

Geography Major

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About

The Department of Geography and the Environment offers B.A. degrees in Geography and Environmental Studies, and a B.S. in Environmental Science. The department also offers a minor in Geography and supports the Sustainability Studies minor. The department's overarching objective is to integrate the disciplines of geography and environmental science to seek an understanding of human and environmental patterns, the processes that produce those spatial patterns, and salient human and environmental problems that face modern society. The department has two teaching and five research labs; and the department has a full suite of state-of-the-art geospatial software and scientific research equipment.

Program: [Geography and the Environment](#)

Type: Bachelor of Arts

PRIMARY MAJOR (122 credits)

Required Major Courses (37 credits)

The B.A. in Geography provides a well-rounded and useful education and marketable skills to students with interests in the spatial patterns of society and the environment. It focuses on the interactions of humans with the natural and physical environments of Earth from a special perspective. Towards this end, the program's graduates will have a fundamental understanding of the human social dynamics and physical patterns and processes at the Earth's surface, such as globalization, climatic variation and natural disasters within the context of places, landscapes, and regions. Graduates will also be trained in the use of geospatial technologies as tools in addressing many modern concerns. The program is founded on the principle that geographical knowledge of place, space, and scale can provide essential insights into contemporary social and environmental issues and variation in human cultures and behaviors, and promotes the idea that such insight is critical to managing the Earth at local, regional and global scales.

Program Notes:

- A 1000-level GEV topics course may substitute for either GEV 1002 or GEV 1003.

Course	Title	Credits
GEV 1002	Geo. of a Globalizing World	3
GEV 1003	Geo. of Earth's Environments	3
GEV 1750	Geo-Techniques	4
GEV 2001	Prof Dev in Geo and Env	1
GEV 2500	Global Change in Local Places	3
GEV 4700	Geographic Information Systems	4
GEV 6005	Senior Research Seminar	1
GEV 6006	Research Colloquium	
GEV 6006	Research Colloquium	
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	GEV Independent Study Requirement	3-6
	GEV Regional Perspectives Course	3
	GEV Geospatial Technology Course	3
	Geography Electives for B.A.	9

Core Curriculum Requirements (38 credits)

Geography Majors meet the following core requirements in the major and therefore are omitted from the summary below:

- Social Science (6 cr)

Course	Title	Credits
ACS 1000	Ancients	3
ACS 1001	Moderns	3
THL 1000	Faith, Reason, and Culture	3
PHI 1000	Knowledge, Reality, Self	3
ETH 2050	The Good Life:Eth & Cont Prob	3
	Mathematics or Statistics (1 course)	3
	Natural Science (2 courses with laboratory)	8
	Literature and Writing Seminar (1 course)	3
	History (1 course)	3
	Fine Arts (1 course)	3
	Upper-Level Theology (1 course)	3
	Language Requirement (Proficiency)	
	Diversity Requirement (2 courses)	

Free Elective Requirement (47 credits)

Students with a Geography primary major have forty-seven (47) required free elective credits.

Degree Credit Summary

- **Major Credits:** 37 credits
- **Core Credits:** 38 credits
- **Free Electives Credits:** 47 credits
- **Total Required Credits:** 122 Credits

Note: The above credit totals are based on the minimum number of required credits in each degree area. The minimum number of required credits in each area listed above must be met. Credits taken beyond the required minimum for one area may not be applied to another area.

SECONDARY MAJOR

Students who declare Geography as a **secondary major** must complete the Required Major Courses to achieve this major. Students are able to count any eligible course taken in their primary major, the core curriculum, minors, concentrations, or free electives toward these requirements.

Category Descriptions

GEV Independent Study Requirement

Credits: 3-6

- Choose GEV 6200: Independent Study (3 cr) OR
 - GEV 6210 and 6220: Senior Thesis I & II (6 cr – 3 cr of which count as a free elective)

Course	Title	Credits
GEV 6200	Independent Study	3
Course	Title	Credits
GEV 6210	Senior Thesis Research I	3
GEV 6220	Senior Thesis Research II	3

GEV Regional Perspectives Course

Credits: 3

Choose one Regional Perspectives course from the list.

Course	Title	Credits
GEV 3500	Geography of North America	3
GEV 3515	Geography of Africa	3
GEV 3522	Geography of the Middle East	3

GEV Geospatial Technology Course

Credits: 3

Course	Title	Credits
GEV 3521	GIS for Urban Sustainability	3
GEV 3750	Remote Sensing	3
GEV 3790	Global Positioning Systems	4
GEV 4710	Adv. Geographic Info Sys	4

Geography Electives for B.A.

Credits: 9

Select 3 classes from this list.

Course	Title	Credits
GEV 2525	Population Geography	3
GEV 3004	Geographies Envrnl Justice	3
GEV 3500	Geography of North America	3
GEV 3501	Geomorphic Environments	3
GEV 3503	Earth's Weather Systems	3
GEV 3515	Geography of Africa	3
GEV 3521	GIS for Urban Sustainability	3
GEV 3522	Geography of the Middle East	3
GEV 3550	Natural Hazards	3
GEV 3570	Land Use Planning & Mgmt	3
GEV 3580	Natural Res and Conservation	3
GEV 3750	Remote Sensing	3
GEV 3790	Global Positioning Systems	4
GEV 4352	Physical Geology	3
GEV 4510	Special Topics in Geography	3
GEV 4511	Climate Variability	3
GEV 4512	Medical Geography	3
GEV 4513	Geography of National Security	3
GEV 4514	Geomorphology	3
GEV 4516	Environmental Security	3
GEV 4518	COVID-19 Pandemic	3
GEV 4710	Adv. Geographic Info Sys	4

Mathematics or Statistics (1 course)

Credits: 3

Students must take one course in either Mathematics or Statistics. Any course offered by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics fulfills the Core Curriculum requirement. Certain courses offered by other departments (e.g., Computer Science and Philosophy) also fulfill the requirement. These courses are designated by the Mathematics A & S Core attribute.

Natural Science (2 courses with laboratory)

Credits: 8

Non-science majors meet the Core Curriculum Natural Science requirement by taking two semesters of Mendel Science Experience (MSE), thematically-based lecture/laboratory courses designed for non-science majors; or two semesters of lecture/laboratory courses designed for science majors.

Science (AST, BIO, BIOC, CHM, CBN, CSC, ENV, MAT, PHY - B.S. only, PSY - B.S. only) majors meet the science requirement through the regular program of study in their major.