

# Geography and Sustainable Development - Master of Arts

Geography integrates social and natural sciences through geospatial and other techniques to address the challenges and opportunities of sustainable development. The MA in Geography and Sustainable Development prepares students with advanced geographical thinking and methods for solving tomorrow's social and environmental problems today. A flexible and personalized curriculum builds foundational understanding of space, place, and environment, applied through specialized approaches to global development, urbanization and planning, environmental management, or geospatial. All students undertake Individualized inquiry -- research thesis or internship/practicum -- that develops specialized expertise and research-management skills, which they communicate in a high-quality manuscript or report.

This academic program emphasizes intellectual growth, critical analysis and communication, and professional development. Our students are prepared to engage linked social-environmental problems in real-world decision making, positioning them for leadership in mapping a more sustainable future. Alumni have found impactful public, non-profit, and private-sector careers in sustainable development, conservation, geospatial technology, business analytics, and more, as well as admission/funding in top Ph.D. programs and jobs in academia.

## Requirements: Master of Arts

The Master of Arts degree has both a thesis and internship option. Both options require a minimum of 37 hours.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Advanced Geographical Thinking (4 hours)</b>		
GEO 610	Research in Geography	4
<b>Proposal Development and Techniques (6 hours)</b>		
GEO 604	Research Project Development	3
Advanced geospatial, analytical, or qualitative methods:		3
GEO 541, 542, 548, or equivalent		
<b>Specialized Approaches to Geography and Sustainable Development (minimum 21 hours, pick from any category)</b>		<b>21</b>
Global and Sustainable Development		
GEO 506	Indigenous Peoples and Their Sacred Lands	
GEO 575	Global Periphery's Urbanization	
GEO 576	Global Poverty	
Urbanization and Planning		
GEO 551	Urban and Regional Planning	
GEO 554	Urban Geography	
GEO 559	Advanced Urban and Regional Planning	
GEO 562	Citizenship and the City	

GEO 567	Land Use, Law and the State: Geographic Perspectives (Environment and Natural Resource Management)
Environment and Natural Resource Management	
GEO 525	Hydrogeography
GEO 526	Watershed Management
GEO 531	Global Plant Diversity
Geospatial	
GEO 541	Geographic Information Systems
GEO 542	Advanced Geographic Information Systems
GEO 543	Python Programming for Geospatial Applications
GEO 544	GIScience Techniques in Landscape Ecology
GEO 545	Geographic Information Systems for Criminal Justice
GEO 548	Techniques and Applications of Remote Sensing
Special Topics and Interdisciplinary Approaches	
GEO 560	Advanced Systematic Geography
GEO 640	Internship
GEO 677	Independent Studies
Other graduate-level courses offered by Miami University can be taken in consultation with advisor.	

**Individualized Inquiry and Experiential Learning (6-12 hours) 6-12 hours**

Thesis Track	
GEO 700	Research for Master's Thesis
Non-Thesis Track	
GEO 704	Non-Thesis Project

**Total Credit Hours 37-43**

Before the end of the first year, a formal oral presentation of the thesis/internship proposal is required. This program culminates in the defense of a thesis or non-thesis (internship/practicum) report.