A focused, diverse department
The Department of Geosciences has 13 faculty members and approximately 50 active graduate students. Faculty and staff in the department work tirelessly to deliver high-quality educational and research opportunities in geography, geology, and water sciences. Our students are from all over the world, and they work with our faculty on research projects spanning the globe.

Outstanding advisors and courses
Students in the Geography concentration may choose classes to tailor a program that suits their goals. The faculty’s area of interest continually evolve to reflect developing technologies, events, and opportunities. Current geography-research interests include spatial epidemiology, climatology, urban geography, biogeography, paleoenvironments, hydrology, geomorphology, and political ecology. Students learn important skills such as GIS (including cartography and remote sensing), programming, quantitative methods, qualitative methods, and field techniques.

Full tuition waivers and stipends
Full-time students are eligible for assistantships that include full tuition waivers, a stipend, and teaching opportunities, along with a personal workspace and computational resources in the department.

A door to opportunities
A majority of our recent graduates have either gained employment in their fields of study or have entered well-regarded Ph.D. programs. The department also offers a Professional Certificate in Geographic Information Science, and many students simultaneously pursue a master’s degree and the professional certificate.

For more information, please feel free to contact any of our faculty members or our graduate director, Dr. Larry Kiage (lkiage@gsu.edu).
M.S. DEGREE IN GEOSCIENCES

GEOGRAPHY

Application Deadlines:

April 15 for upcoming Fall semester
November 1 for upcoming Spring semester

Application Requirements:

Online Materials: statement of purpose, resume or cv, and three letters of recommendation
Additional Materials: official GRE scores, official transcripts, and official TOEFL scores (international applicants only)

Thesis Option (36 hours)
1. GEOS 8001 (Methods of Geographic Research) to be taken the first time offered after the student's admission to the program.
2. Techniques training equivalent by completion of one of the following courses: GEOS 6518 (Digital Cartography); GEOS 6530 (Introduction to Remote Sensing); GEOS 6532 (Introduction to Geographic Information Systems); GEOS 6534 (Advanced Geographic Information Systems)
3. GEOS 6515 (Qualitative Methods in Geography) or GEOS 6520 (Quantitative Spatial Analysis).
4. Six semester hours of coursework at the 8000 level in addition to GEOS 8002.
5. Seminar (1-2 hours) GEOS 6095 Seminar in the Geosciences
6. Remaining hours in student's area of specialization chosen from graduate level courses.
7. Six semester hours of GEOS 8999 (Thesis Research)
8. Proficiency in a foreign language or in an approved research skill. Courses taken to fulfill this requirement may not count towards the departmental minimum credit hour requirements.

Non-Thesis Option (36 hours)
In addition to the requirements 1-7 above for the thesis option, students taking the non-thesis option must take three additional semester hours of graduate level coursework in lieu of GEOS 8999 and complete a nonthesis research project (GEOS 8990 Research Practicum). Students may attempt to fulfill the practicum requirement twice, but only three semester hours of GEOS 8990 can be counted toward their degree requirements. Students must pass a written comprehensive examination and pass an oral examination of the research project.

Professional Certificate in Geographic Information Science
A high percentage of students the Geosciences program, especially those in the Geography concentration, also choose to obtain the Professional Certificate in Geographic Information Science.

GIS Certificate Coursework (20 hours)
1. Required Courses (16) The student must take the following courses:
   - GEOS 6518 Digital Cartography (4)
   - GEOS 6530 Introduction to Remote Sensing (4)
   - GEOS 6532 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (4)
   - GEOS 6534 Advanced Geographic Information Systems (4)
2. Elective Courses (4) The student must take one of the following courses:
   - GEOS 6530 Quantitative Spatial Analysis (4)
   - GEOS 6538 GIS Programming
   - GEOS 8035 Seminar in Geographic Information Systems (4)
   - GEOS 6123 Geoinformatics (4)