

Geography

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.

Geography at SIUE

Geography brings together the natural and social sciences and utilizes geospatial technologies to understand Earth's processes and examine relationships between people and the environment. The breadth of geographic inquiry in the Department of Geography and Geographic Information Sciences accommodates students who have broad interests and goals. The master's program in geography is designed to provide students with a foundation in geography as well as specialization within one or more of geography's sub-disciplines.

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; agricultural companies; and environmental non-profit organizations. Our geography graduates work as geospatial analysts, cartographers, imagery analysts, urban planners, retail location analysts, climate scientists, resource managers, sustainability consultants and park rangers.

Hands-on Learning

Students at the graduate level have the opportunity to work closely with our diverse faculty on current research projects and are encouraged to gain professional experience through internships. Faculty members specialize in human geography, physical geography, and geographic techniques such as cartography, GIS and remote sensing. They are also engaged in research that impacts the local community and beyond.

Global Experience

The graduate program in the Department of Geography and Geographic Information Sciences has had students from China, India, Nepal, Nigeria and Ukraine, and a number of our faculty members are international. Program coursework often includes international perspectives, and students are encouraged to participate in international research projects.

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
- 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.



Graduate Faculty

Graduate Program Director
Stacey Brown-Amilian, PhD

Associate Professor
Medical Geography, GIS
stabrow@siue.edu

Professors

Gillian Acheson, PhD
Cultural Geography, Geography Education

Michael Grossman, PhD
Climatology, Hydrology, Physical Geology
and Geography

Shunfu Hu, PhD
GIS, Remote Sensing, Physical Geography

Susan E. Hume, PhD
Ethnicity and Race, Migration, Urban Geography

Randall Pearson, PhD
Remote Sensing, GIS, Physical Geography

Wendy Shaw, PhD
Social and Cultural Geography, Development

Bin Zhou, PhD
Economic Geography, Asia and China

Associate Professors

James Hanlon, PhD
Urban, Cultural and Historical Geography

Mark L. Hildebrandt, PhD
Meteorology, Climatology

Adriana Martinez, PhD
Fluvial Geomorphology, GIS

Assistant Professors

Alan W. Black, PhD
Climatology, Meteorology, Atmospheric Hazards

Shannon McCarragher, PhD
Biogeography, GIS

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. To facilitate the process of student advising and guidance, all applicants must submit a one-page written statement of their graduate education and study plan along with their graduate admissions forms.

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

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