

JOINT DEGREE PROGRAM
LEADING TO THE
MASTER OF URBAN PLANNING
AND
MASTER OF ARTS IN GEOGRAPHY
DEGREE



This publication is for informational purposes and does not constitute a contract.

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) 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 (check or money order payable to the University of Kansas).
8. Financial statement for international students (In 2004, it is necessary to have a minimum of US\$20,677 per school year to cover the cost of your studies).

Application forms may be submitted to the Graduate School online or by downloading a paper copy at www.graduate.ku.edu. Applicants should forward their *application form* and the *application fees* (Urban Planning and Geography each require a separate fee) to: The University of Kansas Graduate School, Graduate Applications, 1450 Jayhawk Blvd., Room 300, Lawrence, KS 66045-7535. 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 not required, but is recommended for students with a GPA below 3.0, and/or low (below C) grades in courses with economic and mathematical content. Admissions materials should be submitted to:

Dr. James M. Mayo, Chair
Graduate Program in Urban Planning
School of Architecture and Urban Design
The University of Kansas
1465 Jayhawk Blvd., Room 317
Lawrence, KS 66045

Geography Applications:

Admission to the Geography graduate program is based primarily on the applicant's undergraduate and/or graduate record, references from persons familiar with the applicant's work, GRE scores (required), and a statement of academic objectives prepared by the applicant. Applicants without prior training in geography are welcome but are required to improve their basic knowledge of the several broad divisions within geography: systematic, methodological, and regional. Courses taken to remedy such deficiencies may not count toward graduate degrees. Admissions materials should be submitted to:

Geography Department,
1475 Jayhawk Blvd., Room 213,
University of Kansas,
Lawrence, KS 66045-7613.

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. Total Combined Program	<u>For MUP</u>	<u>For MA in Geography</u>	<u>Total</u>
Required Courses for Combined Degree	21 cr	7 cr	28 cr
Concentration, Elective & Thesis Courses For Combined Program	<u>18 cr</u>	<u>15 cr</u>	<u>33 cr</u>
TOTAL	39 cr	22 cr	61 cr

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>
	21 credits

Concentration 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 714 – Field Experience	3 credits
GEOG 805 – Introduction	2 credits
GEOG 806 – Basic Seminar	2 credits

At least one Techniques course (3 credit hours required)	3 credits
At least one Human Geography course (3 credit hours required)	3 credits
At least one Physical Geography course (3 credit hours required)	3 credits

Thesis Hours:

GEOG 899 – Masters Thesis	6 credits
---------------------------	-----------

The Chair of the Masters thesis committee 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 Techniques courses from among the following:

GEOG 513 – Cartographic Design
GEOG 517 – Data Handling and Map Symbolization
GEOG 526 – Remote Sensing of Environment I
GEOG 558 – Intermediate GIS
GEOG 710 – Information Design
GEOG 716 – Advanced Geostatistics
GEOG 726 – Remote Sensing of Environment II
GEOG 758 – Geographic Information Science
GEOG 802 – Urban GIS
GEOG 858 – Environmental GIS
GEOG 911 – Seminar in Cartography
GEOG 912 - Seminar in Quantitative Methods
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 515 – Behavioral Systems
GEOG 557 – Cities and Development
GEOG 575 – Geography of Population
GEOG 719 – Development of Geographic Thought
GEOG 751 – Analysis of Regional Development
GEOG 752 – Topics in Urban/Economic Geography
GEOG 771 – Topics in Cultural Geography
GEOG 772 – Problems in Political Geography
GEOG 773 – Humanistic Geography
GEOG 775 – Proseminar in Population Geography
GEOG 790 – North American Regions
GEOG 791 – Latin American Regions
GEOG 794 – Regions of the Former USSR
GEOG 795 – European Regions
GEOG 796 – Asian Regions
GEOG 957 – Seminar in Urban/Economic Geography
GEOG 970 – Seminar in Cultural Geography
GEOG 972 – Seminar in Political Geography
GEOG 975 – Seminar in Population Geography

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 532 - Geoarcheology
GEOG 535 - Introduction to Soil Geography
GEOG 541 - Geomorphology
GEOG 731 – Topics in Physical Geography
GEOG 733 – Advanced Biogeography Field and Laboratory Techniques
GEOG 735 – Soil Genesis, Classification, and Distribution
GEOG 741 – Advanced Geomorphology
GEOG 756 – Energy Problems and the Economic-Physical Environment
GEOG 935 – Seminar in Soil Geography
GEOG 937 – Seminar in Vegetation Geography
GEOG 939 – Seminar Fluvial Systems

Other Geography courses at the 500-level or above may be used to fulfill requirements in this category on the basis of petition.

SUMMARY

To sum up, at present 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 takes four years. The joint degree program reduces 17 credit hours from this existing 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. Both programs have supported this proposal unanimously as one that does not dilute the quality of either degree. It should also 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.

USE OF UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

The proposed joint degree makes use only of facilities, courses, and staff of the Department of Geography and the Graduate Program in Urban Planning that would already be in place for the existing separate degree programs. No new university resources are required to implement the new joint degree.