

## ADMISSION GUIDELINES

### Michigan State University – Department of Geography

The Department's decision to admit or not admit an applicant to the graduate program is based upon an evaluation of the complete application packet, which includes: all transcripts and grades, GRE scores, letters of recommendation, the "*Background Information Form*" a Statement of Purpose, and for Ph.D. students the "*Master's Degree Information Form*". Other pertinent information such as awards, professional experience and related achievements are also considered. No one item is more or less important than the others.

International students whose native language is NOT English are required to meet the standards established by the MSU English Language Center before being admitted to the graduate program. Applicants must have a TOEFL score above 600/paper based; 100/iBT; 250/computer based to be considered for admission to Geography. Normally, applicants with TOEFL scores below 630/paper based; 109/iBT; 267/computer based are not admitted with funding. *We do not admit students with a language provision.*

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#### **Master's Program:**

Major codes:

MS w/thesis: 7669  
MS-GIS\*\*: 4742 – non-thesis degree

\*\*Most Ph.D. programs require a research Master's degree as an entrance requirement; persons seeking a Ph.D. should get an MS in Geography, not the non-thesis MS-GIS degree.

Highly ranked entrants into the Master's program normally have an undergraduate degree in Geography or a related field, and have a cumulative undergraduate grade point average (GPA) above 3.4 on a 4.0 scale, and have a score of 1000+ on the combined verbal and quantitative sections of the GRE and a score of 3 or better on the written portion of the GRE. Applications from students with GPAs lower than 3.4 are viewed more favorably if one or both of the following can be shown: (1) the applicant's GPA during the last two years of her/his degree is substantially higher than 3.4, or (2) the applicant's overall GPA in Geography courses is substantially higher than 3.4. Michigan State University faculty in the applicant's area of study are consulted before admission is granted.

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#### **Ph.D. Program:**

Major code:

Ph.D.: 4347

Highly ranked entrants into the Ph.D. program normally have a grade point average (GPA) above 3.6 on a 4.0 scale in a recognized Master's program, have completed a Master's thesis, and have a score of 1150+ on the combined verbal and quantitative of the GRE and a score of 4.0 or better on the written portion of the GRE. Michigan State University faculty in the applicant's area of study are consulted before admission is granted.

Questions?? Call 517 355-4650

email: [geo@msu.edu](mailto:geo@msu.edu)

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