

GEOGRAPHY, BS

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students must complete both the following Core General Education (Core GenEd) and University Degree and Quality of Work requirements. The requirements below apply to students whose first term at UW-Madison or whose earliest post-high school college attendance at any institution is Summer 2026 or later.

Students whose first term at UW-Madison or whose earliest post-high school college attendance at any institution occurred before Summer 2026 should refer to the archived Guide (<https://guide.wisc.edu/archive/>) for the requirements that apply to them.

CORE GENERAL EDUCATION (CORE GENED) REQUIREMENTS

Civics & Perspectives 3 credits of Civics & Perspectives coursework.

Communication & Literacy 6 credits of Communication & Literacy coursework. This requirement may be partially satisfied by a qualifying placement test score. More information: <https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingenglishplacement> (<https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingenglishplacement/>)

Humanities & Arts 6 credits of Humanities & Arts coursework.

Mathematics & Quantitative Reasoning 6 credits of Mathematics & Quantitative Reasoning coursework. This requirement may be partially satisfied by a qualifying placement test score. More information: <https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingmathplacement> (<https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingmathplacement/>)

Natural Science & Wellness Complete both:
 • 6 credits of Natural Science & Wellness or Natural Science & Wellness + Laboratory coursework.
 • one course must be in Natural Science & Wellness + Laboratory coursework.

Social & Behavioral Science 3 credits of Social & Behavioral Science coursework.

Total Credits 30 credits.

For more information see the policy (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1095/>).

UNIVERSITY DEGREE AND QUALITY OF WORK REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate degree recipients must complete the following minimum requirements. Requirements for some programs will exceed these requirements; see program requirements for additional information.

Total Degree 120 degree credits.

Residency Complete 30 credits in residence. A course is considered "in residence" if it is taken when in undergraduate degree-seeking status and:

- is offered by UW-Madison and completed on the UW-Madison campus or at an approved off-site location, or
- is offered by UW-Madison in an online or distance format, or is completed during participation in a UW-Madison study abroad/study away program.

Quality of Work Achieve at least the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, and/or academic program.

Math Demonstrate minimal mathematics competence by:

- placing above MATH 96, or
- successfully completing MATH 96, or
- successfully completing a more advanced mathematics course such as MATH 112, MATH 113, MATH 114, MATH 141, MATH 211, or MATH 221.

English Language If required to take the UW-Madison English as a Second Language Assessment Test (MSN-ESLAT), demonstrate minimal English language competence by:

- earning credit for ESL 118, or
- achieving a qualifying MSN-ESLAT placement test score.

Language Complete one:

- 2 high school units of a single language other than English, or
- one course with the second semester Language designation.

Major Declaration Declare and complete the requirements for at least one major.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BS)

Students pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. Some courses satisfy more than one L&S degree requirement (visit College of Letters & Science: Requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/#requirementstext>) for details).

This major can be paired with either the Bachelor of Arts or the Bachelor of Science degree requirements.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Communication Complete both:

- Part A: one course with the Communication A designation or eligible UW Placement Score; and
- Part B: one course with the Communication B designation

Quantitative Reasoning	Complete both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part A: one course with the Quantitative Reasoning A designation or eligible UW Placement Score; and Part B: one course with the Quantitative Reasoning B designation
Ethnic Studies	one 3+ credit course with the Ethnic Studies designation
Language	the third unit of a language other than English
Mathematics	Complete two courses of 3+ credits at the Intermediate or Advanced level in MATH, COMP SCI, or STAT subjects. A maximum of one course in each of COMP SCI and STAT subjects counts toward this requirement.
L&S Breadth: Humanities	Complete 12 credits with the Humanities or Literature designation, which must include at least 6 credits with the Literature designation.
L&S Breadth: Social Sciences	Complete 12 credits with the Social Science designation.
L&S Breadth: Natural Sciences	Complete 12 credits, which must include both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 credits with the Biological Science designation, and 6 credits with the Physical Science designation.
Liberal Arts and Science (LAS) Coursework	at least 108 credits
Depth of Intermediate/Advanced Coursework	at least 60 credits at the Intermediate or Advanced level
Major	Declare and complete at least one major.
Total Credits	at least 120 credits
UW-Madison Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 credits in residence, overall, and 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit
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

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	Human Geography: Space, Place, Society, and Politics	
GEOG 104	Introduction to Human Geography	
GEOG/ART HIST/ ENVIR ST/ HISTORY/ LAND ARC 239	Making the American Landscape	
GEOG 300	Weird Geographies	
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/ INTL ST 311	The Global Game: Soccer, Politics, and Identity	
GEOG/ INTL ST 315	Universal Basic Income: The Politics Behind a Global Movement	
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/ AMER IND 410	Critical Indigenous Ecological Knowledges	
GEOG 501	Space and Place: A Geography of Experience	
GEOG/ URB R PL 503	Researching the City: Qualitative Strategies	
GEOG/ GEN&WS 504	Feminist Geography: Theoretical Approaches	
GEOG/ URB R PL 505	Urban Spatial Patterns and Theories	
GEOG 507	Waste Geographies: Politics, People, and Infrastructures	
GEOG 510	Economic Geography	
GEOG 511	Critical Social Theory	
GEOG 513	Queer Geographies	
GEOG/ GEN&WS 514	Feminist Geography: Methodological Approaches	
GEOG 515	Trans Autotheories	
GEOG 518	Power, Place, Identity	
People-Environment (1 course)		3
GEOG/ ENVIR ST 139	Global Environmental Issues	
GEOG/ ATM OCN/ ENVIR ST 131	Climate Change, Climate Action: The Social Dimensions of Climate Change	

GEOG/ART HIST/ ENVIR ST/ HISTORY/ LAND ARC 239	Making the American Landscape
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 333	Green Urbanism
GEOG/ ENVIR ST 336	International Environmental Governance
GEOG/ ENVIR ST 337	Nature, Power and Society
GEOG/ BOTANY 338	Environmental Biogeography
GEOG/ ENVIR ST 339	Conservation and Climate Change - Local to International Strategies
GEOG 340	World Regions in Global Context
GEOG 344	Changing Landscapes of the American West
GEOG/ AMER IND/ ENVIR ST 345	Caring for Nature in Native North America
GEOG 359	Australia: Environment and Society
GEOG/ AMER IND 410	Critical Indigenous Ecological Knowledges
GEOG/ENVIR ST/ URB R PL 431	Planning for Resilience to Natural Hazards
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/ 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/ 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 Paleoecology: Species Responses to Past Environmental Change
GEOG/ SOIL SCI 525	Soil Geomorphology
GEOG/ SOIL SCI 526	Human Transformations of Earth Surface Processes

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**
([HTTPS://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/
UNDERGRADUATE/LETTERS-SCIENCE/
GEOGRAPHY/GEOGRAPHY-BA/
GEOGRAPHY-HUMAN-GEOGRAPHY-BA/](https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/geography/geography-ba/geography-human-geography-ba/))
- **GEOGRAPHY: PEOPLE-ENVIRONMENT
GEOGRAPHY** ([HTTPS://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/
UNDERGRADUATE/LETTERS-SCIENCE/
GEOGRAPHY/GEOGRAPHY-BA/
GEOGRAPHY-PEOPLE-ENVIRONMENT-
GEOGRAPHY-BA/](https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/geography/geography-ba/geography-people-environment-geography-ba/))
- **GEOGRAPHY: PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY:
EARTH SYSTEMS AND ENVIRONMENTAL
PROCESSES** ([HTTPS://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/
UNDERGRADUATE/LETTERS-SCIENCE/
GEOGRAPHY/GEOGRAPHY-BA/
GEOGRAPHY-PHYSICAL-GEOGRAPHY-
EARTH-SYSTEMS-ENVIRONMENTAL-
PROCESSES-BA/](https://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 residence¹
- 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 BA or BS 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.