all degree requirements.

**Submission of Thesis.** When the thesis has been completed, a thesis defense is scheduled. The student must submit a list of committee members, the proposed date and time, and the thesis title three weeks prior to the scheduled defense. After a successful defense, both electronic and hardbound copies need to be prepared. Both should include an abstract of no more than 150 words. A hardbound copy (8 ½" x 11") with original signatures by the advisor and the other two committee members is required for the department. The KU Libraries recommend the following binders that can bind paper copies of your thesis and additionally offer print-from-electronic file services: 1) Heckman Bindery (<http://www.thisisondemand.com/>) or 2) Acme Bookbinding (<http://www.acmebook.com/bindery/thesis>). Bound copies can also be obtained through UMI Dissertation Publishing. The student must turn in a receipt showing that arrangements have been made for such work prior to the deadline for graduation set by the Graduate School. It is also customary for the student to provide a bound copy for the advisor.

The thesis must be submitted to the Graduate School and UMI Dissertation Publishing electronically using Portable Document Format (PDF). Instructions for this process are available at the KU graduate school website. See also UMI's website at <http://dissertations.umi.com/ku/>. In addition to this electronic submittal, a student must submit a paper copy of the title page and an "acceptance page" with original signatures to the College Graduate Studies Office in 102 Strong Hall. Formats for both of these are at the graduate school website. A copy of the title page should also be turned in to the Geography office.

**KU M.A. Students Continuing for the Ph.D.** Departmental M.A. students desiring to continue at KU for their Ph.D. studies must apply to the Graduate Studies Committee. The application consists of a letter requesting admission accompanied by letters of evaluation from at least two KU faculty members in a position to judge the student's performance at the graduate level; one of these letters must be from the chair of the student's M.A. committee. A student is eligible to apply any time after successfully passing his or her M.A. examination. No more than nine hours of coursework completed within the M.A. or M.S. program and in excess of the thirty-hour minimal requirement therein will be allowed to count toward Ph.D. requirements.