



Master of Arts in Education–Geography Education for Teacher Leaders (#133)
Department of Geography and Geology (www.wku.edu/geoweb)

- The Master of Arts in Education - Geography Education for Teacher Leaders degree (#133) is designed for public school teachers who wish to specialize in the geosciences. Students may complete the major with content emphases in cultural geography or earth science.
- Professional education courses and experiences include Professional Learning Communities in which students interact with other graduate students from various content areas and grade levels to discuss and work on real world challenges and promising practices they encounter in schools. During the first course in the professional education portion of the program, TCHL 500 *Foundations of Teacher Leadership*, students will complete an assessment process that will be used in determining which TCHL core courses they must take (see *Important Note* below). All students must either complete TCHL 540, 544, 548, 550, 554, and 558 or pass proficiency evaluations for these courses. TCHL 500, 530, and 560 (or an approved discipline specific action research course) are required for all students, and there are no proficiency evaluations that may be substituted for these courses. An Action Research Project for Teacher Leaders focusing on a classroom, school, or district issue is the capstone for the completion of the program.
- **1. WKU Graduate:**
No qualifying GAP** score will be required for graduates of the WKU B.S. in Geology program (Earth and Space Science emphasis), the B.A. in Social Studies program, or any other baccalaureate degree program that led to initial certification for teaching geography, as long as applicants have or are eligible for a teaching certificate for Geography, Earth and Space Science, or Social Studies (Grades 8-12). A copy of the certificate or statement of eligibility must be submitted with the application.
- **2. Graduate of a Kentucky Higher Education Institute other than WKU:**
Applicants with undergraduate degrees from Kentucky higher education accredited universities must have a 2.75 GPA for all previous undergraduate coursework or a qualifying GAP** score and must have or be eligible for a teaching certificate* for Geography, Earth and Space Science, or Social Studies (Grades 8-12). A copy of the certificate or statement of eligibility must be submitted with the application.
- **3. Graduate of an Out-of-State Institution of Higher Education:**
Applicants with undergraduate degrees from all other higher education accredited universities must have a 2.75 GPA for all previous undergraduate coursework or a

qualifying GRE/GAP** scores and must have or be eligible for a teaching certificate* for Geography, Earth and Space Science, or Social Studies (Grades 8-12). A copy of the certificate or statement of eligibility must be submitted with the application.

* Kentucky applicants whose certificates have expired may be admitted, but they may enroll for only six hours before they must apply to the Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board for re-issued certificates. After completion of six hours, a student admitted with an expired certificate must submit a copy of the re-issued certificate before being allowed to register for any additional courses. Applicants from out-of-state with expired certificates must complete the requirements for their respective states to renew their certificates and submit a copy of the reissued certificate.

**Qualifying GAP Score: 2200 or higher (GRE score multiplied by the under-graduate GPA for a score) and a GRE Analytical Writing score of 3.5 or higher.

Important Note: While enrolled in TCHL 500, master's candidates will use several documents, including their KTIP assessments or in-kind examples, dispositions self-surveys, referrals from school personnel, and their respective School Improvement Plan, to develop with their respective program advisors individualized programs of study of 30-34 hours related to Kentucky Teacher Standards and professional goals. Each student's program of study will include some or all of the TCHL courses, plus additional education-related or content courses.

Courses underlined are required:

Content Major: 18 hours

Advisor-approved elective courses selected from the geosciences (cultural geography or earth science).

CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY Emphasis (18 hours):

<u>EDU or GEOS 507 Geographic Concepts and Skills for Teachers</u>	(3)
Two regional geography courses	(6)
Two topical geography courses	(6)
Geography elective	(3)

OR

EARTH SCIENCE Emphasis (18 hours):

<u>GEOL 511 Dynamic Earth</u>	(3)
Approved content courses	(15)

* (Students may choose 6 hours of content courses from Agriculture, Biology, Chemistry, or Physics with approval of the program advisor.)

Secondary Education Minor

For the minor in Secondary Education students must complete a total of at least 12 hours in education course work, including the following:

Professional Education Core: 9-16 hours:

<u>TCHL 500 – Foundations of Teacher Leadership</u>	(3)
<u>TCHL 530 – Curriculum Development</u>	(3)
TCHL 540 – Classroom Instruction: Instructional Strategies	(1)
TCHL 544 – Classroom Instruction: Equitable School and Community Partnerships	(1)
TCHL 548 – Classroom Instruction: Managing Learning Environment	(1)
TCHL 550 – Student Assessment I: Fundamentals Student Assessment	(1)
TCHL 554 – Student Assessment II: Standardized Testing	(1)
TCHL 558 – Student Assessment III: Classroom Tests and Instruments	(2)
<u>TCHL 560 – Action Research for Teacher Leaders</u>	(3)

Education Electives—0-3 hours:

Students who successfully complete the proficiency examinations for TCHL 540, TCHL 544, TCHL 548, TCHL 550, TCHL 554, and/or TCHL 558 may substitute another education course with advisor approval.

TCHL 520 *Principles of Action Research for Teacher Leaders* is strongly recommended

Total Program Hours: 30-34

Secondary Education Mid-Point Assessment Requirements:

To ensure that all Master's candidates are proficient on Advanced Level Kentucky Teacher Standards, all *Critical Performances* associated with the above TCHL courses must be completed, *even if a candidate's program of studies does not include the courses*. Candidates may only complete 6 hours in their specialized coursework before they have uploaded all Critical Performances and have achieved an average score of 3.0 on all performances and an average score of 3 on dispositions. Additional course work may be required based on the assessment results.

Program Completion Requirements:

- 1. A minimum of 18 graduate credit hours in Geoscience (cultural geography or earth science emphases) is required.**
- 2. Successfully complete TCHL 560 (Course grade of C or higher) or approved discipline specific action research course.**
- 3. Give acceptable presentation of action research in approved venue.**
Achieve a minimum 3.0 GPA overall and in secondary education course work.

For more information, contact the Department of Geography and Geology or the Department of Teacher Education.