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:

- Recognize the diverse human and biophysical processes shaping places and spaces in the world around us.
- Apply quantitative and qualitative methods to spatial data to critically evaluate processes shaping places.
- Identify key geographic research questions and critically evaluate them in the context of the evidence presented.
- Communicate clearly and effectively about complex geographical topics using written, verbal, or graphic approaches.
- Identify and communicate the skills and competencies relevant to their potential career path.

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. water science and policy (p. 2)
3. culture, politics, and place (p. 2)
4. environmental systems (p. 2)
5. geographic information system science (p. 2)

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	The Human Planet	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 250	Geographies of Outdoor Adventure	
GEOG 281	The World and Big Data	
GEOG 471		
Breadth Requirements: Geographic Information System Science		**4**
Select one of the following:		
GEOG 393	Data Driven Cartography	
GEOG 489	Mapping with Drones	
GEOG 492	Web Mapping	
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 and Geo-Visualization	
GEOG 494	Spatial Analysis	
GEOG 495	Geographic Data Analysis	
GEOG 497	Qualitative Methods in Geography	
GEOG 498		
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 421	Advanced Climatology: [Topic]	
GEOG 423	Advanced Biogeography: [Topic]	
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		
Electives		
Three courses from one specialization (see specialization lists) [1]		12
The Launchpad		**2-4**
CAS 417	Career Readiness	
GEOG 401	Research: [Topic]	
GEOG 403	Thesis	
GEOG 406	Practicum: [Topic]	
GEOG 409	Terminal Project	
GEOG 419		
Total Credits		**46-48**

[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	Advanced Climatology: [Topic]	
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	

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 468	Contemporary Food Systems	
GEOG 471		

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	Advanced Climatology: [Topic]	
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 393	Data Driven Cartography	
GEOG 481	GIScience I	
GEOG 482	GIScience II	
GEOG 485	Remote Sensing I	
GEOG 486	Remote Sensing II	
GEOG 489	Mapping with Drones	
GEOG 490	GIScience: [Topic]	
GEOG 491	Advanced Geographic Information Systems	
GEOG 492	Web Mapping	
GEOG 493	Advanced Cartography and Geo-Visualization	
GEOG 495	Geographic Data Analysis	
GEOG 497	Qualitative Methods in Geography	
GEOG 498		

Honors Programs

The Department of Geography offers an honors option for its majors. More information is available on the department website (https://socialsciences.uoregon.edu/geography/undergraduate-programs/honors-requirements/), contact the undergraduate support at undergradasu7@uoregon.edu, or email the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Leslie McLees here (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	The Human Planet	4	
WR 121Z	Composition I	4	
Area-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	
Area-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
Area-satisfying course in social science		4	
Area-satisfying course in arts and letters		4	
Third term of first-year second-language sequence		5	
	Credits	**17**	
Second Year			
Fall			
Geography advanced core elective (201-214)		4	
Area-satisfying course in arts and letters		4	
Area-satisfying course in social science that also satisfies cultural literacy requirement in US: Difference, Inequality, & Agency		4	
First term of second-year second-language sequence		5	
	Credits	**17**	
Winter			
Human geography breadth course		4	
Area-satisfying course in science		4	
Area-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	
Area-satisfying course in social science		4	
Third term of second-year second-language sequence		5	
Elective course		4	
	Credits	**17**	
Third Year			
Fall			
GEOG 481	GIScience I	4	
Area-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
CAS 417	Career Readiness	2	
Upper-division course with GEOG subject code		4	
Upper-division elective ocurse		4	Investigate summer internships
	Credits	**14**	
Spring			
Upper-division courses with GEOG subject code		8	
Upper-division elective courses		8	
	Credits	**16**	
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 research 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	**196**	

Bachelor of Science in Geography

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
First Year			
Fall			
GEOG 142	The Human Planet	4	
WR 121Z	Composition I	4	

Area-satisfying course in arts and letters			4
Area-satisfying course in science			4
	Credits		**16**
Winter			
GEOG 141	The Natural Environment		4
WR 122Z	Composition II		4
Mathematics course			4
Area-satisfying course in science			4
	Credits		**16**
Spring			
GEOG 181	Our Digital Earth	fundamentals sequence complete	4
Mathematics course			4
Area-satisfying course in social science			4
Area-satisfying course in arts and letters			4
	Credits		**16**
Second Year			
Fall			
Geography advanced core elective (201-214)			4
Mathematics course			4
Area-satisfying course in social science that also satisfies cultural literacy requirement in US: Difference, Inequality, & Agency			4
Elective course			4
	Credits		**16**
Winter			
Physical geography breadth course			4
Area-satisfying course in social science			4
Area-satisfying course in arts and letters			4
Elective course			4
Consider studying abroad in third year (optional)			
	Credits		**16**
Spring			
Human geography breadth course			4
Area-satisfying course in science			8
Elective course			4
	Credits		**16**
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	Advanced core complete	4
CAS 417	Career Readiness		2
Upper-division course with GEOG subject code			4
Elective course		Investigate summer internships	4
	Credits		**14**
Spring			
Upper-division course with GEOG subject code			4
Upper-division elective courses			8
Elective course			4
	Credits		**16**
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		Apply for graduation on DuckWeb	8
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		**190**