

## Applying to the Masters Programs in Geography / GIScience

- MA Geography
- MA Geography: Concentration in Resource Management & Environmental Planning
- MS GIScience

**The Department requires all application materials to be submitted in one complete packet. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.**

### Who should apply:

We welcome applications from individuals who have a baccalaureate degree in any field, or will receive their baccalaureate degree prior to the start of the semester for which they are applying.

For Classified admission to the M.A. program in geography, a student must meet the general university requirements as stated in the *Bulletin* and have completed an undergraduate major in geography with a minimum GPA of 3.25 in the major.

### MA

An applicant with a GPA of 3.25 or better in a major other than geography who meets the general university requirements as stated in the *Bulletin* may qualify for admission as a Conditionally Classified graduate student. The applicant will be advanced to Classified status upon completion of prerequisite courses, including lower division courses in physical geography (Geog 101/equivalent), cultural geography (Geog 102/107/equivalent), geographic techniques (Geog 103/equivalent), and two upper division geography courses, with a grade of "B" or better in each course. Units earned for remedial or prerequisite course work are not applied toward the graduate degree.

### MS

For admission to the graduate program, a student must meet the general university requirements as stated in the *Bulletin*. An applicant must have a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution with a GPA of 3.25 or better in Geography or a related discipline, with emphasis or experience in spatial data analysis, and have earned a grade of B or better in Geog 603, or equivalent.

### When to apply:

The department accepts applications twice a year, for Fall and Spring admission.

For Fall admission:            apply by March 1

For Spring admission:        apply by October 1

**\*\*Spring admission not always available – contact department\*\***

## How to apply:

To be admitted to a graduate degree or credential program, you must apply and be accepted to both SFSU Graduate Studies and the specific program in which you are interested.

### 1. Apply to the University

- Apply online, using the appropriate form, located at the CSU Mentor website: <https://secure.csumentor.edu/AdmissionApp/>.  
*\*Under the Statement of Purpose section on CSU Mentor, write 'See attached' and submit your statement to the department.\**
- Have official transcripts sent to the Graduate Studies office from all institutions you have attended.

Division of Graduate Studies  
San Francisco State University  
1600 Holloway Avenue, ADM 250  
San Francisco, CA 94132

### 2. Apply to the Department

**Beginning with Fall 2010, the Department will require all application materials to be submitted in one complete packet. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.**

- Send the following materials in **one complete packet** to:

Graduate Adviser  
Department of Geography  
San Francisco State University  
1600 Holloway Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94132

1. Application cover sheet  
Available on department website:  
<http://bss.sfsu.edu/geog/gradappcoversheet.doc>
2. Copy of your University application
3. Statement of Purpose  
This should be about two pages in length explaining your background and preparation for graduate study, why you've chosen to apply to our program (specify which), and your career/professional goals (if known). This is also an opportunity to

identify academic/professional achievements and to explain any irregularities in your previous academic record.

4. Two letters of recommendation

These must be sent directly to the **applicant** by the referees/recommenders in a sealed envelope, signed across the flap. Applicant should submit letters with other materials.

5. Copy of unofficial transcript(s)

6. Copy of GRE score report

We use these in support of admissions decisions until your official report arrives.

**An unofficial copy of GRE score report must be included in application packet or applicant will not be considered for admittance; plan accordingly when choosing exam date.**

- Have your GRE scores sent to the department. The SFSU code is 4684 and the Geography Department is 2203.
- Personal interviews with a graduate adviser and appropriate department faculty are recommended.
- We also encourage applicants to visit the department, to see our facilities and speak with current grad students.

### **Admission:**

The Department's Graduate Committee will evaluate completed applications on or about April 1 (for Fall admissions) and November 1 (if Spring admissions accepted). **Only students whose application materials are complete at this time will be reviewed.**

You may be admitted to Classified Graduate Standing (admitted without contingencies) or Conditionally Classified Graduate Standing (admitted with a requirement that you complete prerequisite coursework or correct other deficiencies within a specified time period).

You will receive notification of the Graduate Committee's recommendation by email and/or phone.

The University will send you official notification of admission, along with registration information, a few weeks later.

**Acceptance:**

Please contact the department to confirm your intent to enroll and please alert us to any changes in your street address, phone number, or email address.

**More questions?**

Contact us:

**Geography Department Graduate Coordinator**

Nancy Lee Wilkinson, HSS 267, 338-1439, [nancyw@sfsu.edu](mailto:nancyw@sfsu.edu)

**MA Program Advisers**

Nancy Lee Wilkinson, HSS 279, 338-1439, [nancyw@sfsu.edu](mailto:nancyw@sfsu.edu)

Andrew Oliphant, HSS 273, 405-2143, [andrewo@sfsu.edu](mailto:andrewo@sfsu.edu)

Courtney Donovan, HSS 270, 405-0921, [cdonovan@sfsu.edu](mailto:cdonovan@sfsu.edu)

**MS Program Advisers**

Leonhard Blesius, HSS 283, 405-2144, [lblesius@sfsu.edu](mailto:lblesius@sfsu.edu)

Jerry Davis, HSS 277, 338-2983, [jerry@sfsu.edu](mailto:jerry@sfsu.edu)

Ellen Hines, HSS 339, 338-1482, [ehines@sfsu.edu](mailto:ehines@sfsu.edu)

XiaoHang Liu, HSS 269, 338-7509, [xhliu@sfsu.edu](mailto:xhliu@sfsu.edu)

**Geography Department Academic Office Coordinator**

Erica Thomas, HSS 279, 338-2049, [ericatom@sfsu.edu](mailto:ericatom@sfsu.edu)

**SFSU Division of Graduate Studies**

<http://www.sfsu.edu/~gradstdy/>

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