Geography (BA/BS)

Home to a number of breathtaking geographic landforms, from the Cascade Range to the McKenzie and Rogue rivers, Oregon is the ideal place to study geography. But geography is more than mountains and rivers and maps. It's about how cultures and societies are affected by their natural surroundings and how people can enact change in the world. Geography is a way of looking at the world, understanding the dynamics between humans and the environment, and learning to use that information to make real change.

As a geography major, you'll come to understand how national and physical boundaries affect power and inequality; the significance of resource abundance and resource shortage for different people in different places; why particular regions contribute more to environmental issues than others; how climate change affects plants, animals, and water resources; how place defines who we are, how we act, and the choices we make; and much more. You'll learn how to use cutting edge spatial technologies that are in high demand in business, governments, and nonprofits around the world. Asking these questions and using these methods, you'll learn where positive change is taking place and how to be a part of it.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Exhibit a general understanding of major biophysical and social patterns in the world, and the key drivers that give rise to those patterns.
- Identify and use geospatial techniques to analyze spatial data towards problem solving or modeling.
- Exhibit the ability to critically analyze geographic problems, ask research questions, understand methods, and conduct research.
- Demonstrate effective written, verbal, and graphic communication skills.

Culture, Politics, and Place Concentration

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Understand the socio-economic, cultural, and political processes that shape places and the connections between them.

Environment, Economy, and Sustainability Concentration

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Interpret the relationship of human and natural systems that result interactions between processes operating at local to global scales.
- Develop an awareness of the natural and cultural landscapes of several regions of the world and investigate the processes that form them.

Environmental Systems Concentration

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of the important processes that affect the distribution and abundance of life, the geomorphic processes that shape the surface of the earth, and the climate system at local to global scales.

Geographic Education Concentration

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the core concepts of geography to enable students to teach geography at the K-12 level.

Geographic Information Science Concentration

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of geospatial analysis and the GIScience project process.

Water Science and Policy Concentration

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of human and environmental processes that affect water systems around the world.

An undergraduate major in geography follows a broadly based general degree program. Both bachelor of arts (BA) and bachelor of science (BS) degrees are offered in the department. To achieve depth in a particular subfield of geography, electives are chosen from one of six specializations:

1. environment, economy, and sustainability (p. 2)
2. geographic education (p. 2)
3. water science and policy (p. 3)
4. culture, politics, and place (p. 3)
5. environmental systems (p. 3)
6. geographic information system science (p. 3)

Although a degree in geography is a liberal arts degree, many graduates have found related vocational opportunities in government or private employment, principally in planning, environmental research, cartography, or geographic information system science.

Geography Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Fundamentals: Introductory Core		
GEOG 141	The Natural Environment	4
GEOG 142	Human Geography	4
GEOG 181	Our Digital Earth	4

Fundamentals: Advanced Core		
GEOG 391	Social Science Inquiry and Research	4
Select one of the following:		4
GEOG 201	World Regional Geography	
GEOG 202	Geography of Europe	
GEOG 208	Geography of the United States and Canada	
GEOG 209	Geography of the Middle East and North Africa	
GEOG 281	The World and Big Data	
GEOG 471	North American Historical Landscapes	
Breadth Requirements: Geographic Information System Science		**4**
Select one of the following:		
GEOG 481	GIScience I	
GEOG 482	GIScience II	
GEOG 485	Remote Sensing I	
GEOG 486	Remote Sensing II	
GEOG 490	GIScience: [Topic]	
GEOG 491	Advanced Geographic Information Systems	
GEOG 493	Advanced Cartography	
GEOG 494	Spatial Analysis	
GEOG 495	Geographic Data Analysis	
GEOG 497	Qualitative Methods in Geography	
GEOG 498	Geospatial Project Design	
Breadth Requirements: Biophysical Geography		**4**
Select one of the following:		
GEOG 321	Climatology	
GEOG 322	Geomorphology	
GEOG 323	Biogeography	
GEOG 360	Watershed Science and Policy	
GEOG 361	Global Environmental Change	
GEOG 425	Hydrology and Water Resources	
GEOG 427	Fluvial Geomorphology	
GEOG 430	Long-Term Environmental Change	
GEOG 433	Fire and Natural Disturbances	
Breadth Requirements: Human Geography		**4**
Select one of the following:		
GEOG 341	Population and Environment	
GEOG 342	Geography of Globalization	
GEOG 343	Society, Culture, and Place	
GEOG 441	Political Geography	
GEOG 442	Urban Geography	
GEOG 444	Cultural Geography	
GEOG 448	Tourism and Development	
GEOG 465	Environment and Development	
GEOG 468	Contemporary Food Systems	
GEOG 471	North American Historical Landscapes	
ASIA 425	Asian Foodways	
ASIA 480	Chinese Economy: Transition, Development, Globalization	
ENVS 450	Political Ecology	
ENVS 455	Sustainability	
Electives		
Three courses from one specialization (see specialization lists) [1]		12
Additional Requirements		**2**
GEOG 401	Research: [Topic]	
GEOG 403	Thesis	
GEOG 406	Practicum: [Topic]	
GEOG 409	Terminal Project	
GEOG 419	Professional Geographer	
Total Credits		**46**

[1] Seminar: [Topic] (GEOG 407), Experimental Course: [Topic] (GEOG 410), and other upper-division courses approved by an advisor may be used to satisfy the elective requirement.

At least eight geography courses must be taken for a letter grade. A grade of C– or better or P (pass) is required in each course, and a GPA of 2.25 or better is required in courses used to satisfy major requirements.

Environment, Economy, and Sustainability

Code	Title	Credits
Select three of the following:		12
GEOG 321	Climatology	
GEOG 322	Geomorphology	
GEOG 323	Biogeography	
GEOG 341	Population and Environment	
GEOG 342	Geography of Globalization	
GEOG 360	Watershed Science and Policy	
GEOG 361	Global Environmental Change	
GEOG 421		
GEOG 425	Hydrology and Water Resources	
GEOG 427	Fluvial Geomorphology	
GEOG 430	Long-Term Environmental Change	
GEOG 433	Fire and Natural Disturbances	
GEOG 465	Environment and Development	
GEOG 467		
GEOG 468	Contemporary Food Systems	
ASIA 425	Asian Foodways	
ENVS 450	Political Ecology	
ENVS 455	Sustainability	

Geographic Education

Code	Title	Credits
Select three of the following:		12
GEOG 341	Population and Environment	
GEOG 342	Geography of Globalization	
GEOG 343	Society, Culture, and Place	
GEOG 441	Political Geography	
GEOG 442	Urban Geography	
GEOG 444	Cultural Geography	
GEOG 471	North American Historical Landscapes	

GEOG 475	
Upper-division courses in geography (GEOG) [1]	

[1] With approval of advisor.

Water Science and Policy

Code	Title	Credits
Select three of the following:		12
GEOG 322	Geomorphology	
GEOG 360	Watershed Science and Policy	
GEOG 361	Global Environmental Change	
GEOG 425	Hydrology and Water Resources	
GEOG 427	Fluvial Geomorphology	
GEOG 467		

Culture, Politics, and Place

Code	Title	Credits
Select three of the following:		12
GEOG 341	Population and Environment	
GEOG 342	Geography of Globalization	
GEOG 343	Society, Culture, and Place	
GEOG 441	Political Geography	
GEOG 442	Urban Geography	
GEOG 444	Cultural Geography	
GEOG 448	Tourism and Development	
GEOG 465	Environment and Development	
GEOG 467		
GEOG 468	Contemporary Food Systems	
GEOG 471	North American Historical Landscapes	
GEOG 475		
ASIA 425	Asian Foodways	
ASIA 480	Chinese Economy: Transition, Development, Globalization	
ENVS 450	Political Ecology	
ENVS 455	Sustainability	

Environmental Systems

Code	Title	Credits
Select three of the following:		12
GEOG 321	Climatology	
GEOG 322	Geomorphology	
GEOG 323	Biogeography	
GEOG 360	Watershed Science and Policy	
GEOG 361	Global Environmental Change	
GEOG 421		
GEOG 425	Hydrology and Water Resources	
GEOG 427	Fluvial Geomorphology	
GEOG 430	Long-Term Environmental Change	
GEOG 433	Fire and Natural Disturbances	

Geographic Information System Science

Code	Title	Credits
Select three of the following:		12
GEOG 481	GIScience I	
GEOG 482	GIScience II	
GEOG 485	Remote Sensing I	
GEOG 486	Remote Sensing II	
GEOG 490	GIScience: [Topic]	
GEOG 491	Advanced Geographic Information Systems	
GEOG 493	Advanced Cartography	
GEOG 495	Geographic Data Analysis	
GEOG 497	Qualitative Methods in Geography	
GEOG 498	Geospatial Project Design	

Honors Programs

The Department of Geography offers an honors option for its majors. More information is available on the department website (https://geography.uoregon.edu/undergrad/honors/) or by contacting the undergraduate advisor, geogadvr@uoregon.edu.

Four-Year Degree Plan

The degree plan shown is only a sample of how students may complete their degrees in four years. There are alternative ways. Students should consult their advisor to determine the best path for them.

Bachelor of Arts in Geography

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
First Year			
Fall			
GEOG 142	Human Geography	4	
WR 121Z	Composition I	4	
Group-satisfying course in arts and letters		4	
First term of first-year second-language sequence		5	
	Credits	**17**	
Winter			
GEOG 141	The Natural Environment	4	
WR 122Z	Composition II	4	
Group-satisfying course in science		4	
Second term of first-year second-language sequence		5	
	Credits	**17**	
Spring			
GEOG 181	Our Digital Earth	4	Fundamentals sequence complete
Group-satisfying course in social science		4	
Group-satisfying course in arts and letters		4	
Third term of first-year second-language sequence		5	
	Credits	**17**	
	Total Credits	**51**	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Second Year			
Fall			
Geography advanced core elective (201–214)		4	
Group-satisfying course in arts and letters		4	
Group-satisfying course in social science that also satisfies multicultural requirement in American cultures or identity, pluralism, and tolerance		4	
First term of second-year second-language sequence		5	
	Credits	**17**	
Winter			
Human geography breadth course		4	
Group-satisfying course in science		4	
Group-satisfying course in arts and letters		4	
Second term of second-year second-language sequence		5	
Consider studying abroad in third year (optional)			
	Credits	**17**	
Spring			
Biophysical geography breadth course		4	
Group-satisfying course in social science		4	
Third term of second-year second-language sequence		5	
Elective course		4	
	Credits	**17**	
	Total Credits	**51**	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Third Year			
Fall			
GEOG 481	GIScience I	4	
Group-satisfying course in social science		4	
Upper-division elective courses		8	
	Credits	**16**	
Winter			
GEOG 391	Social Science Inquiry and Research	4	Advanced core complete
GEOG 419	Professional Geographer	2	Launchpac requiremer
Upper-division course with GEOG subject code		4	
Upper-division elective course		4	Investigate summer internships
	Credits	**14**	
Spring			
Upper-division courses with GEOG subject code		8	
Upper-division elective courses		8	
	Credits	**16**	
	Total Credits	**46**	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Fourth Year			
Fall			
Upper-division courses with GEOG subject code		8	
Upper-division elective courses		8	
	Credits	**16**	
Winter			
Upper-division courses with GEOG subject code		8	Apply for graduation on DuckWeb
Upper-division elective course		4	
Elective course		4	
Start a job search with geography academic career advisor			
	Credits	**16**	
Spring			
Upper-division courses with GEOG subject code		8	
Upper-division elective courses		8	
	Credits	**16**	
	Total Credits	**48**	

Bachelor of Science in Geography

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
First Year			
Fall			
GEOG 142	Human Geography	4	
WR 121Z	Composition I	4	
Group-satisfying course in arts and letters		4	
Group-satisfying course in science		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Winter			
GEOG 141	The Natural Environment	4	
WR 122Z	Composition II	4	
Mathematics course		4	
Group-satisfying course in science		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Spring			
GEOG 181	Our Digital Earth	4	fundamentals sequence complete
Mathematics course		4	
Group-satisfying course in social science		4	
Group-satisfying course in arts and letters		4	
	Credits	**16**	
	Total Credits	**48**	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Second Year			
Fall			
Geography advanced core elective (201–214)		4	
Mathematics course		4	
Group-satisfying course in social science that also satisfies multicultural requirement in American cultures or identity, pluralism, and tolerance		4	
Elective course		4	
	Credits	**16**	

Winter		
Physical geography breadth course		4
Group-satisfying course in social science		4
Group-satisfying course in arts and letters		4
Elective course		4
Consider studying abroad in third year (optional)		
	Credits	**16**
Spring		
Human geography breadth course		
Group-satisfying courses in science		8
Elective course		4
	Credits	**12**
	Total Credits	**44**

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Third Year			
Fall			
GEOG 481	GIScience I	4	
Upper-division course with GEOG subject code		4	
Upper-division elective course		4	
Elective course		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Winter			
GEOG 391	Social Science Inquiry and Research	4	Advanced core complete
GEOG 419	Professional Geographer	2	Launchpad requirement
Upper-division course with GEOG subject code		4	
Elective course		4	Investigate summer internships
	Credits	**14**	
Spring			
Upper-division course with GEOG subject code		4	
Upper-division elective courses		8	
Elective course		4	
	Credits	**16**	
	Total Credits	**46**	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Fourth Year			
Fall			
Upper-division courses with GEOG subject code		8	
Upper-division elective courses		8	
	Credits	**16**	
Winter			
Upper-division coursed with GEOG subject code		8	Apply for graduation on DuckWeb
Upper-division elective course		4	
Elective course		4	
Start a job search with geography academic career advisor			
	Credits	**16**	
Spring			
Upper-division course with GEOG subject code		4	
Upper-division elective courses		8	
Elective course		4	
	Credits	**16**	
	Total Credits	**48**	