

GEOGRAPHY, B.A.

Are you passionate about environmental sustainability? Are you curious about what social justice looks like? Do you like to learn about foreign places and cultures? Are you interested in telling stories about and thinking critically about data? Do you find the character and social life of cities fascinating? Do you find physical landscapes inspiring? Do you ever wonder why some places are rich while others are poor? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, but especially more than one, then Geography could be a great fit for you. Geography is especially ideal for individuals who have a wide range of interests spanning the natural sciences, humanities, and social sciences.

Geography is an interdisciplinary field that seeks to understand humans’ relationships with the built, biophysical, and social environment. It is a rich and vibrant discipline that is essential to understanding the world and many of its problems. Geographers emphasize spatial processes in studying a wide array of vital issues, including climate change, urbanization, social movements, globalization, environmental justice, geopolitics, environmental hazards, and human migration, among others. Geography thus offers a unique lens through which to illuminate the intertwined places, societies, and ecologies that comprise our diverse world.

HOW TO GET IN

Exploring the field of geography at UW–Madison is easy. Interested students are strongly encouraged to take introductory courses in the field. The Department of Geography offers four intro courses, each of which surveys one of the four major subareas that comprise the discipline: (1) human geography; (2) people–environment geography; (3) physical geography; (4) and cartography and geographic information science. The four intro classes are:

- GEOG 101 Introduction to Human Geography;
- GEOG/ENVIR ST 120 Introduction to the Earth System;
- GEOG/ENVIR ST 139 Global Environmental Issues; and
- GEOG 170 Our Digital Globe: An Overview of GIScience and its Technology (online).

Students who intend to declare their major in geography must schedule an appointment with the geography undergraduate advisor.

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate

General Education Requirements (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatestudytext>) section of the *Guide*.

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| General Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits • Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits • Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits • Communication Part A & Part B * • Ethnic Studies * • Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B * |
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* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.)

Students pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum.

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Mathematics Complete the University General Education Requirements for Quantitative Reasoning A (QR-A) and Quantitative Reasoning B (QR-B) coursework.

Foreign Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the fourth unit of a foreign language; OR • Complete the third unit of a foreign language and the second unit of an additional foreign language.
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L&S Breadth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 credits of Humanities, which must include 6 credits of literature; and • 12 credits of Social Science; and • 12 credits of Natural Science, which must include one 3+ credit Biological Science course and one 3+ credit Physical Science course.
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Liberal Arts and Science Coursework	Complete at least 108 credits.
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Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work	Complete at least 60 credits at the intermediate or advanced level.
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Major	Declare and complete at least one major.
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Total Credits	Complete at least 120 credits.
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UW-Madison Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 credits in residence, overall; and • 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit.
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Quality of Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.000 in all coursework at UW–Madison • 2.000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW–Madison
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NON-L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non-L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

Students must declare one of the major options (p. 3) below, complete Core Requirements common to each option, and also the specific requirements for their declared option.

CORE REQUIREMENTS

30 credits the major, to include these core requirements:

BREADTH

3 courses, 1 each from these areas:

Code	Title	Credits
Human Geography (1 course)		3
GEOG 101	Introduction to Human Geography	
GEOG 104	Introduction to Human Geography	
GEOG 301	Revolutions and Social Change	
GEOG 302	Economic Geography: Locational Behavior	
GEOG/ URB R PL 305	Introduction to the City	
GEOG 307	International Migration, Health, and Human Rights	
GEOG/CHICLA/ GEN&WS 308	Latinx Feminisms: Women's Lives, Work, and Activism	
GEOG 318	Introduction to Geopolitics	
GEOG 340	World Regions in Global Context	
GEOG 342	Geography of Wisconsin	
GEOG 355	Africa, South of the Sahara	
GEOG 358	Human Geography of Southeast Asia	
GEOG/ENVIR ST/ HISTORY 469	The Making of the American Landscape	
GEOG 501	Space and Place: A Geography of Experience	
GEOG/ URB R PL 503	Researching the City: Qualitative Strategies	
GEOG/ URB R PL 505	Urban Spatial Patterns and Theories	
GEOG 510	Economic Geography	
GEOG 518	Power, Place, Identity	
GEOG 566	History of Geographic Thought	
People-Environment (1 course)		3
GEOG/ ENVIR ST 139	Global Environmental Issues	
GEOG/ ENVIR ST 309	People, Land and Food: Comparative Study of Agriculture Systems	
GEOG/ATM OCN/ ENVIR ST 332	Global Warming: Science and Impacts	
GEOG/ ENVIR ST 337	Nature, Power and Society	

GEOG/ BOTANY 338	Environmental Biogeography	
GEOG/ ENVIR ST 339	Environmental Conservation	
GEOG 340	World Regions in Global Context	
GEOG 344	Changing Landscapes of the American West	
GEOG/AMER IND/ ENVIR ST 345	Managing Nature in Native North America	
GEOG 359	Australia: Environment and Society	
GEOG/C&E SOC/ ENVIR ST 434	People, Wildlife and Landscapes	
GEOG/ ENVIR ST 439	US Environmental Policy and Regulation	
GEOG/ENVIR ST/ HISTORY 460	American Environmental History	
GEOG/ENVIR ST/ HISTORY 469	The Making of the American Landscape	
GEOG/ SOIL SCI 526	Human Transformations of Earth Surface Processes	
GEOG/ ENVIR ST 534	Environmental Governance: Markets, States and Nature	
GEOG/ ENVIR ST 537	Culture and Environment	
GEOG 538	The Humid Tropics: Ecology, Subsistence, and Development	
GEOG/ ENVIR ST 557	Development and Environment in Southeast Asia	
Physical Geography (1 course)		3
GEOG/ ENVIR ST 120	Introduction to the Earth System	
GEOG/ ENVIR ST 127	Physical Systems of the Environment	
GEOG/ GEOSCI 320	Geomorphology	
GEOG/ATM OCN/ ENVIR ST 322	Polar Regions and Their Importance in the Global Environment	
GEOG 329	Landforms and Landscapes of North America	
GEOG/ATM OCN/ ENVIR ST 332	Global Warming: Science and Impacts	
GEOG/ATM OCN/ ENVIR ST/ GEOSCI 335	Climatic Environments of the Past	
GEOG/ BOTANY 338	Environmental Biogeography	
GEOG 342	Geography of Wisconsin	
GEOG 344	Changing Landscapes of the American West	
GEOG/ GEOSCI 420	Glacial and Pleistocene Geology	
GEOG 523	Advanced Paleocology: Species Responses to Past Environmental Change	
GEOG/ SOIL SCI 525	Soil Geomorphology	

GEOG/ SOIL SCI 526	Human Transformations of Earth Surface Processes	
GEOG/ATM OCN/ ENVIR ST 528	Past Climates and Climatic Change	
Total Credits		9

CAPSTONE

Code	Title	Credits
Complete one of:		3-6
GEOG 565	Colloquium for Undergraduate Majors	
GEOG 681 & GEOG 682	Senior Honors Thesis and Senior Honors Thesis	
GEOG 691 & GEOG 692	Senior Thesis and Senior Thesis	
Total Credits		3-6

MAJOR OPTIONS

Declare one of these major options

View as listView as grid

- GEOGRAPHY: HUMAN GEOGRAPHY ([HTTP://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/UNDERGRADUATE/LETTERS-SCIENCE/GEOGRAPHY/GEOGRAPHY-BA/GEOGRAPHY-HUMAN-GEOGRAPHY-BA/](http://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/UNDERGRADUATE/LETTERS-SCIENCE/GEOGRAPHY/GEOGRAPHY-BA/GEOGRAPHY-HUMAN-GEOGRAPHY-BA/))
- GEOGRAPHY: PEOPLE-ENVIRONMENT GEOGRAPHY ([HTTP://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/UNDERGRADUATE/LETTERS-SCIENCE/GEOGRAPHY/GEOGRAPHY-BA/GEOGRAPHY-PEOPLE-ENVIRONMENT-GEOGRAPHY-BA/](http://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/UNDERGRADUATE/LETTERS-SCIENCE/GEOGRAPHY/GEOGRAPHY-BA/GEOGRAPHY-PEOPLE-ENVIRONMENT-GEOGRAPHY-BA/))
- GEOGRAPHY: PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY: EARTH SYSTEMS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESSES ([HTTP://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/UNDERGRADUATE/LETTERS-SCIENCE/GEOGRAPHY/GEOGRAPHY-BA/GEOGRAPHY-PHYSICAL-GEOGRAPHY-EARTH-SYSTEMS-ENVIRONMENTAL-PROCESSES-BA/](http://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/UNDERGRADUATE/LETTERS-SCIENCE/GEOGRAPHY/GEOGRAPHY-BA/GEOGRAPHY-PHYSICAL-GEOGRAPHY-EARTH-SYSTEMS-ENVIRONMENTAL-PROCESSES-BA/))

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

- 2.000 GPA in GEOG and major courses
- 2.000 GPA on 15 upper-level credits, taken in residence ¹
- 15 credits in GEOG, taken on the UW–Madison campus

¹ GEOG courses designated Intermediate/Advanced are upper level in this major.

HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Students may declare Honors in the Geography Major in consultation with the Geography undergraduate advisor.

HONORS IN THE MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

To earn a B.A. or B.S. with Honors in the Major in Geography students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

- Earn a 3.300 University GPA
- Earn a 3.300 GPA in all GEOG courses and major courses
- At least 1 Advanced level major course or 6 credits in major courses numbered 300 and higher, taken for Honors
- Complete a two-semester Senior Honors Thesis (GEOG 681 & GEOG 682) for a total of 6 credits.

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree To receive a bachelor's degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

Residency Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. "In residence" means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.

Quality of Work Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. A broad spectrum of geographical knowledge and skills, as well as a degree of expertise in a specific sub-field of the discipline (Human, People-Environment, Physical, Cart/GIS).
2. Skills in developing and implementing research plans.
3. Critical reasoning and analytical skills.
4. Communication skills - both written and oral.

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

SAMPLE FOUR-YEAR PLAN

This Sample Four-Year Plan is a tool to assist students and their advisor(s). Students should use it—along with their DARS report, the Degree Planner, and Course Search & Enroll tools—to make their own four-year plan based on their placement scores, credit for transferred courses and approved examinations, and individual interests. As students become involved in athletics, honors, research, student organizations, study abroad, volunteer experiences, and/or work, they might adjust the order of their courses to accommodate these experiences. Students will likely revise their own four-year plan several times during college.

First Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Communication A		3 Ethnic Studies (e.g., GEOG 305)	3
Quantitative Reasoning A		3 Quantitative Reasoning B	3
Foreign Language		4 Introductory GEOG	3

Biological Science Breadth	3 Foreign Language	4
Introductory GEOG	3-4 Literature Breadth	3
16		16

Second Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Communication B (e.g., GEOG 101)		4 Humanities Breadth	3
Humanities Breadth		3 Social Science Breadth	3
Major course: Human Geography		3-4 Major course: Physical Geography	3
INTER-LS 210		1 Major course: People-Environment	3
Elective		3 Elective	3
14		15	

Third Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Social Science Breadth		3 Literature Breadth	3
Natural Science Breadth		3 Major course: Mapping	3-4
Humanities Breadth		3 GEOG 365	3
Intermediate-Level Geography in Subarea		3-4 Electives	6
STAT 301		3	
15		15	

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
GEOG 565		3 Advanced-Level Geography Elective in Subarea	3-4
Intermediate-Level Geography Elective in Subarea		3-4 Electives	10
Electives		8	
15		14	

Total Credits 120**ADVISING AND CAREERS****ADVISING**

Students with questions about the major, courses, and careers are encouraged to contact the geography undergraduate advisor, Joel Gruley, at jgruley@wisc.edu.

CAREERS

Given its interdisciplinary nature, Geography prepares students for employment in a wide variety of fields spanning the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, both domestically and abroad. Fields where geographers commonly find employment include, but are not limited to: ecological restoration; urban planning; economic development; human rights; corporate sustainability; immigration advocacy and refugee resettlement; environmental consulting; social movements and community organization; national security; data analysis and visualization; risk assessment; public health; journalism; diplomacy; transportation; sustainable agrifood systems. Moreover, geographers trained in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and cartography are

in high demand from governments, businesses, and nonprofits for their spatial data analysis and visualization skills.

L&S CAREER RESOURCES

SuccessWorks at the College of Letters & Science helps students leverage the academic skills learned in their major, certificates, and liberal arts degree; explore and try out different career paths; participate in internships; prepare for the job search and/or graduate school applications; and network with professionals in the field (alumni and employers). In short, SuccessWorks helps students in the College of Letters & Science discover themselves, find opportunities, and develop the skills they need for success after graduation.

SuccessWorks can also assist students in career advising, résumé and cover letter writing, networking opportunities, and interview skills, as well as course offerings for undergraduates to begin their career exploration early in their undergraduate career.

Students should set up their profiles in Handshake (<https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/handshake/>) to take care of everything they need to explore career events, manage their campus interviews, and **apply to jobs and internships from 200,000+ employers around the country.**

- SuccessWorks (<https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/>)
- Set up a career advising appointment (<https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/>)
- INTER-LS 210 L&S Career Development: Taking Initiative (1 credit, targeted to first- and second-year students)—for more information, see Inter-LS 210: Career Development, Taking Initiative (<https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/inter-ls-210-career-development-taking-initiative/>)
- INTER-LS 215 Communicating About Careers (3 credits, fulfills Com B General Education Requirement)
- Handshake (<https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/handshake/>)
- Learn how we're transforming career preparation: L&S Career Initiative (<http://ls.wisc.edu/lsci/>)

PEOPLE

Professors Burt, Cadwallader, Cronon, Downey, Kaiser, Knox, Mason, Naughton, Olds, Ostergren, Turner, Williams, Zhu

Associate Professors Alatout, Dennis

Assistant Professors Baird, Gibbs, Marin-Spiotta, Ozdogan, Robertson, Roth, Schneider, Woodward, Young