

# Graduate Study in Geography at Portland State University

*An Information Booklet*



Photo: Joe Poralowski.



Photo: Joe Progaski.

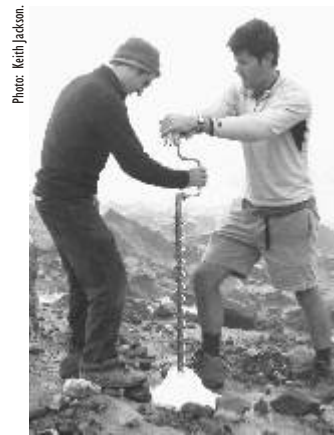


Photo: Keith Jackson.

**Geography Department  
Portland State University  
Portland, OR 97207-0751**

**voice: 503/725-3916**

*or*

**800/547-8887 x-3916**

**8 - 5, M - F Pacific Time**

**fax: 503/725-3166**

**More information about the Geography  
Department and a printable PDF of  
this document are available at [www.geog.pdx.edu](http://www.geog.pdx.edu)**



Photo: Teresa Bulman.



Photo: Brent Schauer

Professor Tom Harvey is Chair of the Department. His interests include "sense of place" and urban environments. A key component of his research is the qualitative tool of photography to capture the mood or atmosphere of a place.

Portland's proximity to mountains - the Cascades to the east and the Coast Range to the west - provides graduate students easy access to day hiking, backpacking, or extended field work.

## **The Master's Degree Program in Geography**

Geography graduate students pursue either the Master of Arts (M.A.) or the Master of Science (M.S.) Students receive preparation for careers in the private or public sector or for continuing on to a Ph.D. program. Each year about 30 students take classes in the M.A./M.S. program.

The program requirements are flexible, offering students the opportunity to work closely with an advisor to design a course of study tailored to individual interests. This booklet provides detailed information about the M.A./M.S. degree program. *Prospective students are strongly encouraged to contact individual faculty to discuss interests and research possibilities.*

## **Other Geography Graduate Programs**

### **Certificate in Geographical Information Systems**

The Department offers a Graduate Certificate in GIS. While many students pursue just the Certificate, many Master's students pursue the Certificate simultaneous with their Master's degree. Details are available on the Geography Department web page ([www.geog.pdx.edu/](http://www.geog.pdx.edu/)).

### **Secondary School Teaching**

The Geography Department also advises students in the Master of Arts in Teaching - General Social Science/Geography (M.A.T.) and the Master of Science in Teaching - General Social Science/Geography (M.S.T.) These degrees prepare the student for certification to teach at the Secondary School level. Details may be found at [www.pdx.edu/masters.html](http://www.pdx.edu/masters.html).

### **Ph.D. in ESR - Geography**

The Geography Department also offers the Ph.D. in Environmental Science & Resources - Geography. The ESR Program involves faculty from Biology, Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Economics, Geography, Geology and Physics. Students interested in the Ph.D. program should begin by contacting the Geography faculty member(s) whose interests align with their own and who might serve as advisor. Application materials are available from the ESR Program ([www.esr.pdx.edu/](http://www.esr.pdx.edu/)).

## **Life in the PSU Geography Program**

Portland State University operates on the Quarter System: there are three 10-week terms (Fall, Winter, Spring) plus a Summer term. Graduate students are normally admitted to begin the program in the Fall term. There are few graduate-level courses offered during Summer term, and most of the faculty and graduate students are away from campus during this time.

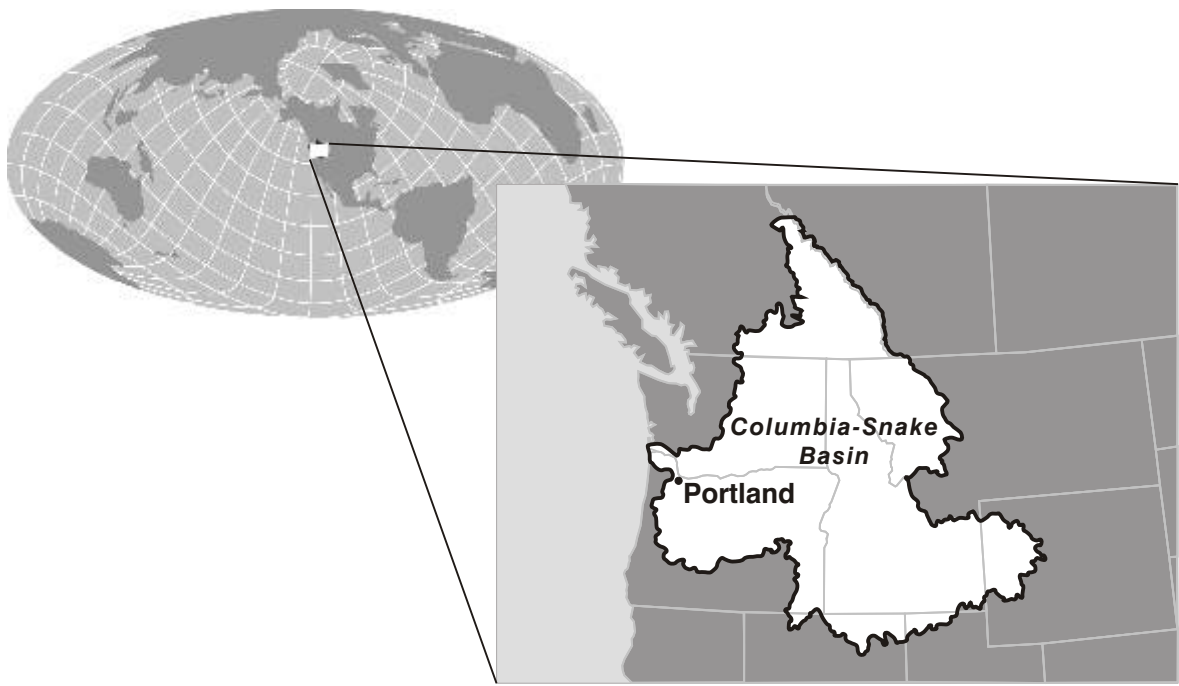
On Wednesday afternoons during Fall and Winter terms, the Department sponsors a Colloquium, drawing speakers from PSU faculty in Geography and other departments, graduate students, faculty at other institutions, and community professionals, many of whom are graduates of the Geography Department. This series offers students the opportunity to be exposed to a wide array of research questions, complementing what they learn in traditional course work.

The Friends of Geography (FOG) is an organization of graduate and undergraduate students that sponsors a variety of department events, including field trips and department social events. FOG is also responsible for selecting student representatives to departmental committees. A second very active group is the Student Chapter of the ASPRS-CRR.



Photo: Joe Praski

Karin Waller, Office Coordinator, keeps the Geography administrative ship afloat.



### **Portland and the Pacific Northwest**

The Pacific Northwest combines the snow-capped Cascades, high deserts, Columbia River Gorge, and Pacific Coast in a spectacular landscape. The region's physical geography provides a backdrop to a history of exploration, discovery, migration, settlement, and development. The contemporary urban and economic scene is one of dynamism and growth, within the context of one of the country's most innovative land use planning systems. Local and regional issues in resource conservation and management have a high profile both nationally and internationally. This diverse combination of features and conditions provides excellent opportunities for graduate research.

*Located at the confluence of the Willamette River with the Columbia, Portland is strategically positioned within the Columbia-Snake River Basin and serves as the focal point of the informal region known as Ecotopia.*

Portland, a city of more than 500,000 people within a six-county, bi-state metropolitan area of nearly 2 million, offers both small-city charm and big-city amenities. Its vibrant downtown, highly-developed neighborhood structure, efficient and extensive public transportation system, array of parks, numerous bookstores, bicycle-friendly streets, and variety of cultural institutions make Portland one of the most attractive and "livable" cities in the United States. Located in the Willamette Valley, between the Cascade Mountains to the east and the Coast Range and Pacific Ocean to the west, Portland is within easy reach of a variety of recreational opportunities including downhill and cross-country skiing, snow-shoeing, kayaking, white-water rafting, wind surfing, hiking, and camping.



Photo: Brent Schauer

Portland State University's campus of more than 25,000 students (undergraduate and graduate) is part of a cluster of historical, cultural and educational institutions (Portland Art Museum, Oregon History Center, Portland Center for the Performing Arts) on the 12-block stretch of South Park Blocks. Numerous local, state, and federal agencies are located throughout the metropolitan area, providing resources for research on a wide variety of topics. Many students complement their classroom study with internships in private firms or public agencies.

*Just eight blocks from the heart of the city, the Portland State campus offers ready access to the downtown community as a historical, cultural and social experience. This proximity also offers numerous urban-based research possibilities.*



Photo: Jae Brown/ky

Professor Martha Works does research in human geography and has a regional focus on Latin America.

Among the organizations in which students have recently obtained internships are:

- National Geographic Society
- City of Portland Planning Bureau
- Tri-Met (local transit)
- Bureau of Land Management
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- Washington County Planning Department
- Several environmental consultants
- Local photogrammetry & mapping firms
- Various environmental organizations
- Natural Resources Conservation Service

## Areas of Concentration

Applications are invited from students wishing to pursue work within any of the teaching and research interest areas of the faculty. Prospective students are strongly encouraged to communicate directly with individual faculty to explore potential research topics and opportunities. Note that Visiting and Adjunct Faculty may serve on graduate committees but only Tenure-Track faculty may serve as graduate advisor / committee chair. Faculty research may be characterized within a framework of five general areas of inquiry:

**Regional Analysis and International Studies** - the distinctive character of various regions of the world, particularly how nature and society have interacted over time to shape places and landscapes. Regions of particular interest include East and South Asia, Central and South America, and North America.

**Physical Geography** - the natural environment of the earth as a set of interrelated systems. Geographic specialties include geomorphology, hydrology, climatology, biogeography, and alpine environments.

**Environmental Geography and Natural Resource Management** - examination of environmental change and human influences on natural resources. Conservation, cultural ecology, environmental ethics, resource management, and urban natural resources are Department interest areas.

**Cultural and Human Geography** - the role of culture in giving character to places; how human activities such as agriculture, urbanization, and resource use have modified environments. Faculty interests include: analysis of place and landscape, culture history, cultural and political ecology, rural landscapes, and urban form.

**Spatial Analysis and Data Representation** - techniques for measuring, collecting, analyzing, and displaying geographic information. Includes cartography, visualization, geographic information systems, remote sensing, global positioning systems, and quantitative methods – all dealt with as applied skills rather than as purely technical specializations.

## Geography Faculty: Full-Time, Tenure-Track

(Degrees listed are in Geography unless otherwise noted.)

**Barbara Brower**, Professor of Geography & International Studies. B.A. 1977 (Anthropology), M.A. 1982; Ph.D. 1987, University of California, Berkeley. *Resource policy, mountain geography, pastoralism, highland Asia, the American West, cultural ecology.*

**Teresa Bulman**, Professor of Geography. B.A. 1973 (Political Science), Mount Holyoke College; J.D. 1978, Georgetown University Law Center; M.S.F.S. 1978, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service; M.S. 1986, University of Massachusetts, Amherst; Ph.D. 1990, University of California, Davis. *Resource management, water resources, environmental law, teacher education.*

**Heejun Chang**, Associate Professor of Geography. B.A. 1994, M.A. 1996, Seoul National University; Ph.D. 2001, The Pennsylvania State University. *Hydrology, water resources, integrated regional assessment of global climate change, GIS in environmental modeling.*

**Geoffrey Duh**, Assistant Professor of Geography & Director, GIS Programs. B.S. 1986, M.S. 1991, National Taiwan University; Ph.D. 2004 (Natural Resources and Environment), University of Michigan. *Geographic information systems theory and application, remote sensing, land use and land cover change.*



Photo: Martha Works

Graduate students often have the opportunity to be involved in projects where they are helping K-12 students learn how to perform field work in support of real-world research projects.

---

**Andrew Fountain**, Professor of Geography & Geology. B.S. 1975 (Physics) St. Lawrence University; M.S. 1980 (Atmospheric Science), University of Alaska; Ph.D. 1992 (Civil Engineering), University of Washington. *Glaciology, geomorphology, energy balance/meteorology, remote sensing.*

**Keith Hadley**, Associate Professor of Geography. B.A. 1977, California State College - Sonoma; M.A. 1984, University of Wyoming; Ph.D. 1990, University of Colorado. *Biogeography, landscape ecology, dendroecology, soils, alpine environments.*

**Thomas Harvey**, Chair and Professor of Geography. B.A. 1974 (Environmental Studies), Antioch College; M.S. 1982, Pennsylvania State University; Ph.D. 1990, University of Minnesota. *Urban geography, city and regional planning, cultural landscape studies, North America.*

**Daniel M. Johnson**, Professor Emeritus of Geography. B.A. 1967 (American History), University of Arizona; M.A. 1975, Arizona State University; Ph.D. 1978, Arizona State University. *Climatology, hydrology, historical geography.*

**Martin Lafrenz**, Assistant Professor. B.S. 1998, M.S. 2001, Portland State University; Ph.D. 2004, University of Tennessee. *Water resources, land use change, geomorphology and geographic information systems.*

**Gil Latz**, Professor of Geography & International Studies; Vice-Provost for International Affairs. B.A. 1974 (Religion), Occidental College; M.A. 1978, The University of Chicago; Ph.D. 1986, The University of Chicago. *Pacific Asia, Japan, regional development policy, international trade, teacher education.*

**Joseph Poracsky**, Professor of Geography. B.A. 1968, Clark University; M.A. 1976, University of Maryland; Ph.D. 1984, University of Kansas. *Cartography, numeric visualization, urban natural resources / urban forestry, remote sensing.*

**Martha A. Works**, Professor of Geography & International Studies. B.A. 1974 (Anthropology), University of the Americas, Puebla, Mexico; M.A. 1980, Arizona State University; Ph.D. 1984, Louisiana State University. *Latin America, cultural geography, economic development, tropical environments, agriculture.*

## Geography Faculty: Visiting and Adjunct

**David Banis**, Adjunct Instructor and GIS Lab Manager, Center for Spatial Analysis and Research. B.S. 1981 (Chemical Engineering), University of California, Berkeley; M.S. 2004, Portland State University. *GIS, cartographic design, remote sensing, natural resources management, cultural geography.*

**Michael C. Houck**, Adjunct Instructor. B.S. 1969 (Zoology), Iowa State University; M.S.T. 1972 (Biology), Portland State University; Urban Naturalist, Audubon Society of Portland; Director, Urban Greenspaces Institute; Loeb Fellow, Harvard University, 2003-4. *Urban wildlife, wetlands, growth management.*

**Hunter Shobe**, Visiting Assistant Professor. B.A. 1994 (International Affairs), George Washington University; M.A. 2000, Ph.D. 2005 University of Oregon. Urban, cultural and political geography, urban landscapes, public and private spaces.

**Karen Arabas**, Adjunct Instructor. B.A. (Political Science), University of California, San Diego; M.A. 1992 (Geography), San Diego State University; Ph.D. 1997 (Geography) Syracuse University. *Urban and cultural geography, geographic research and writing, history and philosophy of geography.*

Additional adjunct faculty teach a variety of courses. See [www.geog.pdx.edu](http://www.geog.pdx.edu) for current information.



Photo: Joe Poracsky.

Professor Keith Hadley teaches courses in biogeography and alpine environments and directs the PSU Tree-Ring Lab. ([www.geog.pdx.edu/tree\\_ring/](http://www.geog.pdx.edu/tree_ring/))

PSU Master's graduates hold a variety of geography-related jobs, such as:

- Planner
- GIS Analyst
- Wetlands Scientist
- University Faculty
- Community College Faculty
- Remote Sensing Specialist
- Urban Conservationist
- Forester
- Cartographer
- Census Analyst



Photo: Rob Bong.

Professor Martin Lafrenz is the newest faculty member in the department. He has strong interests in field work, a key part of which is teaching about GPS (global positioning systems) and GIS.

**Spatial Analysis and Data Representation software in the Geography Department includes:**

- Adobe Photoshop
- Adobe Illustrator CS
- ArcGIS 9.3
- ArcView 3.3
- Corel Draw 11
- Corel PhotoPaint 11
- ERDAS Imagine 9.2
- Idrisi Andes
- InDesign
- MatLab 7.0
- R
- SPSS 10.1
- STATA 9
- Surfer 8



Photo: Brent Schauer.

*Professor Emeritus Dan Johnson, though retired, continues to teach part-time in the areas of climatology and historical geography of the American West. He is a campus pioneer in on-line teaching.*



*The Oregon Geographic Alliance, housed in the Geography Department under the direction of Professor Teresa Bulman, works statewide to improve the training of geography teachers in Oregon schools. ([www.geog.pdx.edu/oga](http://www.geog.pdx.edu/oga))*

## **Research Facilities**

### **Departmental Resources**

All department offices, classrooms and laboratories share a common location on the fourth floor of Cramer Hall. Graduate students are provided with desks and have access to shared departmental resources for computing, field equipment, data, and photocopying.



*The two computer labs in the department provide students with easy access to the variety of software that geographers employ in their research.*

Photo: Joe Penzicki.

Computing facilities available within the department include an Instructional Computing Lab and a Spatial Analysis Teaching and Research Lab. The two computing laboratories and most faculty use Windows-based computers. The department also has several scanners, digitizing tablets and a large-format inkjet plotter.

Both labs have specialized mapping, GIS, remote sensing, and illustration software available. Word-processing, spreadsheet, database and statistical software are also available. Machines are networked to provide access to the Internet, a variety of library resources, and data sets housed on a departmental server. The department has a variety of digital data for the greater Portland area and a growing set of data bases for several other areas of the world – all acquired to support faculty and student research and teaching.

Additional mapping equipment includes mirror stereoscopes, compasses and GPS units. The department also has a modest in-house map and air photo collection and a collection of wall maps. Specialized physical geography resources include a tree-ring lab, and field equipment for research in biogeography, soils, hydrology and micro-climatology.

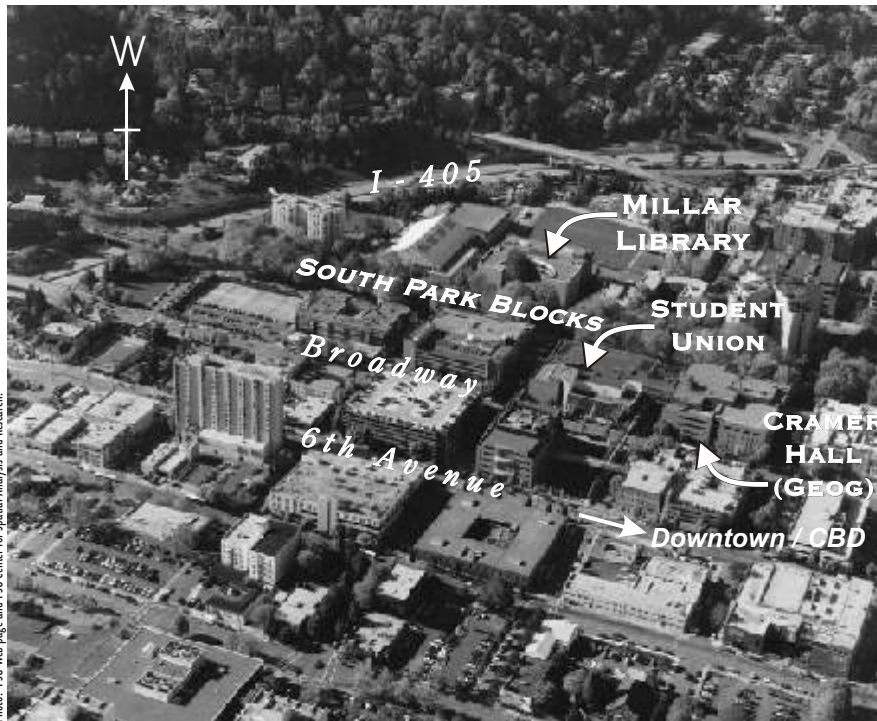
At any one time faculty may have a variety of ongoing research projects underway. Prospective graduate students are strongly encouraged to contact individual faculty for details of current research activities.



Photo: Joe Prakowskie.

*CSAR – the Center for Spatial Analysis and Research (formerly the Cartographic Center) offers practical project experience for students in inventory, spatial analysis / GIS, remote sensing, map production, and scientific visualization. (<http://csar.pdx.edu/>)*

The compact form of the Portland State campus allows easy access to the campus resources for research and recreation. The heart of the campus is the South Park Blocks, serving as a central quadrangle and creating a pleasant pedestrian connection between PSU and downtown Portland.



### Other Campus Resources

Research materials are centrally located in Millar Library, just two buildings away from the Geography Department across the South Park Blocks. Since there are no branch libraries on campus, research materials related to all disciplines are easily found in a single location. Items that are not available on campus may be ordered by graduate students via Millar Library's interlibrary loan service.

*Portland State's Millar Library contains more than 1,000,000 volumes, approximately 10,000 serial publications, a collection of maps and atlases, and a variety of on-line research resources.*

Additional specialized campus computing resources are available in the Instructional Development Support Center (IDSC), equipped with a variety of software, scanners and a large format color laser printer. There are also a number of general-use student labs available.

Portland State houses the Center for Population Research and Census, the Center for Lakes and Reservoirs, and the Offices of the U. S. Geological Survey Oregon Water Science Center.

### Related Campus Programs

Portland State is a comprehensive public university and includes a wide array of science, social science and humanities disciplines. Geography graduate students are encouraged to seek out faculty and course work in other programs that are relevant to their research interests.

While a number of other disciplines might be of interest, Geography graduate students have traditionally drawn upon faculty with expertise in Biology/Ecology, Civil Engineering/Hydrology, Environmental Sciences and Resources, Geology, International Studies, and Urban Studies and Planning. As a result, the Geography Department has developed working relations with faculty members in each of these disciplines.



Photo: Marita Works.

*Professor Heejun Chang's teaching and research areas include physical geography, hydrology and global climate change.*

Portland State is the largest university in Oregon and, of the six four-year colleges in the Portland area, the only one to offer degrees in Geography.

Among the potential research opportunities and resources available to graduate students are the many government agencies in the Portland area, including:

- U. S. Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- U. S. Geological Survey Water Resources Division
- U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Metro (regional government)
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality



Much of Professor Barbara Brower's work is concerned with the broad area of human ecology.

Photo: Karla Weeks

## **Degree Requirements Summary (see PSU Bulletin for details)**

### **General Requirements**

Applicants to the graduate program must hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university. Minimum requirements for admission are normally a 3.0 grade point average in college-level course work and a combined verbal/quantitative GRE score of 1000.

### **Students with Non-Geography B.A./B.S. Degrees**

About 4 in 10 of the incoming graduate students enter the program with a degree in a field other than geography. For these students the department has identified 17 geography credits that help them acquire a broad-based foundation in the discipline:

5 credits	GEOG 380 Maps and Geographic Information
4 credits	Upper Division Physical Geography
4 credits	Upper Division Human Geography
4 credits	Upper Division Regional Geography

It is strongly recommended that a student complete all deficiency courses prior to formal start of the graduate program. Courses taken to remove deficiencies must be:

- Taken for undergraduate credit.
- Geography classes, not “similar” courses taken in other departments.
- Completed before entering the program or, if acceptable to the department, by the end of their first year in the program. Addressing the deficiencies while in the graduate program is not recommended; it is difficult for a student to complete these undergraduate courses while also taking a full load of graduate courses.

Students may take graduate-level courses prior to entering the graduate program. Up to 1/3 of a student's graduate courses may be taken at PSU prior to admission and transferred into the program. Thus, if a student delays applying for a year in order to make up deficiencies and also takes some graduate courses, they may not be far behind where they might be had they entered a year earlier. Students interested in this option should contact the Admissions Office about the Quick-Admit option that allows easy enrollment in classes prior to admission to a graduate program.

### **Degree Choices**

The Department offers both a Master of Arts (M.A.) and a Master of Science (M.S.) Degree. The only courses required of all graduate students are *GEOG 521 Geographic Thought*, and *GEOG 522 Research Design*. Graduate students must complete a Qualifying Review in Spring Term of their first year. Students work closely with their advisors to plan a program of study tailored to their particular interests.

Students in the M.A. program must demonstrate their competence in the use of a foreign language for geographic research and complete a thesis.

Students in the M.S. program must demonstrate proficiency in advanced techniques in geography or an equivalent research technique by completing two 4-credit classes in the Spatial Analysis and Data Representation area. M.S. students may choose between a thesis and a research paper option.

Photo: Joe Perinelli

## Thesis Option

Students who elect to write a thesis must take a minimum of 45 credits, 6 of which are *GEOG 503 Thesis*. A thesis proposal must be approved by the student's graduate committee before enrolling for thesis credits. Research will frequently involve field work and analysis that represents an original contribution to knowledge in the field of geography. A formal public presentation and oral defense of the thesis is required.

Of the 45 credits in the thesis option, 36 must be in geography. The thesis option is considered by some to be particularly appropriate for students intending to pursue a Ph.D. and specializing in a single sub-area of geographic research.

## Research Paper Option

Students who elect the research paper option must take a minimum of 54 credits. They must register for one 2-credit section of *GEOG 501 Research* to write, edit, and revise a research paper or project which must evolve from graduate course work in geography at PSU. A final oral presentation of the paper is required for completion of the degree.

Of the 54 credits in the research paper option, 36 must be in geography. This option may be most attractive for students who are preparing for careers in government service or private industry, where the added flexibility of more than one area of specialization might be useful.

## Thesis vs Research Paper?

The question is frequently raised by students as to *Which should I do – a thesis or research paper?* The answer is, *It depends* – on your interests, personal situation, and how your program develops. Each student's case is different and the department seeks to advise each student to the strategy that will help her or him complete the program most efficiently.

*The first PSU Master's degree in Geography was granted in the Winter term of 1973. As of August 2007, 182 Geography Master's degrees have been awarded.*

*Students from the Geography Master's program have gone on to Ph.D. work at a number of institutions, including:*

- University of California - Berkeley
- University of California-Davis
- University of Colorado
- Louisiana State University
- Michigan State University
- University of Nebraska
- The Pennsylvania State University
- University of Tennessee
- University of Utah
- University of Washington



PSU Center for Spatial Analysis and Research

*The graduate program theoretically takes two years to complete, as illustrated in this program model. In practice, most students take longer. The key to completing the degree is identifying and beginning work on a research topic. The offering of the Research Design class in Spring term is intended to help students along on this process in a timely fashion.*



Photo: Pei-Ling Duh.

*As Director of GIS Programs, Professor Geoffrey Duh coordinates geographical information systems activities on campus, including the GIS Certificate Program.*



**David Banis manages the GIS labs and teaches GIS and cartography.**

**Since 1986, seven PSU Geography Graduate students have been awarded internships at the National Geographic Society in Washington, DC.**

**Currently, more than 1,100 international students from more than 90 countries come to study in Portland State's graduate and undergraduate programs.**

**Graduate students have come to study Geography at PSU from:**

- France
- Germany
- Japan
- Nepal
- People's Republic of China
- Russia
- Spain

**Alumni, current graduate students and faculty socialize at a reception sponsored by the Department and FOG (Friends of Geography).**

---

## **Financial Aid**

Through the generosity and foresight of three former staff and faculty members, the Geography Department has several sources of financial aid for graduate students. The Dale and Coral Courtney Scholarship is specifically for graduate students and each year 1-3 awards of about \$2,500 are typically made. The Rockie Scholarship is available to both undergraduate and graduate students in geography and 3-5 scholarships of several hundred dollars each are typically awarded.

A limited number of teaching and research assistantships are also available on a year-to-year basis. Most decisions regarding assistantships and scholarships are made in the spring for the following year. These awards are based on a student's academic potential and ability to fulfill the responsibilities of the specific assistantship. Both newly-admitted and continuing students are considered.

Applicants must have their *complete* application packet in by February 15 in order to receive primary consideration for financial aid. The likelihood of receiving financial aid is reduced if a student is not in the primary consideration group.

---

## **International Admissions**

Applicants who are not U. S. citizens (F-1 and J-1 visa holders) must submit proof of financial support for at least the first year of study.

Applicants for whom English is a second language must present a score of at least 550 (paper-based) or 213 (computer-based) in the *Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)* examination with their application for admission.

Non-U. S. citizens should contact the Admissions Office for International Student admissions forms. All International Student application materials and a checklist of required items are available at:

*[www.ess.pdx.edu/adm/International/index/htm](http://www.ess.pdx.edu/adm/International/index/htm)*



Photo: Joe Pransky

---

## ***Application Instructions***

Graduate students are normally admitted to begin in the Fall Term. February 15 is the Department deadline for applying to receive primary consideration for financial aid. April 1 is the University deadline for submission of applications for Fall Term admission.

The application review is a two-part process and applicants must submit two **different packets**, one to the Admissions Office and one to the Geography Department. The admissions process will be delayed if either packet is incomplete.

---

**PACKET 1 - Send directly to: Office of Admissions and Records  
Portland State University  
Portland, OR 97207-0751**

1. University application form.
2. Application fee, as indicated on the University application form. The fee is good for one year and is non-refundable. *Do not send cash.*
3. One official transcript (in its unopened envelope) from every college or university attended (except PSU), including junior colleges and community colleges.
4. Measles immunization form (required after admission).
5. International students also must send:
  - a. Official TOEFL score (550 minimum, paper-based; 213 minimum, computer-based).
  - b. Evidence of financial resources (for F-1 and J-1 visa holders only).

---

**PACKET 2 - Send directly to: Graduate Committee  
Geography Department  
Portland State University  
Portland, OR 97207-0751**

1. Departmental application form.
2. Transcript from every college or university attended (except PSU), including junior colleges and community colleges (do not have to be official copies).
3. Three letters of recommendation from faculty (preferred) or employer.
4. Personal statement outlining your research interests and professional goals in a 1-2 page essay. The essay should indicate why you wish to pursue graduate work at PSU, describe what you understand the field of geography to be, identify those aspects of the field in which you have the greatest interest, and indicate specific faculty with whom you are potentially interested in working.
5. Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores.
6. Resume, including list of specialized skills and relevant experience (e.g., statistics, programming, mapping software, photography, surveying, languages, etc.)

---

Acceptance into the program will depend upon the number of openings available for new graduate students, the applicant's potential as indicated by the materials submitted with the application, and agreement by an appropriate faculty member to act as advisor to the student.

### **APPLICATION DEADLINES FOR FALL TERM ADMISSION:**

February 15 (*for primary consideration for financial aid*)  
April 1 (*last date to apply*)

---

**IF YOU DO NOT REGISTER FOR THE TERM TO WHICH YOU ARE ADMITTED, YOUR ADMISSION WILL BE CANCELED UNLESS YOU NOTIFY THE OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS AND THE GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THAT TERM.**

---

---

## Some Recent Theses & Graduate Research Papers

*Forest Landscape Change Detection in the Meseta Purepecha, Michoacan, Mexico*; John Chase, 2003.

*The Wilderness Problem: A Narrative of Contested Landscapes in San Juan County, Utah*; David Banis, 2004.

*Modeling Dewatering and Juvenile Fall Chinook Rearing Areas Below Bonneville Dam*; Rodney Garland, 2004.

*A Comparison of Front and Back Yard Garden Areas in Portland, OR: Cultural Expression in the Everyday Landscape*; Christina Frank, 2004.

*A Distribution and Analysis of Surface and Subsurface Private Residential Stormwater Facilities in Portland, OR*; Amber Marra, 2004.

*Forest Edge Dynamics in a Naturally Fragmented Landscape in Central Oregon*; Kathryn Hrinkevich, 2005.

*Comparing Twenty-Four Years of Forest Change in Two Communities of Mexico's Purepecha Using Multi-Spectral Satellite Imagery*; Kevin S. Martin, 2005.

*Development and Assessment of Multiple Fire Simulations for Forest Park, Portland, Oregon*; David Kuhn, 2005.

*Forest Resource Use, Land-Use, and Ecotourism in the Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve, Honduras*; Friedle, Christina M., 2006.

*Detecting an Urbanization Gradient Using Land Cover, Winter Foraging Guilds and Feeding Stations in Two Southeast Portland Neighborhoods*; James John Monchak, 2006.

*Spatial and Morphological Change of Eliot Glacier, Mount Hood, Oregon*; Keith Jackson, 2007.

*Regeneration Patterns and Facilitation Following Blowdown in a Self-Replacing Lodgepole Pine (*Pinus contorta*) Stand in Central Oregon*; Jennifer Michelle Karpis, 2007.

*"Questions About Stuff You Don't Normally See on a Map:" A Study of Sixth-Graders' Abilities to Understand Quantitative Thematic Maps*; Stephanie Gaspers, 2007.

*Comparing Pixel- and Object-Based Classification Methods for Determining Land-Cover in the Gee Creek Watershed, Washington and 'Sustainable Development': Critical Concepts in Geography*; Tyler Vick, 2008.

*Quantifying Twentieth Century Glacier Change in the Sierra Nevada, California*; Hassan Jules Basagic IV, 2008.

*The Effects of Climate Change and Urbanization on the Runoff of the Rock Creek Basin*; Jon Franczyk, 2008.



Broadway is the main southbound thoroughfare from downtown through campus. Many of the streets in the Portland State University District are lined with trees, continuing the verdant environs of the Park Blocks just one block to the east – an oasis of green in a densely developed downtown. The Geography Department is located in Cramer Hall, behind the trees on the right side of the photo.

Photo: Brent Schauer

GradBkltV08f