**Geography AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND POLICY PROGRAM**

**Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)**

**DEGREE INFORMATION**

**Program Admission Deadlines:**

**Fall:** February 15

*Fall Admission Only*

**Minimum Total Hours:** 60 (post-Master’s)

90 (post-Bachelor’s)

**Program Level:** Doctoral

**CIP Code:** 45.0799

**Dept. Code:**  SGS

**Program (Major/College):** GEP AS

**Approved:** 2005

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**College:** Arts and Sciences

**Departments:** School of Geosciences

**Contact Information:** [www.grad.usf.edu](http://www.grad.usf.edu)

**PROGRAM INFORMATION**

The Ph.D. degree in Geography and Environmental Science and Policy is an interdisciplinary program, the curriculum of which is designed to take advantage of the School of Geoscience’s (SGS) strengths in critical areas of geography and environmental science and policy, as well as geology. Emphasis is placed on providing theoretical rigor and methodological skills enabling students to make significant and original research and policy contributions in an integrated interdisciplinary environment. In addition, the degree has a very strong applied component reflecting the School’s strong emphases in working on solutions to real-world geographical and environmental problems.

**Accreditation:**

Accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of College and Schools.

**Areas of Emphasis:**

Geography

Environmental Science and Policy

**ADMISSION INFORMATION**

Must meet University requirements (see Graduate Admissions) as well as requirements listed below.

**Program Admission Requirements**

* A Master’s degree, or its equivalent, from an approved regionally accredited university with preparation in geography, environmental science and policy, or a related discipline. Highly qualified applicants can enter directly into the doctoral program from a Bachelor’s degree but must complete a minimum of 90 hours prior to obtaining the Ph.D., including the required coursework in either the Geography or Environmental Science and Policy Master’s program.
* Graduate Record Exam (GRE) taken within the last 5 years
* GPA at least 3.20 in upper division undergraduate and graduate credits
* If non‐native English speaker, TOEFL score of at least 79 on internet based test or equivalent for other forms of test

or IELTS (minimum score 6.5)

* Completed online application through the USF Graduate Admissions’ webpage
* A letter of intent. The letter should outline the applicant’s specific academic interests and goals and identify faculty

members whose interests align with that of the applicant.

* Three letters of recommendation. Arrange to have letters of recommendation sent to the Office of Graduate Admissions online prior to the application deadline. Prospective students should solicit the letters of recommendation from sources who are familiar with the applicant’s academic/work history and performance. Signatures and letterheads are required for letters of recommendation.

**Students Upgrading into the Doctoral Program from the Master’s Degree Program**

After completing a minimum of one semester of course work, an admitted master’s student may apply for the doctoral program with the consent of his/her major professor (must be the major professor and not simply the initial advisor). When the student applies to the Ph.D. program, the application is then reviewed by the Graduate Committee via the established application process, and recommendations are made regarding admission to the program and funding.

**DEGREE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

Total Minimum Program Hours: 60 hours post-Master’s

90 hours post- Bachelor’s

**Post-Bachelor’s (Bachelor’s to Ph.D.) (90 minimum hours)**

Core Requirements - 12 hours

Electives - 66 hours

Dissertation – 12 hours

**Post-Master’s (60 minimum hours)**

Core Requirements - 12 hours

Electives - 36 hours

Dissertation – 12 hours

**Core Requirements (12 credits)**

All students must complete the following courses:

EVR 7021 3 Doctoral Dissertation Preparation

GEO 7606 3 Seminar in Urban and Natural Environments

GEO 6116 3 Perspectives in Environmental Thought

Or

GEO 6058 3 Geographic Literature and History

One of these methods courses:

GIS 6100 3 Geographic Information Systems

GIS 6038 3 Advance Remote Sensing

GEO 6119 3 Qualitative Research Methods

GEO 6166 3 Multivariate Statistical Analysis

**Electives - 36 credits (post-Master’s); 66 credits (post-Bachelor’s)**

Students complete 36 (post-master’s) or 66 (post-bachelor’s) credit hours in the form of elective coursework related to their area of interest. A Minimum of nine (9) structured credit hours is required for electives for students with a master’s degree. , in addition to these nine (9) minimum structured credit hours. The student’s major professor and Faculty Supervisory Committee will advise students on the selection of the proper mix of coursework and other study to support the agreed upon dissertation research. Students can include coursework from a variety of departments to support the elective requirements, and students may choose to complete a Graduate Certificate in a particular field, from GEP or another department, as part of their studies.

EVR 6101 Geomorphology for Environmental Scientists

EVR 6216 Advances in Water Policy and Management

EVR 6320 Environmental Management

EVR 6408 Wildlife Ecology

EVR 6922 EPS Capstone seminar

EVR 6936 Seminar in Environmental Science

EVR 6937 Seminar in Environmental Policy

GEA 6252 Seminar in the Geography of the American South

GEA 6406 Seminar in Latin American and Caribbean Geography

GEA 6504 Seminar in European Geography

GEO 6115 Field Techniques

GEO 6428 Seminar in Advanced Human Geography

GEO 6605 Contemporary Urban Issues

GEO 6908 Independent Study

GIS 5049 GIS for Non-Majors

GIS 5075 Global Positioning Systems

GIS 6306 Environmental Applications of GIS

GIS 6307 Socioeconomic Applications of GIS

GIS 6355 Water Resources Applications of GIS

URP 6056 City and Regional Planning

URP 6100 Planning Theory and History

URP 6115 Planning, Policy and Politics

URP 6232 Research Methods for Urban and Research Planning

URP 6930 Special Topics in Urban and Regional Planning

URP 6940 Internship in Urban and Regional Planning

**Doctoral Qualifying Exam**

As soon as the substantial majority of the course work is completed, the student must pass a written qualifying examination covering the subject matter in the major and related fields. This examination may be supplemented by an oral examination. Students must be enrolled for a minimum of two (2) hours of graduate credit in their discipline at the time they take the qualifying examination. If the exam is taken between semesters, students must be enrolled for a minimum of two (2) hours of graduate credit in the semester before or following the exam.

**Dissertation hour requirement and directed research (12 Credit hours)**

Directed Research hours shall not exceed 50% of the doctoral dissertation hour requirement. Directed research hours cannot retroactively be converted to dissertation hours.

EVR 7980 Doctoral Dissertation

GEO 7980 Doctoral Dissertation

GEO 6918 Directed Research

**Other Requirements and Information:**

**Advising**

When a student is admitted to the Program, the student, with the assistance of the Graduate Director, will have an initial advisor based upon mutual interests of the student and faculty member. The role of the advisor is to guide the student in selecting appropriate coursework for his/her program of study and to work with the student in developing research ideas and an eventual dissertation topic. In consultation with his/her advisor, the student will select a committee that will serve not only as the student's dissertation committee, but as the qualifying exam committee as well (See procedures for Academic Progress for SGS PhD students).

**Policy for Taking Graduate Courses outside USF and the Tampa campus**

Graduate courses offered at other universities or other USF campuses can have a different focus than those offered on the USF Tampa campus. Students must get approval from their advisors and the Graduate Director prior to taking any outside courses to verify that these courses will count toward their degrees. Additionally, only faculty at the School of Geosciences Tampa campus can serve as the major professor/advisor for graduate students enrolled on the Tampa campus.

**COURSES**

See <http://www.ugs.usf.edu/course-inventory/>