

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MASTER'S DEGREE & RECORD OF PROGRESS

There are currently two options available within the Master's program:

- 1) The Thesis/Paper Option is the standard track and required for students intending to pursue a Ph.D. at any time in the future.
- 2) The Technical Report Option has the same requirements as the Thesis Option with the following general exception: the results of Master's degree research are embodied in a technical report, the quality and format of which must be approved in advance by the student's Supervisory Committee. This option is particularly appropriate for graduate student programs that emphasize: applied, rather than basic, research; professional training and certification; documentation of technical innovations and creations; and preparation of instructional and educational materials.

All incoming Master's students are required to register for GEOG 6961 (Geographic Thought and Research) during their first semester of study. A grade point average of 3.0 or higher in course work is required. No graded work below a "B-" is acceptable toward the degree.

Advisors may expect basic proficiencies in statistics, GIS, cartography, writing, and mathematics. Courses taken to gain these skills cannot be used to satisfy graduate degree requirements, and are not included in tuition benefit. Students should consult with their advisor to discuss specific proficiencies needed for their degree.

A Master's Degree requires a minimum of 30 credit hours of courses numbered 6000 or above (a 5000 course is acceptable only if a 6000 course is not available). Master's students must complete the required courses listed below. Two research courses (6400-6599 or 6960) must be taken from different faculty. Elective courses must total 10 credit hours, depending on whether WRTG 6000 (2 credits) or WRTG 7060 (3 credits) is taken as a required course. Students may be required to complete additional elective courses based on the student's Supervisory Committee's and Graduate Director's discretion. For example, students may be required to take WRTG 6000 or WRTG 7060 if their writing skills are not satisfactory. Master's students are required to take at least 6 credit hours of GEOG 6970 (Thesis Research) OR GEOG 6974 (Technical Report Research) and must be enrolled in at least one course during the semester of the student's oral defense. Students may not register for research hours until their proposal has been approved. **Master's students are required to complete 24 credit hours in residency in the Department of Geography at the University of Utah.** A minimum full load is 9 credit hours per semester and the minimum registration for graduate students is one course per semester. The program usually requires at least two years of work, however all work must be completed within four consecutive calendar years. **Students must maintain adequate progress toward a degree to remain active in the program.** For further degree requirement details and information, [refer to the Geography Graduate Student Handbook](#).

PROGRAM OF STUDY CHECKLIST

COURSE NUMBER/TITLE	Credit Hrs.	Year Taken	Grade
GEOG 6961 - Seminar in Geographic Thought and Inquiry	3		
GEOG 6000 – Advanced Geographic Data Analysis	4		
GEOG Research course (GEOG 6400-6599 or 6960)	3		
GEOG Research course (GEOG 6400-6599 or 6960)	3		
*ELECTIVE COURSES (minimum 10 credit hrs. >6000, or >5000 if 6000 NA)			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
RESEARCH (min. 6 credit hrs.)			
GEOG 6970 – Thesis Research – OR			
GEOG 6974 – Technical Report Research			
(NOTE: GEOG 6981 Faculty Consultation does not count toward degree requirements)			

* Elective courses are selected by the student with the assistance of the student's Supervisory Committee.

(over)

Supervisory Committee: (Best if in place by the end of the second semester)
[Request for Supervisory Committee - \(Web-Grad School Forms\)](#)

Date of Committee _____

Chair: _____ (Must be member of Geography faculty)

_____ (Must be member of Geography faculty)

_____ (Submit vita if not "U" faculty)

Colloquium:

Graduate students are required to present their research proposal in a colloquium as part of the thesis proposal process. Best practice is to make your presentation at the beginning of your second year. You must have permission from your Committee Chair to schedule a colloquium.

Date of Colloquium _____

Thesis Proposal:

[Departmental form - see Graduate Secretary](#)

Students may not enroll in 6970/6974 (6-10hrs. accepted) until their proposal is approved. After presenting in a colloquium, submit your written proposal (which has been approved by your Committee) to the Graduate Secretary for posting to the faculty for a 10-day perusal period.

Date of Approval _____

Application for Candidacy:

[Application for Admission to Candidacy \(Master's\) - \(Web-Grad School Forms\)](#)

The student should apply for candidacy no later than one semester before graduation and no earlier than two semesters before graduation.

Semester and year completed _____

Thesis/Technical Report Defense:

[Report of the Final Examination for the Master's Degree - \(Web-Grad School Forms\)](#)

The candidate must be enrolled at least one course during the semester of the thesis defense.

Date of Defense _____

Thesis Submission

The written thesis must be submitted for review to the student's Committee at least two weeks prior to the Thesis Defense. The final thesis document must be submitted to the University of Utah Thesis Office by the [deadline](#) posted by the Thesis Office in order to graduate within a target semester.

Date of Submission _____