

GEOGRAPHY - MASTER OF APPLIED GEOGRAPHY

Course and Credit Requirements

General Information

The Department of Geography and Environmental Studies (GES) at NMSU offers students two options for earning a Master of Applied Geography (MAG): a thesis option and a non-thesis option. The thesis option (30 credits) represents the traditional path for earning a MAG degree and entails the completion of coursework and the writing and defense of a master's thesis. The master's thesis is a piece of original scholarship developed under the direction of an advisor and typically two thesis committee members. The non-thesis option (30 credits) is an alternative path for earning a MAG degree and requires the completion of coursework, the writing of a residency report, and the passing of a final exam. The residency report is a document developed during an internship or residency under the direction of a field supervisor at an agency or firm.

Undergraduate Preparation

An undergraduate geography degree is not required for entry into the MAG program. However, applicants who lack the equivalent of GEOG 1110G Physical Geography, GEOG 1130G Human Geography, and/or GEOG 2130 Map Analysis & Interpretation may be required to take these or similar courses to prepare for the graduate-level work in geography. Applicants without an undergraduate geography degree are strongly encouraged to contact the GES Graduate Program Director and their Graduate Advisor to identify optimal strategies for satisfying basic course requirements.

Prefix	Title	Credits
GEOG 1110G	Physical Geography	4
GEOG 1130G	Human Geography	3
GEOG 2130	Map Analysis & Interpretation	3

Credit, Course, and Grade Requirements

The MAG program aims at offering students flexibility in designing their desired course of graduate study while at the same time ensuring that all students have graduate-level core competencies in geographic concepts and methods. To that end, all students pursuing the MAG degree are required to complete a minimum of 30 graduate credits, including 9 core course credits, 6 thesis credits (thesis option) or 6 residency credits (non-thesis option), and 15 elective credits. Of the 30 graduate credits, at least 15 credits must be in geography and at least 15 credits must be at the 500-level or above. All MAG students must earn a grade of B- or better in the 3 core courses (GEOG 501 Geographic Theory and Application, GEOG 502 Integrative Research Design, and GEOG 584 Qualitative, Critical, and Creative Methodologies or GEOG 585 Spatial Analysis and Modeling). All candidates are moreover required to maintain an overall GPA of 3.00 or higher.

Prefix	Title	Credits
Core Geography Courses ¹		9
GEOG 501	Geographic Theory and Application	3
GEOG 502	Integrative Research Design	3
GEOG 584	Qualitative, Critical, and Creative Methodologies	3
or GEOG 585	Spatial Analysis and Modeling	
Elective Courses ²		15

Select additional courses in geography and/or other disciplines.

At least 6 of the elective credits must be in geography.

At least 6 of the elective credits must be at the 500-level or above.

Thesis / Residency Credits ³		6
GEOG 599	Master's Thesis	6
or GEOG 596	Residency	

¹ Students must earn a grade of B- or better in all 3 core courses.

² Students may be required to take additional courses that their committee deems necessary for the successful completion of the thesis research.

³ For more information regarding the master's thesis requirement, please visit [this GES website](#).