

**Virginia Tech Department of Geography, Master of Science (M.S.) in Geography**  
**Plan of Study – Thesis Option** (Effective Spring 2025, CIP Code 30.4401)  
*Required – students entering Spring 2025 or later / Optional – students entering before Spring 2025*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>CORE COURSES – one course<sup>1</sup> must be either GEOG 5064 or GEOG 5354G, or substitute an appropriate methods course<sup>2</sup> approved by your advisor</b>					
Semester	Year	Dept	Course #	Course Title	Credit Hours
Fall		GEOG	5014	Geographic Theory & Research	3
Fall		GEOG	5004	Current Geographic Research	1
		GEOG	5034	Analysis of Spatial Data	3
		GEOG	5164G	Adv Qual Methods & Ethics in Geog	3
		GEOG			3
<b>Total Core Hours</b>					<b>13</b>

<b>GEOGRAPHY COURSES – minimum 6 credit hours<sup>2</sup></b>					
Semester	Year	Dept	Course #	Course Title	Credit Hours
		GEOG			
		GEOG			
		GEOG			
		GEOG			
		GEOG			
<b>Total Geography Hours</b>					

<b>COGNATE COURSES – minimum 3 non-geography credit hours<sup>2</sup></b>					
Semester	Year	Dept	Course #	Course Title	Credit Hours
<b>Total Cognate Hours</b>					

<b>RESEARCH &amp; THESIS – minimum 6 hours; only 6 hours should be listed but you may take more</b>					
Semester	Year	Dept	Course #	Course Title	Credit Hours
		GEOG	5994	Research & Thesis	
		GEOG	5994	Research & Thesis	
		GEOG	5994	Research & Thesis	
		GEOG	5994	Research & Thesis	
<b>Total Research &amp; Thesis Hours</b>					<b>6</b>

<b>TOTAL PROGRAM HOURS (Minimum required = 31)</b>					
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<sup>1</sup> Core methods course titles:      GEOG 5064 Elements of GIS      GEOG 5354G Advanced Remote Sensing

<sup>2</sup> Up to 6 credit hours on this Plan of Study can be 4000-level (post-undergraduate) WITH COMMITTEE APPROVAL.  
Up to 6 credits TOTAL can come from 5974 (Independent Study), 5984 (Special Study), and 6984 (Special Study).

**TOTAL CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED = 31;** 24 of which must be from *graded* coursework – GEOG 5004, GEOG 5974, and GEOG 5994 NOT included in total of 24

**Summary (graded courses in bold):**

- 1 credit: GEOG 5004 (Fall semester offering)
- **9 credits: GEOG 5014, GEOG 5034, GEOG 5164G**
- **3 credits: GEOG 5064 or GEOG 5354G**
- **6 credits: geography courses (GEOG)**
- **3 credits: non-geography courses**
- 6 credits: GEOG 5994 (Research & Thesis)

Remaining **3 credits** from an appropriate **graded course** selected in consultation with your advisor.

The Graduate School's ethics requirement is met by completing GEOG 5014 (required) and completing GEOG 5004 during the Fall semester (required).

The Graduate School's inclusion and diversity requirement is met via mandatory orientation, mandatory syllabus statements, and by completing GEOG 5004 during the Fall semester (required).

SIGNATURES				
	Name	Signature	VT ID #	Date
Student				
Advisor				
Co-advisor				
Committee Member				
Committee Member				
Committee Member				
Director of Graduate Studies				

***Deadline: End of first semester unless negotiated with Advisor & Graduate Committee Chair due to extenuating circumstances***