Master of Arts in Geography and Urban Studies (MA in GUS) Accelerated Degree (4+1)

Frequently Asked Questions

address: 307 Gladfelter Hall
1115 Polett Walk
Philadelphia, PA 19122
e-mail: guses@temple.edu
website: http://www.cla.temple.edu/gus/
phone: (215) 204-3386

Application Materials:
What will I need to do in order to apply?
Undergraduate application
A complete application consists of several parts:

Step 1: Make sure you meet the following criteria
- Cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher
- Completed 60 credits or will have 60 credits when courses in progress are completed
- Passed the following with a B or higher
  - For Geography and Urban Studies Majors:
    - GUS 2001: Cities
    - GUS 2002: Space and Place
    - GUS 2197: Research Design
  - For Environmental Science Majors:
    - ENST 2001: Environment and Society
    - ENST 2002: Physical Geography
    - ENST 2097: Research Design

Step 2: Meet with an advisor
- Meet with a CLA advisor to confirm that you can use up to 12 graduate-level credits toward graduation. Approval should be emailed to guses@temple.edu.

Step 3: Email the following to guses@temple.edu
- Completed application form
- Two letters of recommendation from faculty
- Statement of Goals (500-1,000 words)
Application Deadline:
- Fall Admission: April 15
- Spring Admission: December 1

Graduate application to the M.A. in Geography and Urban Studies during senior year:
Students in the accelerated degree program must formally apply to the M.A. in Geography and Urban Studies during their senior year. They should apply for the semester following their graduation. Applicants must submit the application, all supplemental materials and pay the deposit. The application is online and progress can be tracked in TUPortal. Requirements include:

- Online application: https://prd-wlssb.temple.edu/prod8/bwskalog.P_DispLoginNon
- Official transcripts from all schools attended including Temple and all transfer documents. We can accept electronic transcripts sent from a school’s registrar to our Administrator.
- 3 Letters of recommendation or reference reports from faculty who can speak to your individual strengths and interests.
- Resume
- Statement of goals

Standardized tests:
- TOEFL: 88iBT or 575 PBT (international students only)
  - International students awarded a Bachelor’s degree from Temple University will not have to take the TOEFL
- No GRE requirement

Application Specifics:

Q: Where should I send my supplementary application materials?
Application materials should be emailed to guses@temple.edu or delivered in person to the Student Services Coordinator.

Q: Who should I ask to write my letters of recommendation?
Your letters of recommendation come from faculty who can speak your strengths as a student.

Q: Is there a GPA requirement in order to be considered for admission?
Yes, you must have 3.25 GPA

Q: Is there any prerequisite coursework?
Yes, you must have completed the following courses with a B or higher
  - For Geography and Urban Studies Majors:
    - GUS 2001: Cities
    - GUS 2002: Space and Place
    - GUS 2197: Research Design
  - For Environmental Studies Majors:
    - ENST 2001: Environment and Society
    - ENST 2002: Physical Geography
    - ENST 2097: Research Design
Important Dates:

Q: When are applications to apply for the accelerated degree?
Applications are due April 15 for consideration for Fall admission. Applications are due December 1 for consideration for Spring admission.

Q: When are applications due for the +1 year?
Applications are due November 1 for consideration for Spring admission. Applications are due March 1 for consideration for Fall admission, but are reviewed on a rolling basis after the March 1 deadline.

Coursework:

Q: What coursework is required for the MA in GUS?
The MA in GUS consists of 12 classes, eight required courses and four electives, for a total of 36 credits. The eight required courses are GUS 5159 Geographic Inquiry, GUS 8011 History and Theory of Urban Studies, GUS 8016 Public Policy for Urban Regions, GUS 8031 Critical Issues in Globalization, Sustainability, and Social Justice, GUS 5161 Statistics for Urban Spatial Analysis, GUS 9991 Master’s Research Paper, and two methodology courses. Accelerated degree students can complete up to four graduate courses during their Bachelor’s degree that will count toward the MA in GUS during their +1 year.

Q: Where, and when, are these courses offered?
All courses are taught in the evening on Temple University Main Campus.

Q: What will I have to take in the +1 year?
The number of courses required in the +1 year will depend on the number of graduate credits completed during the bachelor’s degree. A student who has taken four graduate courses during their bachelor’s will have to take eight classes in their +1 year (e.g. three in Fall, three in Spring and two in Summer).

We currently offer methods electives during the summer session. Students starting the accelerated degree have the option to take these electives the summer immediately following graduation or the following year.

Tuition and Financing:

Q: How expensive is tuition?
One of Temple University’s greatest strengths is our ability to give you the best possible education for a reasonable price. For the 2019-20 academic year, graduate tuition is $911 per credit-hour for in-state graduate students, and $1,261 for out of state graduate students. MA in GUS courses are three credit hours each. To calculate the estimated cost, Temple has a tuition estimator available through the Bursar.

https://bursar.temple.edu/tuition-and-fees/tuition-rates
Select College Graduate > Pennsylvania or Out-of-State/International > College of Liberal Arts > Graduate > Number of credits (3 per course).
Q: Are there grants or scholarships for the MA in GUS?
At this time, we regret to say that we do not have scholarships or other assistantships for the MA in GUS. We do try to share open positions with our students in the program, as we hear about them. If you are interested, you can find information about academic aid at: http://sfs.temple.edu/

**Academic Support and Advising:**

Q: How should I decide which courses to take?
The Graduate Chair advises all graduate and accelerated degree students. Students should meet with them to discuss their program requirements and goals. +1 students will have to be manually enrolled in graduate-level classes by a staff person or CLA advisor.

**International Students:**

Information about applying to Temple as an international graduate student can be found at: http://bulletin.temple.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/

**Contact us!**

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