

ALLEN FINCHUM
Associate Professor
Department of Geography

2 May 2003

Graduate Advisee Guidelines

I will accept 5 major MS/PhD major advisees and 10 total committee memberships at any time.

Advisees will conduct their thesis/creative component research in one of the following areas:

- Urban Geography (focusing on economic, transportation, or political topics)
- Historical Urban Development
- Population/Migration Studies
- Geographic Issues in Competitive Sport
- Regional Studies of North America, with an emphasis on the South or Oklahoma

Advisees will meet with the advisor at least twice each semester, and bi-weekly during the term in which completion of the degree program is planned.

The MS student should begin to develop his/her interest areas in the first or early part of the second semester, and should complete a draft thesis/creative component proposal no later than the end of the second semester. The PhD student should complete the draft proposal by the end of the third or early in the fourth semester. Those students not meeting these guidelines are subject to removal from my advisee pool. This issue is negotiable, but the final decision is that of the advisor, and will be final. This is for my protection and your best interests. By following this schedule it greatly increases the chances that the student will complete his/her program in the normal two (MS) or four (PhD) year time frame outlined by the OSU Department of Geography.

In addition to the general items outlined above, I request that all students adhere to the following deadlines/rules regarding paper submissions and defenses, please schedule/plan accordingly:

- I will attend no more than 2 proposal or final defense meetings in one week (Mon-Fri),
- The draft final dissertation, thesis, or creative component project **MUST** be complete at least 5 weeks prior to the end of the term (last day of classes) the student wishes to defend or I will not allow a defense to take place for a committee I am chairing. This allows me to fully review the document/project before it is distributed to the remaining committee members, and also allows an appropriate amount of time for the remaining members to complete their review. By following this rule, pressure is taken off the student and the committee to “cram” a defense in at this last moment. There will be **NO** exceptions to this rule.
- The student **MUST** meet with me at least twice each semester and every other week during the term he/she wishes to complete their project or the student risks not finishing at the desired time.
- It is the responsibility of the student to adhere to these rules, and failure to do so does not constitute an emergency on the advisor's part in order to meet a deadline.

Personal Statement on GIS as a major field of study

I do not view the role of the Department of Geography at OSU to provide a major in Geographic Information Systems/Sciences, and this is also stated within the program guidelines of the Department. The Department does offer the GIS Certificate Program for those students wishing to pursue a documented area of focus in GIS. However, I will not support students who wish to solely pursue studies in GIS as a primary area of focus. It is my belief that both myself, and this Department, are best equipped to support students pursuing research topics within areas such as those outlined above and using GIS as a major research tool or technique. If the student wishes to pursue a research topic in this vein, I am very open to the role GIS plays within the project.