Program Change Request

Date Submitted: 10/03/21 8:40 pm

Viewing: **SC-MS-GECA : Geographic and Cartographic Sciences, MS**

Last approved: 02/23/21 4:55 pm

Last edit: 10/14/21 2:15 pm

Changes proposed by: nburtch

**Catalog Pages
Using this Program**
Geographic and Cartographic Sciences, MS

Are you completing this form on someone else's behalf?

No

Effective Catalog: 2022-2023

Program Level: Graduate

Program Type: Master's

Degree Type: Master of Science

Title:

Geographic and Cartographic Sciences, MS

Banner Title: MS Geograph & Cartographic Sci

Registrar/OAPI Use Only – SCHEV Status   Approved

Registrar's Office Use Only – Program Start Term

Registrar/OAPI Use Only – SCHEV Letter

Registrar/OAPI Use Only – SACSCOC Status

In Workflow

1. **GGS Chair**
2. **SC Curriculum Committee**
3. SC Associate Dean
4. SC CAT Editor
5. Assoc Provost-Graduate
6. Registrar-Programs

Approval Path

1. 10/07/21 12:04 pm
   Nathan Burtch
   (nburtch): Approved
   for GGS Chair

History

1. Nov 8, 2017 by clmig-jwehrheim
2. Mar 8, 2018 by pchampan
3. Mar 8, 2018 by pchampan
4. Nov 9, 2020 by Timothy Leslie (tleslie)
5. Feb 23, 2021 by Johanna Riemen (jriemen)

Concentration(s):

Registrar/IRR Use Only – Concentration CIP Code

College/School: College of Science

Department / Academic Unit: Geography & Geoinformation Science

Jointly Owned Program?   No

Justification

What: Remove GRE requirements for admission of all GGS MS programs including ESS MS (shared with AOES). Reduce the required number of recommendation letters from three to two for all GGS MS programs.

Why: Usage of the GRE declined in admission decision and the GRE scores were not an indicator of student success. For reducing letters of recommendation, most MS students chose the non-thesis option. Letters are helpful only for research-oriented students.

Total Credits Required: Total credits: 30 or 37

Registrar's Office Use Only - Program Code:

                                SC-MS-GECA

Registrar/IRR Use Only – Program CIP Code

Admission Requirements:

Admissions

University-wide admissions policies can be found in Graduate Admissions Policies.

~~To apply for this program, please complete the George Mason University Admissions Application.~~ Eligibility and Application Requirements

In addition to the university-wide requirements, applicants ~~Applicants~~ for this master's should have a bachelor's degree in geography, cartography, or a closely related field. Applicants without an undergraduate degree in geography may be required to take one course in each of the following: physical geography, human geography, and cartography. All applicants must have a course in statistics.

The program also requires **two** ~~GRE test scores, three~~ letters of **recommendation** ~~recommendation, transcripts of all college coursework,~~ and a statement of interest in the degree.

~~The GRE requirement will be waived if the student holds a master's degree from an institution of higher education accredited by a Mason-recognizedU.S.institutional accrediting agency or internationalequivalent.TOEFL scores are required for all foreignapplicants.~~Credit from courses taken at other departments and other universities may be applied to the program with prior **approval.**

~~approval.~~

GRE scores are not required for admission into this program, but are encouraged if the student is seeking internal funding.

To apply for this program, please complete the <u>George Mason University Admissions Application</u>.

Program-Specific Policies:

Policies

For policies governing all graduate programs, see <u>AP.6 Graduate Policies</u>

Secondary Program Options

Students enrolled in this master's program have the option of adding a <u>secondary graduate certificate program</u>. Depending upon the secondary program chosen, many courses may be applicable to both the certificate and the master's. Before adding a secondary program, students are advised to carefully review the <u>Requirements for Graduate Certificates</u> and the <u>Requirements for Master's Degrees</u> in <u>AP.6 Graduate Policies</u>. Faculty advisors should be contacted for further guidance and for graduate certificate program suggestions.

Degree Requirements:

Students should refer to the <u>Admissions & Policies</u> tab for specific policies related to this program.

Students must complete either 30 graduate credits (with a thesis) or 37 graduate credits (without a thesis). If the non-thesis option is selected, students are required to pass a comprehensive exam.

Core Courses

GGS 551	Cartographic Design	3
GGS 553	Geographic Information Systems	3
GGS 560	Quantitative Methods	3
GGS 579	Remote Sensing	3
GGS 689	Seminar in Geographic Thought and Methodology	3
Total Credits		15

Thesis or Non-thesis Options

Thesis Option

Students selecting the thesis option must complete:

Three credits of		3
GGS 799	Thesis	
Select 12 credits of electives in 500 to 798-level GGS courses. 1		12

Total Credits		15

1Electives should be selected in consultation with an advisor. With departmental approval, up to 9 credits from closely related disciplines may be applied to the degree.

Non-thesis Option

Students selecting the non-thesis option must complete the following:

Choose one Systematic course		3
GGS 505	Transportation Geography	
GGS 507	Geographic Approaches for Sustainable Development	
GGS 540	Health Geography	
GGS 544	Military Geography	
GGS 581	World Food and Population	
GGS 615	Economic Geography	
GGS 656	The Hydrosphere	
GGS 657	The Lithosphere	
GGS 670	Introduction to Atmosphere and Weather	
GGS 704	Spatial Demography	
Choose one Regional course		3
GGS 516	Geography of Latin America	
GGS 517	Geography of China	
GGS 518	Geography of North Africa and the Middle East	
GGS 526	Geography of Eastern Europe and Russia	
GGS 533	Issues in Regional Geography	
GGS 700	Comprehensive Exam	1
Select an additional 15 credits of electives in 500 to 798-level GGS courses. 1		15
Total Credits		22

1Electives should be selected in consultation with an advisor. With departmental approval, up to 9 credits from closely related disciplines may be applied to the degree.

Retroactive Requirements Updates:

Plan of Study:

Program Outcomes

Additional Program Information

This information is required by the Office of Accreditation and Program Integrity.

Courses offered via distance (if applicable):

What is the primary delivery format for the program?	Face-to-Face Only

Does any portion of this program occur off-campus?

No

Are you working with a vendor / other collaborators to offer your program?

No

Related Departments

Could this program prepare students for any type of professional licensure, in Virginia or elsewhere?

No

Are you adding or removing a licensure component?

No

Additional SCHEV & SACSCOC Information

Are you changing the total number of credits required for this program?

No

Are you changing the delivery format in any way (e.g adding an online option)?

No

Are you adding/removing a licensure option which was approved by SCHEV?

No

Will any portion of this program be offered at an off-campus location?

No

Will this program change affect any specialized accreditation?

No

Is the content of the new program closely related to that of an existing approved program?

No

Is this new program considered to be "advancing the degree level of a currently approved program" (i.e. existing content is at lower degree level, new content is at the higher degree level)?

No

Is this new program considered to be "lowering the degree level of a currently approved program" (i.e. existing content is at higher degree level, new content is at the lower degree level)?

No

Does this change represent a repackaging of content in an existing approved degree/certificate program?

No

Percentage of total credits containing new course content, excluding gen ed courses for undergraduate programs ("New content" means content that is not currently included in an existing approved degree/certificate program.) Please choose a percentage (i.e. 0%-100%)

less than 25%

Are the total credits for the program increasing or decreasing by more than 3 credits?

No

Will any additional equipment/facilites be needed?

No

Will any additional faculty be required?

No

Will any additional financial resources be needed?

No

Will any additional library/learning resources needed?

No

OAPI Use Only – Determination of SACSCOC Impact

- -

Comments or Notes

Green Leaf Program Designation

- -

Is this a Green Leaf program?   No

Does this program cover material which crosses into another department?

No

Additional Attachments

SCHEV Proposal

Executive Summary

Reviewer Comments

Additional Comments

Is this course required of all students in this degree program?

%wi_required.eschtml%

Key: 211