

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

<https://geog.ucsb.edu/>

College of Letters and
Science University of
California, Santa Barbara

Student Name: _____ Perm: _____

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY – GEOGRAPHY – 2026-27

In addition to departmental requirements, candidates for graduate degrees must fulfill University requirements described in the “Graduate Education” section of the UCSB General Catalog. The core courses must be passed with a grade of ‘B’ or better with the exception of GEOG 200A and GEOG 201, which must be passed satisfactorily.

Time-To-Degree: 4 years to advance to candidacy, 6 years to complete the Ph.D.

CORE COURSE REQUIREMENTS			
COURSE #	COURSE NAME	UNITS	GRADE
GEOG 200A	Introduction to Geographic Research	4.0	
GEOG 200B	Introduction to Geographic Research	2.0	
GEOG 200C	Introduction to Geographic Research	4.0	
GEOG 201*	Seminar in Geography	2.0	
GEOG 210A	Analytical Methods in Geography I	4.0	
GEOG 210B	Analytical Methods in Geography II	4.0	
GEOG 210C	Analytical Methods in Geography III	4.0	
GEOG 500	T.A. Training	4.0	

** Geog 201 is required every quarter it is offered until the student advances to candidacy.*

TEACHING REQUIREMENT
All doctoral candidates must teach (usually in the capacity of a Teaching Assistant) a minimum of one quarter at some time before being granted the Ph.D. degree.

DIAGNOSTIC INTERVIEW
All Ph.D. students are required to take a diagnostic interview to assist in the preparation for undertaking a doctoral program in Geography. Graduate students who have completed the M.A. in our department and are pursuing a Ph.D. are exempt from this requirement. Two professors, appointed by the departmental Graduate Committee, will be responsible for administering it. Students will receive an analysis of the results of the diagnostic interview from their research advisor and another Faculty member, assessing strengths and weaknesses; if weaknesses are noted, extra coursework or independent study will be recommended to correct the situation. The interview will normally be administered during the first three quarters of the student’s residence.

PH.D. COMMITTEE

The Ph.D. Committee consists of at least three UC Academic Senate members, with a tenure-track faculty member from the student's major (home) department serving as chair or co-chair. At least two members of every committee must be tenure-track faculty. The majority of the three members shall be from the student's UCSB major (home) department. The dissertation requires the signatures of the committee, as nominated on Committee Nomination Form I.

ADVANCEMENT TO CANDIDACY/DISSERTATION RESEARCH

In addition to the required Ph.D. coursework, students must demonstrate current knowledge of the dissertation research field by successfully passing a comprehensive written exam which typically focuses on the student's major area of specialization and proposed research. After the student has fulfilled the Ph.D. coursework and passed the qualifying written exam, the student will prepare a dissertation proposal which describes the dissertation topic, summarizes the relevant background literature, and presents a comprehensive research plan for the student's doctoral dissertation, including a timetable and budget which identifies any financial support essential to preparation of the dissertation. All members of the student's Doctoral Committee must approve this proposal. The student is then expected to satisfactorily pass an oral qualifying exam to be advanced to candidacy. A unanimous passing vote from all members of the student's committee is required for advancement to candidacy.

There is a four-year time limit for advancement to Ph.D. candidacy

Ph.D. Qualifying Exam – passed on (date): _____

The final requirement for the doctoral program is for the candidate to complete a dissertation, which must be an original work based on independent research and a public oral defense.

Doctoral Committee: Chair: _____ COI COMPLETED: _____

Member: _____

Member: _____

Member: _____

Public Oral Defense date: _____