APPLICATION: FIVE-YEAR BA/BS-MS PROGRAM IN GEOGRAPHY

The Department of Geography & Sustainability at the University of Tennessee offers a Five-Year BA/BS-MS program for highly motivated and academically outstanding students who are passionate about understanding and analyzing geographic issues. This program offers students the opportunity to earn both a Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BS) degree and a Master of Science (MS) degree in Geography within a five-year timeframe. The program is designed to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and advanced research experience required for a successful career in geography, sustainability, and/or GIST research and services in a wide array of governmental, NGO, and private sectors. The core component of the program is that qualified students can apply up to 9 credit hours of graduate courses toward both their undergraduate and graduate degrees. This not only accelerates their academic journey but also enhances their research and analytical capabilities.

Eligibility and Admission

- Students must have a declared major within the department of Geography & Sustainability.
- Students must have an overall GPA of 3.4 in required coursework for admission to the program.
- Conditional admission may be granted after the completion of 60 hours of coursework fulfilling requirements for the BA in Geography or Sustainability or a BS in GIST.
- Full admission to the program may be granted after the completion of 90 hours of required coursework for the BA in Geography or Sustainability or a BS in GIST with a minimum GPA of 3.4.

Admission Process

1. *Initial Consultation*: Begin a conversation with the Undergraduate Academic Advisor to discuss eligibility.
2. *Meeting with Director of Undergraduate Studies*: If eligible, meet with the Director of Undergraduate Studies to explore potential faculty advisors.
3. *Meeting with Potential Faculty Advisor*: Once you have identified a potential faculty advisor, arrange a meeting to discuss your academic interests and research goals.
4. *Meeting with Director of Graduate Studies*: Once a potential faculty advisor is identified, students will meet with the Director of Graduate Studies to discuss the graduate application process.
5. *Application Submission*: Submit the graduate school application. Please note that the application will be reviewed by the Graduate Admission Committee and the student's potential faculty advisor, but there is no guarantee of admission into the graduate program.

Coursework

Students, once conditionally admitted to the program, may take up to 9 credit hours of approved graduate-level Geography & Sustainability courses that count towards both their BA or BS, and MS degrees. All courses taken for graduate credit must be approved by the student's academic advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies. Students must also request permission from the Graduate School to take approved courses for graduate credit and follow the regular admission process for the Geography & Sustainability graduate program.

Faculty Mentorship

Students are required to obtain a commitment from a faculty member in the Geography and Sustainability Department to serve as their major professor for the MS portion of the program. The major professor will act as a mentor and advisor throughout the MS degree.

Academic Advising

Students in the Five-Year BA/BS-MS program will receive specialized academic advising to ensure a smooth transition between their undergraduate and graduate studies.

ADMISSION FOR
Five-Year BA/BS-MS Program in Geography

The University of Tennessee
The Graduate School

Name _____ Student ID# _____

UT Email _____ Current GPA _____

Anticipated completion of BA: ☐ Fall ☐ Spring of _____ (Year)

Anticipated start term for MA: ☐ Fall ☐ Spring of _____ (Year)

List the courses requested for graduate credit

Department	Course #	CRN#	Hours	Term	Year

I am seeking admission to the Five-Year BA/BS-MA Program in Geography. I am a senior at the University of Tennessee with at least a 3.4 grade-point average and need fewer than 30 semester hours to complete the requirements for my first bachelor's degree. I am requesting graduate credit for the course list. According to graduate student course load policies, I understand that the maximum load for my registration will not exceed 15 semester hours for Fall or Spring or 12 semester hours in Summer Term.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Undergraduate Director _____ Date _____

Dept Head Approval _____ Date _____

A&S College Approval _____ Date _____

Graduate School Approval _____ Date _____

Instructions for Receiving Graduate Credit:

1. Complete this form, listing only the courses for which you are requesting to receive graduate credit.
2. This form should be submitted during the first term for which you are seeking graduate credit.
3. The DARS coordinator in the College of Arts & Sciences will work with the Graduate School in having the courses credited for the graduate level.