



WESTERN
ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY

INTEGRATED BACCALAUREATE AND MASTER'S DEGREE IN METEOROLOGY (BS) AND GEOGRAPHY (MA)

Higher Values in Higher Education
Academic Excellence • Educational Opportunity
Personal Growth • Social Responsibility

The Integrated Baccalaureate and Master's Degree Program in Geography provides an opportunity for outstanding undergraduate Meteorology majors to complete a Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology and a Master of Arts degree in Geography in five years. In addition to earning both degrees a year early, the integrated program may include additional opportunities to participate in a variety of experiential education activities such as a master's thesis, applied project, or professional plan.



Admission Requirements

- The applicant should apply to the School of Graduate Studies for admission to an integrated program in Geography.
- The applicant must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 or higher and a major GPA of 3.25 or higher.
- The applicant should provide a personal statement of purpose and request three letters of recommendation if applying for graduate assistantship.
- The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is highly recommended if applying for a graduate assistantship. Otherwise, the GRE is not required.
- Official transcripts must be sent from each college or university attended.

Degree Requirements

The Integrated Baccalaureate and Master's Degree Program in Geography offers students three degree options: (1) thesis, (2) applied project, or (3) professional plan. The thesis option (3 SH) seeks to answer a question that is relevant to an area of geographic inquiry. The applied project option (3 SH) is intended for students whose career aspirations are best served by gaining practical experience in the design and solution of a geographical or planning problem and presentation of the results. Both options require a research proposal to be presented and the completed thesis/applied project to be defended to faculty and students. The professional plan requires students to complete an internship (3 SH) and extended courses. The minimum required hours are 32 to 35 SH.

- Thesis Option consists of 3 SH of thesis research (GEOG 698) and 20 SH of directed electives.
- Applied project consists of 3 SH of practical experience (GEOG 697) and 20 SH of directed electives.
- Professional plan consists of 3 SH of internship (GEOG 596 or 597) and 23 SH of directed electives.

Undergraduate students will be required to complete 120 SH of coursework. As part of the Integrated Master's Degree Program, students may take up to 9 SH as "bridge" courses. A student must be a senior and accepted into the integrated program before taking bridge courses.

Career Opportunities

There are a number of opportunities available for our graduates:

- Earth scientist
- Emergency management
- Environmental conservation
- Meteorologist
- Hydrologist
- Climatologist
- Forensic meteorologist
- Weather forecaster
- Wind analyst
- Meteorological data analyst
- Aviation meteorologist
- Consulting meteorologist
- Utility/Construction company meteorologist
- Broadcast meteorologist
- Science reporter
- Weather risk analyst
- Damage assessor

Integrated Degree Course Requirements

Students must complete a minimum of 120 SH of credits to meet the BS degree requirements, including the following:

University General Education Requirements (55 SH)

Undergraduate Core Courses (30 SH)

GEOG 120, 301, 322, 327, 329, 333, 405†, 422, 429, 432

I. Directed Electives (5-6 SH)

A. Choose one: GEOG 300, 403, 425 (3 SH)

B. Choose one: GEOG 220, 300, 403, 425, 430, 497 (2-3 SH)

II. Other Required Courses (14-15 SH)

A. MATH 231, MATH 333, and PHYS 212 (11 SH)

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Management of Natural Resources (3), GEOG 443G Population Geography (3), GEOG 445G Urban Geography (3), GEOG 459G (cross-listed with BIOL 459G) Biogeography (3), and GEOG 466G World Regions (Africa-cross-listed with AAS 466G) (3).

Contact Information

For admissions process and general program information, contact the School of Graduate Studies, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455, (309) 298-1806, (877) WIU GRAD toll-free, Grad-Office@wiu.edu, wiu.edu/grad.

For specific program questions, contact the Graduate Coordinator, Department of Geography, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455, (309) 298-1648, geography@wiu.edu, wiu.edu/cas/geography.

B. Select one: CHEM 201, GEOL 115, GEOL 380, or PHYS 354 (3-4 SH)

III. Any Minor (16-24 SH)

Graduate Core Courses (9 SH)

GEOG 505 Research Methods I (3 SH)

GEOG 605 Research Methods II (3 SH)

One graduate seminar (610, GEOG 630, 650) (3 SH)

Select one of the following exit options (23-26 SH):

A. Thesis

GEOG 698 Thesis (3 SH)

Directed Electives (includes up to 9 SH of bridge courses) (20 SH)

B. Applied Project

GEOG 697 Applied Project (3 SH)

Directed Electives (includes up to 9 SH of bridge courses) (20 SH)

C. Professional Plan

Internship (GEOG 596 or 597) (3 SH)

Directed Electives (includes up to 9 SH of bridge courses) (23 SH)

TOTAL PROGRAM (32-35 SH)

Up to 9 SH of the following bridge undergraduate/graduate courses can be counted toward the 32- to 35-SH requirements: GEOG 401G Air Photo Interpretation (3), GEOG 403G Advanced Remote Sensing (3), GEOG 406G Spatial Statistics in GIS (3), GEOG 408G Environmental Geographic Information Science (3), GEOG 409G Thematic Geographic Information Science (3), GEOG 425G Satellite and Radar Meteorology (3), GEOG 426G (cross-listed with BIOL 426G) Conservation and