

## **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. Two copies of official transcripts from all colleges or universities attended.
4. Three reference forms or 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 may be submitted to the Graduate School online at [www.graduate.ku.edu](http://www.graduate.ku.edu). Applicants should forward their *application form* and the *application fees* (Urban Planning and Geography each require a separate fee) to:

University of Kansas Graduate School  
Graduate Applications  
1450 Jayhawk Blvd., Room 300  
Lawrence, KS 66045-7535  
<http://graduate.ku.edu/application-process>

All other materials should be sent directly to the individual programs, as described below.

*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. David Mechem  
 Graduate Advisor  
 Department of Geography  
 The University of Kansas  
 Lawrence, KS 66045-7613  
 Phone: 785-864-2021  
 Fax: 785-864-5378  
 dmechem@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

**TOTAL URBAN PLANNING COURSE WORK: 39 credits**

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

##### Required Courses:

GEOG 805 – History of Geographic Thought	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
Geography colloquium	2 credits (1 per semester)

Thesis Hours:

GEOG 899 – Master’s Thesis 6 credits

*The Master’s thesis committee has three faculty members; the chair must come from the Department of Geography. At least one thesis committee member must come from the Urban Planning program.*

**TOTAL GEOGRAPHY COURSE WORK 22 credits**

Students will choose Geoinformatics courses from among the following:

GEOG 512 - Advanced Cartography and Geovisualization

GEOG 526 – Remote Sensing of Environment I

GEOG 558 – Intermediate GIS

GEOG 560 – GIS Application Programming

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 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 571/771 – Topics in Cultural Geography

GEOG 670 – Cultural Ecology

GEOG 719 – Development of Geographic Thought

*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 540 - Ecohydrology

GEOG 541 - Geomorphology

GEOG 731 – Topics in Physical Geography

GEOG 735 – Soil Geomorphology

*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.