

GEODESIGN

Degree Requirements

Master of Professional Studies (M.P.S.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Policies (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>).

Students earn the M.P.S. in Geodesign degree by successfully completing a minimum 35 credits of course work, including a supervised individual study project. Course requirements include a minimum of 18 credits at the 500 level or above, with a minimum of 6 credits at the 500 level. Note that because most of the available elective courses are worth 3 credits, many students are likely to take at least 36 credits (9 elective credits) to complete their degree program.

The individual study capstone project is the culminating experience for the graduate degree and requires the student to apply the geodesign framework to a real-world challenge, of his/ her choosing, in order to demonstrate aptitude in analytic, design, and collaborative skills. For most students the project will culminate in a formal public presentation, attended by the student's adviser, who is member of the Graduate Faculty at Penn State. If the adviser is unable to attend, the department will send a representative from the Graduate Faculty. The presentation will take place at an appropriate professional conference, approved in consultation with the project adviser. Typically the presentation will be at an annual conference (at the national, regional or state level) of professional organizations, such as the American Planning Association, American Society of Landscape Architects, the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association, ESRI User Conferences, or other suitable professional organization- affiliated venues. The final venue selection will be one that is mutually agreeable between the student and adviser as to location and appropriate level of professional rigor. Alternatively, students who will be unable to attend a conference, or have other professional objectives, may work with their adviser to get approval to write and submit a project report as an article for an appropriate peer-reviewed journal. The student will provide the adviser with the article, who will in turn recommend final submission to the journal. This will provide an alternative path to successfully complete the culminating experience. Presentations and papers are preceded by dress rehearsals that are open to all students in the program through Web and audio conferencing. As part of his or her individual studies, every student is expected to contribute a formal peer review of one other student's rehearsal.

An Advisory Board consisting of accomplished design, geography and planning professionals in government and industry, as well as Penn State faculty members in a variety of disciplines, guides the ongoing development of the curriculum. Based on taking courses on a part-time basis and at a distance, the curriculum will take at a minimum two-and-a-half years to complete.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
GEODZ 511	Geodesign History, Theory, Principles	3
GEODZ 822	GeoDesign Models I: Evaluation and Decision	3
GEODZ 824	GeoDesign Models II: Process and Impact	3
or GEODZ 826	GeoDesign Models III: Representation and Change	
GEODZ 842	Geodesign Studio I: Rural/Regional Challenges	6
GEODZ 852		6

Electives

Select three courses (at least 8 credits) of GEOG courses at the 400 level or higher; courses must be approved in advance by the student's adviser. A list of acceptable electives is maintained by the program office.	8
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Culminating Experience

GEODZ 596A	Individual Studies–Geodesign Capstone Project Proposal and Peer Review	3
GEODZ 596B	Individual Studies–Geodesign Capstone Project Dissemination	3

Total Credits	35
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