



University of California, Santa Barbara
Program Learning Outcomes

MA in Geography

Students graduating with a MA in Geography should be able to:

(Items listed in italics are considered highly desirable outcomes but are not required for degree completion.)

Core Knowledge

- Demonstrate general knowledge of geography, as well as substantive knowledge in one or more of the following fields: geographic information science, earth system science, and human geography.
- Demonstrate specialized knowledge of geography at a level sufficient to conduct independent research (thesis option).

Research Methods and Analysis

- Understand the range of methodologies and tools used in their geography sub-field. This can include measurement, analysis, and modeling methods in geographic information science, earth system science, human geography, and related fields.
- Review, synthesize and critically evaluate research in their subfield of geography.
- Understand how research tools and results in their subfield of geography fit into a broader context of geography and science.
- Implement a research project using appropriate methods (thesis option).

Pedagogy

- Communicate effectively their work to groups of students, peers and the public.

Scholarly Communication

- Review and synthesize relevant literature.
- Make clear and cogent oral presentations.
- Understand and properly use styles of citing, referencing, and formatting found in scholarly publications in geography and related fields.
- Write in a manner and style consistent with that found in professional and scholarly publications in geography and related fields.

Continued on Page 2

University of California, Santa Barbara
Program Learning Outcomes, continued

Professionalism

- Prepare talks or posters suitable for presentation at professional or research conferences or similar venues.
- Prepare reports or manuscripts that meet the standards of professional reports or scholarly publications in geography and related fields.
- *Select appropriate fellowship or grant opportunities and prepare competitive proposals (thesis option).*

Independent Research

- Defend a thesis based on literature review/synthesis and original research (thesis option).