

5.3 Course Load

The normal course load during fall and spring is 9 or 10 hours per semester. The minimum course load for students on academic-year or one-semester teaching assistantships is 9 hours per semester. The minimum course load for students on academic-year or one-semester research assistantships is 6 hours per semester. For students without an assistantship, a minimum number of hours of coursework per semester is not specified, but students should be mindful to take courses regularly to graduate in a timely manner. Minimum course loads vary for some international students, depending on Visa requirements. Note that students must be enrolled in at least 9 hours in the fall and spring semesters to be considered full-time for federal financial aid purposes, even if the student has an assistantship.

Most students are required to register for course credits during the summer term. Students on a twelve-month teaching or research assistantship must register for at least 3 hours in the summer semester. Ph.D. students who have begun taking GEOG 600 must continuously enroll in at least 3 hours of GEOG 600 per semester until graduation, including during the summer semester. Students who are not otherwise registered for summer credits but who will be using university facilities or services, using faculty time, and/or working as a summer research assistant must register for at least 1 hour of GEOG 502 or another course that represents their summer activity, typically GEOG 500, 505, 506, 593, or 600.