Geography at SIUE

The study of geography:
• Brings together the natural and social sciences
• Utilizes geospatial technologies to understand Earth’s processes and examine relationships between people and the environment

The master’s program in geography at SIUE is designed to provide students with a foundation in geography as well as specialization within one or more sub-disciplines.

Degrees Available at SIUE
• Master of Science in Geography

Program Format
The program can be completed through a mix of traditional daytime courses and evening courses. Online courses are available during the summer.

What can I do with a degree in geography?
A variety of career opportunities await graduates with a degree in geography from SIUE. We offer the only geography program in the St. Louis metropolitan area and as such, our graduates are in demand for positions in the region’s growing geo-spatial workforce.

Employers include:
• Federal and state government agencies
• National security contractors
• Tech companies
• Engineering firms
• Utility companies
• Local and regional governments

Program graduates work as:
• Geospatial analysts
• Cartographers
• Imagery analysts
• Urban planners
• Retail location analysts
• Climate scientists
• Resource managers
• Sustainability consultants
• Park rangers

Admission Requirements
• Graduate School application and $40 fee
• Submission of all postsecondary academic transcripts
• Successful completion of a bachelor’s degree prior to enrollment
• Applicants must have at least an overall GPA of 2.8 (A=4.0). Applicants who do not meet the required GPA will be considered based on letters of recommendation, acceptable scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or on grades in recommended or required prerequisite courses.
• International Applicants: Proof of English Proficiency, minimum requirements are TOEFL (79), IELTS (6.5) or equivalent
Admission Requirements Cont.
• Personal history for the department
• Curriculum Vitae (Resume)
• A one- to two-page statement of purpose discussing why the applicant has chosen our program, their interests, what the applicant hopes to gain from the program, and how it will help the applicant achieve their long-range objectives in geography
• Two letters of reference from individuals familiar with the applicant’s academic background, training or work. A third letter is optional and may be submitted to help support the application. Please contact Graduate Admissions to submit a third letter.

Program application materials may be uploaded during the application process, but official transcripts must be sent directly from the school attended, and test scores must be verifiable with the appropriate testing service. Please contact the Graduate Admissions office with questions regarding the application submission process at graduateadmissions@siue.edu.

Admission is open to geography and non-geography majors with baccalaureate degrees satisfying the general requirements of the Graduate School. Non-geography majors and, in some cases, geography majors may be required to take prerequisites as a condition for full acceptance in the graduate program. Courses taken to remedy any deficiencies do not count as part of the regular program.

Graduation Requirements
Thesis Option: In addition to the thesis itself, a final oral examination will be conducted by the candidate’s committee. This examination will cover the content of the thesis as well as the fundamental concepts of the discipline as stated in the program’s objectives.

Non-Thesis Option: The candidate must complete GEOG 598 (Graduate Research Project) with a grade of C or better. Requirements include a research paper and a conference presentation based on the research paper.

Required Credit Hours/Tuition and Fees
• Thesis Option: 30
• Non-Thesis Option: 36
• Visit siue.edu/graduate-tuition for detailed tuition information

Curriculum
Students in the graduate program are required to maintain a minimum overall GPA of 3.0. Should a student earn a grade of C or below in any graduate level course, he or she will be placed on academic probation. Any student earning two grades of C or below in the program will be dropped from the geography graduate program, regardless of GPA.

Thesis Option:
A minimum of 30 hours is required for the master of science, of which 21 semester hours must be geography graduate-level courses. In addition, at least one half of the required 30 credit hours must be earned at the 500-level. Required courses (12 hours) include: GEOG 520, 521, 522; plus one seminar in geography. Electives (12-15 hours) are additional courses that should be related to the student’s needs and interests and faculty expertise. Candidates must complete a thesis while enrolled in GEOG 599 (3 to 6 hours).

Non-Thesis Option:
A minimum of 36 credit hours is required for the master of science, of which 24 semester hours must be geography graduate-level courses. In addition, at least one-half of the 36 required credits must be earned at the 500-level. Required courses (15 hours) include GEOG 520, 521, 522, 598 plus one seminar in geography. Electives (21 hours) are additional courses that should be related to the student’s needs and interests and faculty expertise.

In addition, each graduate student, regardless of option selected, must declare a subject area he or she wishes to emphasize. Before enrolling in the second year of study, each student must have selected a subject area advisor and obtained approval from the advisor as well as the graduate director.

Contact Information
Dr. Stacey Brown-Amilian
Graduate Program Director
Department of Geography
Phone: 618-650-5735 or 618-650-2090
Email: stabrow@siue.edu

siue.edu/grad/geography

This information is concurrent with the 2022-2023 academic catalog. Courses are subject to change at any time.