



University of California, Santa Barbara
Program Learning Outcomes

PhD in Geography

Students graduating with a PhD 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.

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.
- Design and implement a research project using appropriate methods.

Pedagogy

- Communicate effectively to large and small groups in pedagogical settings in both lecture and discussion formats, using a variety of instructional formats.
- Understand and follow research and professional ethics, according to standards set forth by the Association of American Geographers (AAG) or other relevant professional and academic organizations in geography and related disciplines.

Scholarly Communication

- Structure a coherent and convincing academic argument.
- Review and synthesize relevant literature.

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University of California, Santa Barbara Program Learning Outcomes, continued

- Write at a level and in a style consistent with scholarly publications in geography and related fields.
- Understand and properly use styles of citing, referencing, and formatting found in scholarly publications in geography and related fields.
- Make clear and cogent oral presentations.

Professionalism

- Prepare talks or posters suitable for presentation at a research conference.
- Prepare manuscripts that meet the standards of scholarly publications in geography and related fields.
- *Select appropriate conference venues to present their research.*
- *Select appropriate fellowship or grant opportunities and prepare competitive proposals.*

Independent Research

- Develop their own research projects that are of high theoretical and methodological quality.
- Produce scholarship that is comparable in scope and format to peer-reviewed scholarly publications in geography and related fields.
- *Supervise and/or mentor research assistants effectively.*