

CSUF Geography Graduate Student Roadmap to the MA Degree

Assumes 2-year completion of all requirements

Fall Year One

- Required Classes: First of the following depending on rotation: GEOG 500 (Seminar in Geographic Research), GEOG 520 (Seminar in Physical Geography), GEOG 550 (Seminar in Human Geography).
- Electives: 1 or 2 500 level elective seminars or 400 level courses. Note: one 500 level elective seminar is required for the MA degree.
- Start thinking of thesis topics; research ideas, talk with potential advisors.
- (6-9 units completed by end of semester)

Spring Year One

- Required Classes: Second of the following depending on rotation: GEOG 500 (Seminar in Geographic Research), GEOG 520 (Seminar in Physical Geography), GEOG 550 (Seminar in Human Geography).
- Electives: 1 or 2 500 level elective seminars or 400 level courses. Note: one 500 level elective seminar is required for the MA degree. Thesis-related techniques and methods courses as needed.
- Identify thesis topic and thesis advisor. Write thesis outline or proposal (depending on advisor's preference).
- (12-18 units completed by end of semester)

Summer Break

- Work towards thesis: begin thesis research; begin writing

Fall Year Two

- Required Classes: Third of the following depending on rotation: GEOG 500 (Seminar in Geographic Research), GEOG 520 (Seminar in Physical Geography), GEOG 550 (Seminar in Human Geography).

- Electives: 1 or 2 500 level elective seminar or 400 level courses. Note, one 500 level elective seminar is required for the MA degree. Thesis-related techniques and methods courses as needed.
- Take GEOG 599 Independent Study for 3 units (required).
- Work towards thesis: continue thesis research; continue writing; advisor meetings.
- Administrative: Complete Study Plan with Graduate Advisor.
- Administrative: File *Intend to Graduate* Form.
- (18-27 units completed by end of semester)

Spring Year Two

- Required Classes: Take GEOG 598 Thesis for 3 units, or if choosing non-thesis option take extra units accordingly.
- Electives: as needed to complete 30-unit requirement for degree. Thesis-related techniques and methods courses as needed.
- Work towards thesis: complete thesis research; complete thesis; advisor meetings.
- Non-thesis option: arrange and take comprehensive exam
- Administrative:
 - File for Graduation
 - File Thesis
 - Graduate!

Summer Continuation (if necessary)

- Work towards thesis: Complete thesis research; Complete thesis
- Administrative:
 - File for Graduation
 - File Thesis
 - Graduate!

Year Three (if necessary)

* Maintain continuous enrollment by registering for GS 700 each semester until graduation.