

MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN GEOSPATIAL SCIENCE

<https://www.una.edu/geography/Grad/index.html>

Admission

The Master of Science Degree in Geospatial Science at the University of North Alabama may be completed either on campus or 100% online. In addition to the general requirements for admission to graduate studies (See General Regulations and Procedures), admission to the Master of Science degree program in Geospatial Science requires the following:

Unconditional Admission

1. Preparation: Applicants must hold a bachelor's or higher degree in an appropriate field of study from an accredited institution or complete coursework that will meet this requirement as determined by the Graduate Admissions Committee.
2. Scholastic Achievement: Applicants must possess a minimum of a 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale in the last two years of undergraduate work and in all previous graduate work (if any).
3. Test Scores: Applicants must have a combined score of at least 290 on the Verbal and Quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE).
4. Letters of Recommendation: Applicants must submit three letters of recommendation from academic or professional sources. At least one letter of recommendation must be provided by a faculty member from the applicant's prior undergraduate or graduate program.
5. Personal Statement: Applicants should describe themselves academically and professionally and include a narrative of their intellectual and academic history and heritage. Applicants should describe their interests in graduate school, desire for entrance into the UNA Department of Geography, and their long term plans.
6. Letter of Intent: Applicants should describe their desired area of study and why that is of interest to them, what they hope to learn, and what they plan to do with what is learned and the experience that is gained.

A departmental Graduate Admissions Committee will review each application and make all admission decisions. Applications, transcripts, and test scores must be submitted to the Office of Graduate Admissions in accordance with submission deadlines established by that office. Letters of Recommendation, Personal Statement, and Letter of Intent will be submitted directly to the Department of Geography in care of the Graduate Program Coordinator.

Conditional Admission

A student may be conditionally admitted to the M.S. program in Geospatial Science if his/her GRE scores have not yet been obtained, if the Graduate Admissions Committee deems the undergraduate coursework insufficient, or if the applicant's letters of recommendation have not been received by the Department of Geography. A student without sufficient prior coursework in geography may be required to enroll in undergraduate courses to meet prerequisites for graduate level work. The student must submit satisfactory test scores or complete remedial coursework prior to completing 12 credit hours in the program. Applicants not meeting requirements #2 and #3 above may still be considered if other evidence of potential academic achievement is presented.

Advisement

Initially, students will be advised by the Graduate Program Coordinator for the Department of Geography until students have been assigned or have selected an academic advisor.

Degree and Program Plans

Master of Science Degree in Geospatial Science requires a minimum of 33 semester hours and includes the following core and options:

Code	Title	Hours
Core Classes		
GE 600	Geographic Thought	3
GE 609	Geographic Methods in Design	3
GE 615	Advanced Quantitative Methods in Geography	3
Elective Courses ¹		24
Thesis or Non-Thesis		
Select one of the following:		
Thesis Option (p. 1)		
Non-Thesis Option (p. 1)		
Total Hours		33

- ¹ No more than 6 hours of field courses may count towards credit for the MS in Geospatial Science degree.
No more than 12 hours of courses taken at the 500 level may count towards credit for the MS in Geospatial Science degree.
Courses taken at the undergraduate level in the department which are cross-listed as 400/500, may not be retaken for credit towards the MS in Geospatial Science degree. Courses with blanket course numbers (e.g., Special Topics (GE 497) and Special Topics (GE 597)) that have different titles are exempt from this limitation.

Thesis Option¹

Code	Title	Hours
GE 695	Thesis	6
Electives		
Select from 500-600 electives		21
Total Hours		27

- ¹ Students choosing the Thesis Option must complete a minimum of six hours of Thesis (GE 695), in addition to the core and 21 additional hours from the 500-600 level electives.

Non-Thesis Option¹

Code	Title	Hours
GE 692	Research	3
Electives		
Select from 500/600 level electives		24
Total Hours		27

¹ Students choosing the Non-Thesis Option must complete a minimum of three hours of directed research Research (GE 692), in addition to the core and 24 additional hours from the 500-600 level electives. Students selecting this option will be required to complete two independent projects. Each project will be supervised by a separate faculty member within the Department of Geography and must include a second reader on each project. The projects will be publicly presented and submitted as papers.