

Program Change Request

Date Submitted: 03/14/23 10:48 am

Viewing: **SC-BA-GEOG : Geography, BA**

Last approved: 05/20/22 12:56 pm

Last edit: 03/24/23 1:30 pm

Changes proposed by: jbazaz

**Catalog Pages
Using this Program**
[Geography, BA](#)

Are you completing this form on someone else's behalf?

Yes

Requestor:

In Workflow

1. **GGS Chair**
2. **SC Curriculum Committee**
3. SC Associate Dean
4. Assoc Provost- Undergraduate
5. Registrar-Programs

Approval Path

1. 03/21/23 12:11 pm
Nathan Burtch
(nburtch): Approved for GGS Chair

History

1. Nov 1, 2017 by clmig-jwehrheim
2. Jan 17, 2018 by rzachari
3. Feb 28, 2018 by Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz)
4. Mar 15, 2018 by rzachari
5. Feb 6, 2019 by Dieter Pfoser (dpfoser)
6. Jan 30, 2020 by Nathan Burtch (nburtch)
7. Jan 29, 2022 by Timothy Leslie (tleslie)
8. May 20, 2022 by Jennifer Bazaz

Name	Extension	Email
Nathan Burtch	1207	nburtch

Effective Catalog: 2023-2024
Program Level: Undergraduate
Program Type: Bachelor's
Degree Type: Bachelor of Arts
Title: Geography, BA
Banner Title: Geography, BA

Is this a retitling of

Registrar/OAPI Use Only – SCHEV Status Approved

Registrar’s Office Use Only – Program Start Term

Registrar/OAPI Use Only – SCHEV Letter

Registrar/OAPI Use Only – SACSCOC Status

Concentration(s):

	Associated Concentrations	Registrar's Office Use Only: Concentration Code
1	Environmental Geography	EGEO
2	Health Geography	HGEO
3	Geoanthropology	GEA

Registrar/IRR Use Only – Concentration CIP Code

College/School: College of Science

Department / Academic Unit: Geography & Geoinformation Science

Jointly Owned Program? No

Justification

What: Adding GGS 485 (proposed capstone/Apex course).

Why: Currently GGS has two 300-level courses for the Synthesis Mason Core. These courses will not be eligible for the new Apex (capstone) Mason Core designation. The intention is to apply GGS 485 towards the Mason Core Capstone or Apex after creation. With this course, with its project-based approach and utilization of real-world data/scenarios, GGS wants to include the course as a required major core course.

What: Reorganization of BA concentrations (primarily Health Geography and Geoanthropology).

Why: The Environmental Geography concentration has been our most successful of the three BA concentrations thus far. Edits to the Health Geog and Geoanth. concentrations will use the clear organization of EGEO (two core courses, a GGS methods course, and a list of electives). The Geoanthropology had tracks that while following the ANTH degree, were too complex for a concentration. GGS hopes that with these re-organized concentrations that students will see more clarity to each.

What: Addition of Urban Planning as a BA concentration.

Why: Urban planning as a discipline has strong connections to geography. A large number of urban planning programs or major concentrations are found in geography. In a report by the labor market analytics firm Lightcast (made as part of our department's 7-year review), Urban and Regional Planners is listed as one of the top 10 target occupations for Geography majors. There is expected 3.31% growth from 2022 to 2027. In another report specifically for Urban and Regional Planners by Lightcast, our region is depicted as a hot spot for planning jobs compared to the nation as a whole, with higher than national median compensation. That report also connects Urban and Regional Planning back to geography, by listing both "Geographic Information Systems" and "Geography" as two of the top ten specialized skills listed in job postings. Based on this, we believe there is a market for skills developed in this concentration for students graduating from Mason, and we believe GGS is an appropriate department to host this concentration.

Total Credits Required: Total credits: minimum 120

Registrar's Office Use Only - Program Code:

SC-BA-GEOG

Registrar/IRR Use Only – Program CIP Code

Admission Requirements:

Admissions

University-wide admissions policies can be found in the [Undergraduate Admissions Policies](#) section of this catalog. To apply for this program, please complete the [George Mason University Admissions Application](#).

Program-Specific Policies:

Policies

Students must fulfill all [Requirements for Bachelor's Degrees](#) including the [Mason Core](#). As outlined in the Requirements tab, students in this bachelor's program must also complete the additional College Requirements for the BA Degree.

[GGG 415](#) Seminar in Geographic Thought and Methodology fulfills the writing intensive requirement. For policies governing all undergraduate programs, see [AP.5 Undergraduate Policies](#).

Degree Requirements:

Students should refer to the [Admissions & Policies](#) tab for specific policies related to this program. Candidates for a degree in geography must complete the approved GGS geography courses with a minimum GPA of 2.00.

Students must complete the Core, Systematic and Regional Geography, and GGS electives, then select one concentration or an additional program, and lastly complete the College Requirements for the BA Degree and the Mason Core and Elective Credits.

Geography

Core Courses

GGG 102	Physical Geography (Mason Core)	3-4
or GGG 121	Dynamic Atmosphere and Hydrosphere (Mason Core)	
or GGG 122	Dynamic Geosphere and Ecosphere	
GGG 103	Human Geography (Mason Core)	3
GGG 110	Introduction to Geoinformation Technologies	3
GGG 300	Quantitative Methods for Geographical Analysis	3
GGG 310	Cartographic Design	3
GGG 311	Geographic Information Systems	3
GGG 415	Seminar in Geographic Thought and Methodology 1	3
GGG 485	Capstone in Geography and Geoinformation Science	3
Total Credits		24-25

1 Fulfills writing intensive requirement.

Breadth Systematic and Experience Courses Regional Geography

Students must take one systematic course and one regional course from the list below:

Systematic Courses

Select one from the following:

3

GGS 301	Political Geography (Mason Core)
GGS 302	Global Environmental Hazards
GGS 303	Geography of Resource Conservation (Mason Core)
GGS 304	Population Geography (Mason Core)
GGS 305	Economic Geography
GGS 306	Urban Geography
GGS 307	Geographic Approaches for Sustainable Development
GGS 309	Introduction to Weather and Climate
GGS 312	Physical Climatology
GGS 314	Severe and Extreme Weather
GGS 321	Biogeography
GGS 340	Health Geography
GGS 344	Military Geography
GGS 357	Urban Planning
GGS 399	Select Topics in GGS

Regional Courses

Select one from the following:

3

GGS 315	Geography of the United States
GGS 316	Geography of Latin America
GGS 317	Geography of China (Mason Core)
GGS 320	Geography of Europe
GGS 325	Geography of North Africa and the Middle East
GGS 326	Geography of Eastern Europe and Russia
GGS 333	Issues in Regional Geography
GGS 380	Geography of Virginia

Total Credits

6

Elective Courses ~~GGS Electives~~Select 3-4 credits of GGS electives

3-4

Select 6 credits of upper division GGS electives

6

Total Credits

9-10

Environmental Geography Concentration (EGEO)

The Environmental Geography concentration for the BA in Geography provides a unique opportunity for majors to take a broader, integrative science approach to studies of the environment. In collaboration with the [Department of Environmental Science and Policy](#), BA in Geography majors have the opportunity to focus their studies on geographic approaches to climatology and global changes, environmental issues, policy matters, and sustainability topics.

Some courses may have prerequisite requirements:

Core Courses

GGS 303	Geography of Resource Conservation (Mason Core)	3
EVPP 336	Tackling Wicked Problems in Society the Environment	3
or EVPP 337	Environmental Policy Making in Developing Countries	

or EVPP 377	Applied Ecology	
Methods Course		
GGS 354	Data Analysis and Global Change Detection Techniques	3
or GGS 379	Remote Sensing	
Electives		
Select at least 6 credits from the following options, 3 credits of which must be prefixed GGS:		
GGS 302	Global Environmental Hazards	
GGS 307	Geographic Approaches for Sustainable Development	
GGS 308	Field Mapping Techniques	
GGS 309	Introduction to Weather and Climate	
GGS 312	Physical Climatology	
GGS 314	Severe and Extreme Weather	
GGS 354	Data Analysis and Global Change Detection Techniques 1	
GGS 379	Remote Sensing	
EVPP 336	Tackling Wicked Problems in Society the Environment 1	
EVPP 337	Environmental Policy Making in Developing Countries 1	
EVPP 361	Introduction to Environmental Policy	
EVPP 362	Intermediate Environmental Policy	
EVPP 377	Applied Ecology 1	
EVPP 421	Marine Conservation	
EVPP 430	Fundamentals of Environmental Geographic Information Systems	
EVPP 440	Field Environmental Science	
EVPP 480	Sustainability in Action (Mason Core)	
GEOL 305	Environmental Geology	
Total Credits		15-16

1 Course cannot be selected if previously selected as a core course.

Health Geography Concentration (HGEO)

The field of Health Geography addresses the role of place, location dynamics and geography in health, well-being, and disease. Public health patterns can vary significantly by physical and social characteristics of places both within and between regions, states, or countries. In collaboration with the [Department of Global and Community Health](#), BA in Geography majors get introduced to local and global health issues and develop their skill set in spatial and statistical analysis of diverse health outcomes in populations.

Some courses may have prerequisite requirements:

Core Courses

GGS 340	Health Geography	3
GCH 300	Introduction to Public Health	3
Methods Course		
GGS 463	RS: GIS Analysis and Application	3

Electives

~~Select 9 credits from the following courses. Choose at least one GGS elective and at least one GCH elective:~~ 9

Select at least 6 credits from the following options, 3 credits of which must be prefixed GGS:

6

GGS 302	Global Environmental Hazards
GGS 303	Geography of Resource Conservation (Mason Core)
GGS 304	Population Geography (Mason Core)
GGS 306	Urban Geography
GGS 321	Biogeography
GGS 354	Data Analysis and Global Change Detection Techniques
GGS 357	Urban Planning
GCH 205	Global Health (Mason Core)
GCH 332	Health and Disease
GCH 360	Health and Environment
GCH 412	Fundamentals of Epidemiology
GCH 445	Social Determinants of Health
GCH 450	Culture, Sexuality and the Global AIDS Epidemic

Total Credits

15

Geoanthropology Concentration (GEA)

Anthropology, a social science, focuses on human activities—past, present, and future. Geography, positioned in the social science and STEM field, studies the physical features of the Earth and its atmosphere, and human activities as they affect and are affected by these, including the distribution of populations and resources, land use, urbanization and other topics. Just as anthropologists use insights from other disciplines to understand humans, geographers cross disciplinary boundaries to collect, store, analyze, model and visualize data. Such broad and inclusive disciplines and definitions yield a large number of possible themes in Geoanthropology. This concentration enables BA in Geography majors, versed in systematic techniques and regional geography, to become better versed in the theoretical constructs of anthropology that situate the environment as part of a global cultural system.

Core Courses

[GGS 304](#) Population Geography ([Mason Core](#)) 3

~~Select one core track:~~ 3

~~Cultural Track~~

[ANTH 114](#) Introduction to Cultural Anthropology ([Mason Core](#)) 3

or [ANTH 120](#) Unearthing the Past: Prehistory, Culture and Evolution ([Mason Core](#))

~~Archaeology Track~~

~~[ANTH 120](#) Unearthing the Past: Prehistory, Culture and Evolution ([Mason Core](#))~~

~~Biological Track~~

~~[ANTH 135](#) Introduction to Biological Anthropology ([Mason Core](#))~~

Methods Course

[GGS 308](#) Field Mapping Techniques 3

or [GGS 379](#) Remote Sensing

Electives

~~Select 9 credits from the following courses. Choose at least one GGS elective and at least one ANTH elective:~~ 1 9

Select at least 6 credits from the following options, 3 credits of which must be prefixed GGS: 6

- [GGG 301](#) Political Geography ([Mason Core](#))
- [GGG 305](#) Economic Geography
- [GGG 306](#) Urban Geography
- [GGG 307](#) Geographic Approaches for Sustainable Development
- [GGG 309](#) Introduction to Weather and Climate
- [GGG 321](#) Biogeography
- [GGG 357](#) Urban Planning
- [GGG 315](#) Geography of the United States
- [GGG 316](#) Geography of Latin America
- [GGG 320](#) Geography of Europe
- [GGG 325](#) Geography of North Africa and the Middle East
- [**GGG 326**](#) **Geography of Eastern Europe and Russia**
- [GGG 333](#) Issues in Regional Geography
- [GGG 380](#) Geography of Virginia

Cultural Track

- [**GGG 422**](#) **Drone Remote Sensing**
- [ANTH 302](#) Peoples and Cultures of Latin America ([Mason Core](#))
- [ANTH 307](#) Ancient Mesoamerica ([Mason Core](#))
- [ANTH 308](#) Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East ([Mason Core](#))
- [ANTH 309](#) Peoples and Cultures of India ([Mason Core](#))
- [ANTH 325](#) Field Techniques in Archaeology
- [ANTH 357](#) Bioarchaeology
- [ANTH 370](#) Environment and Culture
- [ANTH 376](#) Food and Culture
- [ANTH 377](#) Mortuary Archaeology
- [ANTH 379](#) Andean Archaeology
- [~~ANTH 396~~](#) ~~Issues in Anthropology: Social Sciences (Mason Core) (Archaeological Topic)~~
- [~~ANTH 499~~](#) ~~Independent Research (Archaeological Topic)~~

Biological Track

- [~~ANTH 355~~](#) ~~Human Origins~~
- [~~ANTH 357~~](#) ~~Bioarchaeology~~
- [~~ANTH 366~~](#) ~~Food and Human Evolution~~
- [~~ANTH 396~~](#) ~~Issues in Anthropology: Social Sciences (Mason Core) (Biological Topic)~~
- [~~ANTH 499~~](#) ~~Independent Research (Biological Topic)~~
- [ANTH 381](#) Medical Anthropology
- [ANTH 382](#) Urban Anthropology ([Mason Core](#))
- [ANTH 396](#) Issues in Anthropology: Social Sciences ([Mason Core](#)) (When the topic is related to culture)
- [ANTH 499](#) Independent Research (When the topic is related to culture)

Archaeology Track

Total Credits

15

Urban Planning (URBP)

Urban planners work to solve issues surrounding the built environment, examining spaces of everyday life in urban regions. While inherently spatial in nature, urban planners also develop transdisciplinary skills involving policy, analytical methods, and social sciences in order to create and maintain communities with high quality of life. Students pursuing the Urban Planning concentration build upon their GIS, cartographic, and geospatial analysis skills through a focus on urban spaces and urban problems.

~~1~~Students must select ANTH electives that are associated with the chosen core course track (Cultural, Archaeology, or Biology):

Core Courses

GGS 357 Urban Planning 3

ARTH 103 Introduction to Architecture (Mason Core) 3

Methods Course

GGS 304 Population Geography (Mason Core) 3

Electives

Select at least 6 credits from the following options, 3 credits of which must be prefixed GGS: 1 6

GGS 301 Political Geography (Mason Core)

GGS 302 Global Environmental Hazards

GGS 303 Geography of Resource Conservation (Mason Core)

GGS 305 Economic Geography

GGS 306 Urban Geography

GGS 307 Geographic Approaches for Sustainable Development

GGS 463 RS: GIS Analysis and Application

ANTH 382 Urban Anthropology (Mason Core)

ARTH 311 Design of Cities (Mason Core)

EVPP 490 Special Topics in Environmental Science and Policy (When the topic is "Urban Smart Growth Strategies")

GOVT 464 Issues in Public Policy and Administration (When title is "Urban Economic Development in Smart Growth Era")

NUTR 435 Urban Agriculture

SOCI 332 The Urban World (Mason Core)

USST 390 Special Topics in Urban and Suburban Studies

Total Credits 15

1 Other urban topics courses may be taken with advisor approval.

Alternative to a Concentration

~~Students who are not selecting a concentration must choose an established minor or second major. 1~~

Students who are not selecting a concentration must choose an established minor or second major that provides 15 unique credits. If 15 unique credits are not available in the chosen minor or second major, additional GGS courses may be taken to fulfill this requirement; please consult with an advisor for details. 1 15

1Students choosing an established minor or major must apply a minimum number of credits only to that minor or major, as detailed in [AP 4.2.1](#).

**Retroactive
Requirements
Updates:**

Plan of Study:

**Honors
Information:**

Honors in the Major

To graduate with departmental honors in Geography, students must have a minimum GPA of 3.50 in GGS courses, an overall GPA of 3.50, and complete the following courses each with a grade of 'B+' or above:

GGS 463	RS: GIS Analysis and Application	3
GGS 499	GGS Independent Study 1	3
3 credits of 500-699 level GGS courses	2	3

1Before registering for this course, students must have identified a topic under the guidance of a full-time faculty member following departmental guidelines.

2Eligibility for these courses is restricted to students who obtain permission from the undergraduate coordinator or those in the Accelerated Master's program.

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Program Outcomes

Additional Program Information

This information is required by the Office of Accreditation and Program Integrity.

**Courses offered via
distance (if
applicable):**

**What is the
primary delivery
format for the
program?**

Face-to-Face Only

Does any portion of this program occur off-campus?

No

Are you working with a vendor / other collaborators to offer your program?

No

**Related
Departments**

Could this program prepare students for any type of professional licensure, in Virginia or elsewhere?

No

Are you adding or removing a licensure component?

No

Additional SCHEV & SACSCOC Information

Description of institutional impact
What is the new method of delivery for this program?
Does this program include

Is this change a simple retitling of an existing program, with no other changes, to any existing program content, curriculum requirements, etc?

No

Does this change represent a repackaging of content in an existing approved degree/certificate program at the same instructional level (i.e., baccalaureate, master's, or doctoral)?

No

Which existing approved

Percentage of total credits containing new course content. ("New course content" is defined by SACSCOC as content that is not currently included in an existing approved degree/certificate program at the same instructional level. Do not exclude gen ed credits in calculations for undergraduate programs.)

0%-24%

Does this change include the addition of a distance education or face-to-face method of delivery for this program?

No

What is the new method of

Does this change include the addition of a course/credit-based competency-based education delivery option?

No

Will any additional equipment/facilities be needed?

No

Description of institutional

Will any additional faculty be required?

No

Description of institutional impact

Will any additional financial resources be needed?

No

Description of institutional impact:

Additional library/learning resources needed?

No

Description of institutional impact:

OAPI Use Only – Determination of SACSCOC Impact

Comments or Notes

Green Leaf Program Designation

Is this a Green Leaf program? No

Green Leaf

Sustainability-focused academic programs require at

Relationship to

Relationship to

List sustainability-

focused courses

Sustainability-related academic programs either re

List sustainability-

related courses

Does this program cover material which crosses into another department?

No

Impacted

Additional

Attachments

SCHEV Proposal

Executive Summary

Reviewer

Comments

Additional

Comments

Is this course required of all students in this degree program?

%wi_required.eshtml%

Attached

Key: 148