

St. Cloud State University

Master of Science Program in Geography

Program Level Matrix and Timeline

<b>Learning outcomes</b>	<b>Relevant courses</b>	<b>Assessment methods</b>	<b>To be assessed in</b>
1) Students will attain basic graduate-level knowledge in how physical and human factors influence global and local spatial processes and patterns and are expressed in specific places and landscapes;	GEOG 554, 555, 557, 571, 572, 573, 586, 590, 592, 596, 597, 601, 602, 630, 650, 654	Exams, projects, and/or research papers, pre-test/post-test evaluations and course evaluations	When these classes are offered, at the discretion of the faculty teaching the class
2) Students will be able to identify and distinguish between different theories and traditions in geography;	GEOG 601, 602, 610	Research papers and assignments	Every third semester for GEOG 610, as needed in 601 and 602
3) Students will apply theoretical concepts of geography to a range of contemporary issues (e.g., conservation of natural resources, environmental assessment, urban planning, public health, economic development, cultural change) to offer practical solutions;	GEOG 699	Thesis completion and oral defense	The last semester in the program for the student in question

4) Students will learn to work in collaborative environment and will get exposure to methods of college classroom teaching and evaluation;	GEOG 406/506, 407/507, 416/516, 450/550, 454/554, 457/557, 462/562, 471/571, 472/572, 473/573, 486/586, 490/590, 492/592, 496/596, 497/597	Joint student projects	As classes are offered, at the discretion of the faculty member teaching each class
5) Students will conduct original research including theory applications, data collection, appropriate hypotheses testing with statistics, GIS and/or other recognized tools of geographical analysis;	GEOG 699 and all GIS courses (506, 507, 516, 550, 562)	Thesis completion and oral defense Projects in GIS courses	During thesis write-up and presentation for GEOG 699 As needed in GIS courses
6) Students will demonstrate adequate levels of oral and writing skills needed for presentation of their research results in on- and off-campus public presentations;	GEOG 610, 699	Thesis defense and individual presentations of thesis results in research colloquia or at regional, national, and international conferences	Every third semester in GEOG 610 and as needed in 699 Presentations at SCSU research Colloquium, AAG regional and national meetings, GIS/LIS, and other professional meetings
7) Students will learn the basic skills needed to apply for research funding;	GEOG 601, 610	Thesis proposal and actual grants written (track success rate)	Annual monitoring Student research grants at SCSU and external grants from professional organizations
8) Upon graduation, students will be able to secure professional employment in a geography field.	Entire MS program	Exit questionnaire Biannual survey of employment statistics of the graduates Monitoring of graduate students' status	End of each semester Every two years  Continuous

