

Straight-to-PhD request

upload request through student portal: dropdown box pick: Straight-to-PhD request

<https://admissions.msu.edu/gradportal>

Name	
Overall GPA last 2 years undergrad program	

Students interested in a "Straight-to-PhD" option must meet the following criteria during the application phase:

- 1) Bachelor's degree in Geography or related field.
- 2) At least a 3.5 GPA (or equivalent); GRE: 306 V+Q and written 4.5 or higher
- 3) Evidence of research activity, preferably submission of a lead authored refereed journal article. Other evidence of research activity, such as junior authorship on a journal article, poster presentation, Honor's awards, or other scholarship may be accepted.

Somewhat lower GPA and GRE requirements may be acceptable if evidence of exemplary scholarship exists, such as first or sole-authored publication, or in-hand external/internal (competitive) funding.

Evidence of research activity – no word limit:
--

Geographical research statement, including identification of potential advisor at Michigan State University, Department of Geography, Environment, and Spatial Sciences. Maximum 1000 words

NOTE: on your application **apply for the MS major code 7669**. When you upload this request form with your application materials, it will note your interest in the Straight-to-PhD track.

Your Straight-to-Phd request is reviewed by 3 faculty in your interest area and then by the Admissions Committee with the following decision options:

- 1) Do not admit to Geography, Environment, and Spatial Sciences
- 2) Recommend admit to MS program only
- 3) Recommend admit to MS program with the Straight-to-Phd track

NOTE: on your application **apply for the MS major code 7669**. When you upload this form with your application materials, it will note your interest in the Straight-to-PhD track.

Your first year Performance Review if recommended admit to MS with the Straight-to-PhD track

This is intended to provide the framework for a rigorous review of you and your progress.

- 1) You will be required to develop a good working relationship with your PhD advisor in the first year.
- 2) You will be required to take Research Design (886) in the first year and develop the foundation for a research proposal.
- 3) You must maintain an acceptable grade point average for a Ph.D.
- 4) You must construct a 10-pg pre-proposal and defend it at a Departmental colloquium by the end of the 1st year.
- 5) At the end of the first year, the Graduate Committee reviews your progress, with input from your Major Advisor. The Graduate Committee then decides one of following outcomes:
 - Continue on track for Ph.D. with change of major to Phd major code 4347
 - Stay at the MS level major code 7669

By signing below I have read and understand the First year Performance Review requirements and would like to apply for the Straight-to-PhD track.

Name	
Date	