

2016-2017 Admission Requirements

Master of Arts in Geography; Master of Science in Geographic Information Science (on campus option); Doctor of Philosophy in Geography

Following are the simple steps to apply for graduate study in Geography/Geographic Information Science at the University of Denver. If you have any questions about the process, please contact the [Office of Graduate Studies](#).

Apply Online / Application Deadlines

- Applications for graduate study at the University of Denver must be submitted online. [Apply online](#).
- All online materials must be received, and all supplemental materials including transcripts must be on file in the [Office of Graduate Studies](#), by the program's stated deadline: For the PhD, MA and MS GISc on-campus programs, applications are accepted for fall quarter admission only. The deadline is January 15, for the fall quarter. (See p. 6 for online MS-GISc program admission guidelines). All online materials must be submitted, and all supplemental materials must be postmarked, by the program's stated deadline for financial aid consideration. Applications may be considered after the deadline on a space-available basis.
- A \$65 non-refundable application fee is required for an application to be processed. Application fee waivers are available for McNair Scholars.

Course and Degree Prerequisites and Requirements

- Applicants must earn and submit proof of earning the equivalent of a baccalaureate degree and, if applicable, a master's degree from a regionally accredited institution prior to beginning graduate coursework at DU.
- An appropriate undergraduate degree in geography or related discipline is normally required with a minimum GPA of 3.0. A master's degree in geography or cognate discipline with a minimum GPA of 3.5 in graduate courses is normally required for admission to the doctoral program. If bachelor's and master's degrees are not in geography, the following prerequisites are required: introductory physical geography, introductory human geography, computer cartography, and geographic statistics.

Transcripts

- Applicants are required to submit an official transcript from each post-secondary institution they have attended, or are presently attending, where two quarter hours (or one semester hour) or more were completed including study abroad and college coursework completed in high school.
- The applicant is responsible for obtaining all transcripts. Applicants who have earned a
Geography

degree outside the U.S. must submit transcripts accompanied by certified English translations, if not normally issued in English. DU students and alumni do not need to provide DU transcripts.

- Official study abroad transcripts are required unless the course titles, grades and credit earned abroad appear on another transcript. Transcripts from outside of the U.S. are evaluated by the Office of International Student Admission. This process can take three to four weeks and must be complete by the program's stated deadline. Therefore, applicants with a degree from outside of the U.S. are encouraged to apply early. Applicants educated outside the U.S. are encouraged to contact the Office of Graduate Studies for assistance regarding transcript-related materials.
- The University of Denver will consider electronic transcripts official from a domestic institution provided by the following approved agencies: Army/American Council on Education Registry Transcript System (AARTS); Docufide/Parchment; National Student Clearinghouse; Naviance; Royall and Company; and, Scrip-Safe.
- Paper transcripts should be sent to the following address:
University of Denver
Office of Graduate Studies
Mary Reed Building, Room 5
2199 S. University Blvd.
Denver, CO 80208-4802

Electronic transcripts should be sent to gradinfo@du.edu.

Language Proficiency

- Official scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) are required of all graduate applicants, regardless of citizenship status, whose native language is not English or who have been educated in countries where English is not the native language. Applications will not be processed until the required TOEFL or IELTS score is received. The TOEFL and IELTS scores are valid for two years from the test date. The minimum TOEFL score accepted by the Geography graduate programs is 88 (iBT) or 570 (paper-based). The institution code for the University of Denver is 4842. The minimum IELTS score accepted by Geography is 6.5. Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs) must demonstrate fluency in spoken English by scoring a 26 on the TOEFL speaking section or 8.0 on the IELTS speaking section. Please see the Graduate Policy Manual for complete English language proficiency requirements.
- Applicants may be exempted from English proficiency test requirements if by the time of matriculation they have earned a post-secondary degree from a formally-recognized/accredited university where the language of instruction and examination is

English. Such applicants may be exempt from the TOEFL/IELTS requirement but not from other standardized graduate entrance examinations. There are no exemptions for graduate teaching assistants.

- Students whose native language is not English and who are required to submit [TOEFL/IELTS](#) scores will be assessed by the University of Denver English Language Center (ELC) prior to matriculation.

Test Scores

- The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required of all applicants, with a combined score of at least 300 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the exam. Scores must be received directly from the appropriate testing agency by the program's stated deadline. The institution code for the University of Denver is 4842.

Personal Statement

- A personal statement of at least 300 words is required. The statement should be submitted via upload through the online application process. The personal statement should include information concerning your life, education, practical experience, special interests and specific purpose for applying to the University of Denver.

Recommendation Letters

- Three letters of recommendation are required. Letters should be solicited and uploaded by recommenders through the online application system. Requests for letters should be sent to recommenders well in advance so the letters are on file by the application deadline.

Financial Support

- To be considered for financial support, domestic applicants should apply early and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the priority deadline; February 15. Information about financial aid can be found on the [Office of Financial Aid website](#). International students are not eligible for federal financial aid.
- Graduate teaching assistantships provide a full tuition waiver, health benefits, and a stipend of \$20,000 (PhD students 2016-2017), \$17,500 (master's students, 2016-2017) for the nine-month year. The assistantships are renewable. These positions are merit-based and are awarded on a competitive basis. Applicants who submit a FAFSA will be automatically considered for assistantships.
- Dean's graduate student scholarships provide half-time tuition waiver to graduate students who are not funded by graduate teaching assistantships. The scholarship is renewable for an additional year (masters students) or two additional years (doctoral students). These positions are merit-based and are awarded on a competitive basis.

Application Status

- We encourage you to be actively engaged in the admission process. You can check your application status online at [PioneerWeb](#). Applicants will receive login information post application submission.

Contact Information

Mail official transcripts and any supplemental admission materials not submitted with the online application to:

University of Denver
Office of Graduate Studies
Mary Reed Building, Room 5
2199 S. University Blvd.
Denver, CO 80208-4802

Electronic transcripts should be sent to gradinfo@du.edu.

For more information call (303) 871-2706

International Applicants

- For complete international applicant information, please visit the [Office of Graduate Studies International Student Application Information](#). International applicants are strongly encouraged to have their applications complete, with all materials on file in the admission office, at least eight weeks prior to the program's application deadline.

The [Graduate Policies and Procedures](#) provides complete details regarding admission requirements.

Dual Undergraduate-Graduate Degree Programs

A Dual Undergraduate-Graduate Degree Program is an institutionally approved program (formerly known as a Three-Two or Four-One program) in which a University of Denver undergraduate student begins taking classes toward a graduate degree program prior to earning a baccalaureate degree. Both degrees must be earned within five years of matriculation into the undergraduate degree program. To be admitted, a student's academic progress must demonstrate that the requirements of the program can be completed in five years.

Undergraduates still need to meet all normal common curriculum, major, minor and total credit hour requirements of their respective majors and minors before receiving the undergraduate degree.

Graduate coursework is usually taken during the undergraduate "senior" year. Students should apply by January 15 to be considered for admission to the graduate program for the following fall quarter.

Dual degree options within the Department of Geography and the Environment are only available to

BA students in Geography and BA/BS in Environmental Science with the dual MSGISc degree.

Students must be admitted to the dual undergraduate-graduate program before taking graduate courses since undergraduate students generally may not take graduate courses. Usually, no more than 30 hours of electives may be used in the senior year to begin the graduate/professional program. Only graduate credit may be counted for the graduate degree. The total number of credit hours required varies by department. All requirements of the graduate or professional program need to be completed before receiving the advanced degree.

The following must be followed consistently and accurately:

- Students are admitted to dual undergraduate-graduate degree programs by the graduate admission unit. The graduate unit follows all normal admission procedures and the student must meet all admission criteria for the graduate program other than receipt of the baccalaureate degree. Students should be admitted to the dual undergraduate-graduate program as early as practical for financial aid and other reasons. They must be admitted to the dual undergraduate-graduate program no later than the end of their tenth full-time quarter of the undergraduate degree (i.e., by the first quarter of the senior year).
- The effective term for admission should be the term in which the student is permitted to take graduate courses. For example, if the student's senior year begins in the fall and the student meets admission criteria and may begin taking graduate courses in the subsequent spring term, the admission term should be that spring.

Master of Science in Geographic Information Science (online program)

Following are the simple steps to apply for online graduate study in Geographic Information Science at the University of Denver. If you have any questions about the process, please contact the [Office of Graduate Studies](#).

Apply Online / Application Deadlines

- Applications for graduate study at the University of Denver must be submitted online. [Apply online](#).
- All online materials must be received, and all supplemental materials including transcripts must be on file in the [Office of Graduate Studies](#), by the program's stated deadline. For the MS in GISC online program, applications are accepted on a year-round basis, however students are admitted and will start their program in either the fall or spring quarters- July 18 (fall quarter admission deadline), January 30 (spring quarter admission deadline). Applications may be considered after the deadline on a space- available basis.
- A \$65 non-refundable application fee is required for an application to be processed. Application fee waivers are available for McNair Scholars.

Course and Degree Prerequisites and Requirements

- Applicants must earn and submit proof of earning the equivalent of a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution prior to beginning graduate coursework at DU.
- An appropriate undergraduate degree in geography or related discipline is normally required with a minimum GPA of 3.0. If bachelor's degree is not in geography, the following prerequisites are required: introductory physical geography, introductory human geography, computer cartography, and geographic statistics.

Transcripts

- Applicants are required to submit an official transcript from each post-secondary institution they have attended, or are presently attending, where two quarter hours (or one semester hour) or more were completed including study abroad and college coursework completed in high school.
- The applicant is responsible for obtaining all transcripts. Applicants who have earned a degree outside the U.S. must submit transcripts accompanied by certified English translations, if not normally issued in English. DU students and alumni do not need to provide DU transcripts.
- Official study abroad transcripts are required unless the course titles, grades and credits earned abroad appear on another transcript. Transcripts from outside of the U.S. are evaluated by the Office of International Student Admission. This process can take three to four weeks and must be complete by the program's stated deadline. Therefore, applicants with a degree from outside of the U.S. are encouraged to apply early. Applicants educated

outside the U.S. are encouraged to contact the Office of Graduate Studies for assistance regarding transcript-related materials.

- The University of Denver will consider electronic transcripts official from a domestic institution provided by the following approved agencies: Army/American Council on Education Registry Transcript System (AARTS); Docufide/Parchment; National Student Clearinghouse; Naviance; Royall and Company; and, Scrip-Safe.
- Paper transcripts should be sent to the following address:
University of Denver
Office of Graduate Studies
Mary Reed Building, Room 5
2199 S. University Blvd.
Denver, CO 80208-4802

Electronic transcripts should be sent to gradinfo@du.edu.

Language Proficiency

- Official scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) are required of all graduate applicants, regardless of citizenship status, whose native language is not English or who have been educated in countries where English is not the native language. Applications will not be processed until the required TOEFL or IELTS score is received. The TOEFL and IELTS scores are valid for two years from the test date. The minimum TOEFL score accepted by the Geography graduate programs is 88 (iBT) or 570 (paper-based). The institution code for the University of Denver is 4842. The minimum IELTS score accepted by Geography is 6.5. Please see the Graduate Policy Manual for complete English language proficiency requirements.
- Applicants may be exempted from English proficiency test requirements if by the time of matriculation they have earned a post-secondary degree from a formally-recognized/accredited university where the language of instruction and examination is English. Such applicants may be exempt from the TOEFL/IELTS requirement but not from other standardized graduate entrance examinations.
- Students whose native language is not English and who are required to submit TOEFL/IELTS

scores will be assessed by the University of Denver English Language Center (ELC) prior to matriculation.

Test Scores

- The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required of all applicants, with a combined score of at least 300 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the exam. Scores must be received directly from the appropriate testing agency by the program's stated deadline. The institution code for the University of Denver is 4842.
- For the MS GIS online program only: applicants who have completed at least 12 hours in the University's GIS certificate program, with a GPA of 3.5 or better, could waive the GRE requirement or the undergraduate GPA requirement, but not both.

Personal Statement

- A personal statement of at least 300 words is required. The statement should be submitted via upload through the online application process. The personal statement should include information concerning your life, education, practical experience, special interests and specific purpose for applying to the University of Denver.

Recommendation Letters

- Three letters of recommendation are required. Letters should be solicited and uploaded by recommenders through the online application system. Requests for letters should be sent to recommenders well in advance so the letters are on file by the application deadline.

Financial Support

- To be considered for financial support, domestic applicants should apply early and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the priority deadline; February 15. Information about financial aid can be found on the [Office of Financial Aid website](#). International students are not eligible for federal financial aid.

Application Status

- We encourage you to be actively engaged in the admission process. You can check your application status online at [PioneerWeb](#). Applicants will receive login information post application submission.

Contact Information

Mail official transcripts and any supplemental admission materials not submitted with the online application to:

University of Denver
Office of Graduate Studies
Mary Reed Building, Room 5
2199 S. University Blvd.
Denver, CO 80208-4802

Electronic transcripts should be sent to gradinfo@du.edu.

For more information call (303) 871-2706

International Applicants

- For complete international applicant information, please visit the [Office of Graduate Studies International Student Application Information](#). International applicants are strongly encouraged to have their applications complete, with all materials on file in the admission office, at least eight weeks prior to the program's application deadline.

The [Graduate Policies and Procedures](#) provides complete details regarding admission requirements.