Texas State University is widely known for its outstanding geography programs, and because of this stellar reputation, Texas State’s Department of Geography is the largest in the United States. Outstanding professors are one of the reasons behind the department’s success. Over the years, Texas State’s faculty has received more of the National Council for Geographic Education’s Distinguished Teaching Awards than any other university faculty in the nation.

Texas State offers three doctoral programs in geography: geography, geographic education and geographic information science. The curriculum is designed to provide depth and breadth of knowledge in geographic theory and research methods.

“The sheer size of the Ph.D. program in the Department of Geography exposes students to a diverse geographic perspective. One-on-one contact with faculty and innovative research provide students with the resources necessary for a quality education.”

— Clayton Whitesides Geography Doctoral Student
Course Work
All three doctoral programs in geography require students to complete at least 31 semester hours of course work, including nine hours of core courses, four hours of skills courses, 12 hours of specialized courses and six hours of electives. In addition, students must complete 15 semester hours of dissertation research and writing. Students choose from three specialized doctoral programs, and each student’s program is tailored to meet that person’s individual goals.

Specialized Courses
Students choose 12 hours from those listed for each specialization.

Geography Ph.D.
- Advanced Seminar in Geography*
- Biogeomorphology
- Geographic Aspects of Water
- Geography of Land Management
- Geography of Natural Hazards
- Independent Study*
- Managing Urbanization
- Soils and Society
- Urban Environment

Geographic Education Ph.D.
- Advanced Seminar in Geographic Education*
- Independent Study*
- Seminar in Geographic Curriculum
- Standards and Assessment in Geography
- Spatial Graphics in Geographic Education
- Theories and Methods in Geographic Education

Geographic Information Science Ph.D.
- Advanced Geographic Information Systems
- Advanced Topics in Remote Sensing
- Geocomputation
- Geographic Visualization
- GIS in Environmental Geography
- Lidar
- Remote Sensing and the Environment
- Seminar in GIS
- Spatial Graphics in Geographic Education
- Theoretical Cartography

*Courses repeatable up to six hours with a different topic

Admission Policy
Each applicant must have a master’s degree in geography or a related field, a 3.5 GPA on all completed graduate work and an official Graduate Record Exam (GRE) score must be submitted. Each international student must have a TOEFL score of at least 78 (iBT).

Each applicant must submit the following to The Graduate College:
- the online Graduate College application through ApplyTexas
- application fee
- one official transcript from each college or university attended
- official Graduate Record Exam (GRE) score. See www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/envgeo for details about GRE requirements
- statement of purpose that identifies the major and possible areas of research
- three letters of recommendation
- curriculum vita

Visit www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply for access to an online application, the statement of goals form, where to submit application documents and additional details. U.S. citizens should submit applications by May 1, and international students should submit applications by April 15 for admission in the following fall semester. Applications are accepted for the fall semester only.

Financial Assistance
The Department of Geography offers a limited number of graduate assistantships and scholarships. Contact the department’s graduate program coordinator for details.

For more information about scholarships, financial aid and application deadlines, visit The Graduate College website at www.gradcollege.txstate.edu and click on Financing Your Graduate Education. Please note that program admission priority deadlines must be met in order to be considered for scholarships, fellowships and assistantships.

Contact
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