Bachelor of Arts degree
with a major in Geography
Minor in Geography
Department Chair
Matthew Derrick, Ph.D.
Department of Geography, Environment & Spatial Analysis
Founders Hall 109
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The Program
Students completing this program will have demonstrated the ability to:
- collect data; know where to acquire such and what technology should be employed
- layout and design best geographics
- develop and apply information literacy
- understand causes and implications of spatial interactions and movement patterns
- demonstrate skills and competencies of geographic traditions
- analyze, synthesize, and interpret spatial information
- apply geographic thinking in real-world contexts
- analyze and/or appraise real-world societal issues.

We offer a quality undergraduate program incorporating a wide range of courses in human and physical geography, as well as cartography and geospatial techniques. Students obtain a strong geographic foundation through a sequence of introductory classes, along with a skills-based methodology course and research lab. Geographic concepts, ideas, and skills are developed and mastered in upper-division regional, systematic, and in-depth geography courses. Our majors further develop and demonstrate geographic mastery through a research-based senior capstone. While our program is designed to ensure breadth in geographic education, students are also encouraged to develop depth by specializing in one of the department’s three emphasis areas:
- The Human World
- The Physical Environment
- Geospatial Systems

The department upholds a strong tradition of field study, including expeditions to the Tibetan Plateau, the Cascades, the Sierra Nevada, and other landscapes of the American west, as well as linkages to overseas programs in China, Europe, and Latin America.

Preparation
In high school take history, government, mathematics, science, and a foreign language.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR
For a description of degree requirements to be fulfilled in addition to those listed below for the major, please see “The Bachelor’s Degree” section of the catalog, pp. 67-82.

Unit Requirements
Total required for major: 41-46
Total units required for the degree: 120

Special Grade Requirement
Students must earn a minimum grade of C- in all required courses for the major.

Geographic Foundation (14 units)
The following six foundation courses are required:
GEOG 105 (3) Human Geography
GEOG 106 (3) Physical Geography
GEOG 106L (1) Physical Geography Lab
GEOG 301 (2) Geospatial Concepts
GEOG 310L (1) Geographic Research Lab
Select one methodology course:
GEOG 311 (3) Geographic Research & Writing, or
ESM 230† (3) Environmental Methods* [Prereq: STAT 109 (4)]

Regional Synthesis (3-4 units)
Select one of the regional courses below:
GEOG 309 (3) The Silk Road
GEOG 319 (4) Emergence of the Modern Middle East
GEOG 322 (3) California
GEOG 332 (3) Geog. of the Mediterranean
GEOG 335 (3) Geog. of the Middle East
GEOG 344 (3) South America
GEOG 376 (3) Tibet and the Himalaya
GEOG 472 (3) Topics in Reg. Geography

Systematic Geography (18-22 units)
Six systematic geography courses are required, including one course from each of the systematic emphasis areas (The Human World, the Physical Environment, Geospatial Systems). Students are encouraged to specialize in one area of systematic geography by taking at least two of the remaining three required systematic courses in one emphasis area.

The Human World
GEOG 300 (3) Global Awareness
GEOG 301 (3) International Environmental Issues & Globalization
GEOG 304 (3) Migrations & Mosaics
GEOG 360 (3) Geography of the World Economy
GEOG 363 (3) Political Geography
GEOG 365 (4) Political Ecology
GEOG 470 (3) Topics in Geography for Teachers
GEOG 471 (3) Topics in Human Geography

The Physical Environment
GEOG 302 (3) Global Ecology and Biogeography
GEOG 352 (3) Weather, Climate, and Natural Hazards
GEOG 353 (3) Mountain Geography
GEOG 357 (3) Climate Change, Ecosystems, and People
GEOG 473 (3) Topics in Physical Geography

Geospatial Systems
GSP 216 (3) Intro to Remote Sensing
GSP 270 (3) Geographic Information Science (GIS)
GSP 316 (4) Cartography
GSP 318 (3) Introduction to Geospatial Programming
GSP 326 (3) Intermediate Remote Sensing
GSP 370 (3) Intermediate GIS
GSP 416 (4) Advanced Cartography Design Seminar

Depth Experience (2 units)
Select a minimum of two upper division depth experience courses:
GEOG 300M (1) Global Awareness D.E.
GEOG 302M (1) Global Ecology and Biogeography D.E.
GEOG 304M (1) Migrations & Mosaics D.E.
GEOG 322M (1) California D.E.
GEOG 332M (1) Geog.: Mediterranean D.E.
GEOG 344M (1) South America D.E.
GEOG 352M (1) Weather, Climate, and Natural Hazards D.E.

*Recommended for students who wish to specialize in the physical environment.
† Course requires a prerequisite that is not required elsewhere in the major.
GEDG 353M (1) Mountain Geography D. E.
GEDG 357M (1) Climate Change, Ecosystems, and People D.E.
GEDG 360M (1) Geography of the World Economy D.E.
GEDG 361M (1) Settlement Geography D. E.
GEDG 363M (1) Political Geography D.E.
GEDG 471M (1) Topics in Human Geography D. E.
GEDG 472M (1) Topics in Regional Geography D. E.
GEDG 473M (1) Topics in Physical Geography D. E.

**Senior Capstone (4 units)**
The following capstone course is required.
GEDG 411 (4) Senior Field Research

**REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR**
Total units required for the minor: 15

**Special Grade Requirement**
Students must earn a minimum grade of C- in all required courses for the minor.

**Geographic Foundations (6 units)**
Complete two of the following three options within the geographic foundation.
GSP 101 (2) Geospatial Concepts and GSP 101L (1) Geospatial Concepts Lab
GEDG 105 (3) Human Geography
GEDG 106 (3) Physical Geography

**Upper Division Electives (9 units)**
Complete at least three upper division electives approved by the department chair.