

Program Change Request

Date Submitted: 11/12/25 1:37 pm

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

Last approved: 05/12/25 2:31 pm

Last edit: 11/12/25 1:37 pm

Changes proposed by: nburtch

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

In Workflow

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

Approval Path

- 1. 11/13/25 2:04 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

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

No

Effective Catalog: 2026-2027
Program Level: Undergraduate
Program Type: Bachelor's
Degree Type: Bachelor of Arts
Title: Geography, BA

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Banner Title: Geography, BA

Is this a certifying 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):

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
Gettys (jbazaz)
9. May 4, 2023 by
Jennifer Bazaz
Gettys (jbazaz)
10. Apr 29, 2024 by
Nathan Burtch
(nburtch)
11. May 23, 2024 by
Tory Sarro (vsarro)
12. May 28, 2024 by
Tory Sarro (vsarro)
13. May 7, 2025 by
Deborah Mcgarrah
(dmcgarra)
14. May 12, 2025 by
Christina Theodorou
(ctheodo)

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

**Registrar/IRR Use
Only –
Concentration CIP
Code**

College/School: College of Science

**Department /
Academic Unit:** Geography & Geoinformation Science

**Jointly Owned
Program?** No

**Is there an
embedded degree
as part of a
program?**

Justification

What: Adding footnote that GGS 201T is acceptable to substitute for GGS 110

Why: In discussing with our NOVA partners as part of Advance, their students are likely to skip the course that transfers as GGS 110, going to take their sequence of GIS 200 and 201. These currently transfer as GGS L311 and GGS L470, respectively. We want to provide flexibility for transfer students and are proposing a new GGS 201T equivalency for their GIS 201, as we do not have a comparable intermediate GIS course for direct transfer. This allows flexibility by maintaining the true transfer equivalency for GGS 110 for students that take the NOVA version, while also allowing a more intermediate-level course to sub for a more basic 100-level course,

should the student choose so.

What: Add footnote for GGS 485

Why: Consistency; we list GGS 415 as the writing intensive Mason Core, so this is listed at the Apex course.

**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.

[GGS 415](#) Seminar in Geographic Thought and Methodology([Mason Core](#)) 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

<u>GGS 102</u>	Physical Geography(<u>Mason Core</u>)	3-4
or <u>GGS 121</u>	Dynamic Atmosphere and Hydrosphere(<u>Mason Core</u>)	
or <u>GGS 122</u>	Dynamic Geosphere and Ecosphere	
<u>GGS 103</u>	Human Geography(<u>Mason Core</u>)	3
<u>GGS 110</u>	Introduction to Geoinformation Technologies ¹	3
<u>GGS 300</u>	Quantitative Methods for Geographical Analysis	3
<u>GGS 310</u>	Cartographic Design	3
<u>GGS 311</u>	Geographic Information Systems	3
<u>GGS 415</u>	Seminar in Geographic Thought and Methodology(<u>Mason Core</u>) ²	3
<u>GGS 485</u>	Capstone in Geography and Geoinformation Science(<u>Mason Core</u>) ³	3
Total Credits		24-25

¹
Credit for the transfer course GGS 201T can be substituted for the GGS 110 requirement

²
[Fulfills writing intensive requirement.](#)

³
[Fulfills Apex course requirement.](#)

Breadth and Experience Courses

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

Systematic Courses

Select one from the following:

<u>GGS 301</u>	Political Geography(<u>Mason Core</u>)	3
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<u>GGG 302</u>	Global Environmental Hazards
<u>GGG 303</u>	Geography of Resource Conservation(<u>Mason Core</u>)
<u>GGG 304</u>	Population Geography(<u>Mason Core</u>)
<u>GGG 305</u>	Economic Geography
<u>GGG 306</u>	Urban Geography
<u>GGG 307</u>	Geographic Approaches for Sustainable Development
<u>GGG 309</u>	Introduction to Weather and Climate
<u>GGG 312</u>	Physical Climatology
<u>GGG 314</u>	Severe and Extreme Weather
<u>GGG 321</u>	Biogeography
<u>GGG 340</u>	Health Geography
<u>GGG 344</u>	Military Geography
<u>GGG 346</u>	Geography of Religions and Belief Systems
<u>GGG 357</u>	Urban Planning
<u>GGG 399</u>	Select Topics in GGS

Regional Courses

Select one from the following:

3

<u>GGG 315</u>	Geography of the United States
<u>GGG 316</u>	Geography of Latin America
<u>GGG 317</u>	Modern China: A Geographical Appraisal of its Land, People, Culture, and Politics(<u>Mason Core</u>)
<u>GGG 320</u>	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

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(Mason Core)	3
or EVPP 337	Environmental Policy Making in Developing Countries(Mason Core)	
or EVPP 377	Applied Ecology	

Methods Course

GGS 354	Data Analysis and Global Change Detection Techniques	3
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or [GGS 379](#)

Remote Sensing

Electives**6-7**

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 ¹[EVPP 302](#)

Environmental Science: Biomes and Human Dimensions

[EVPP 318](#)

Conservation Biology

or [BIOL 318](#)

Conservation Biology

[EVPP 336](#)Tackling Wicked Problems in Society the Environment([Mason Core](#)). ¹[EVPP 337](#)Environmental Policy Making in Developing Countries([Mason Core](#)). ¹[EVPP 338](#)

Economics of Environmental Policy

[EVPP 361](#)

Introduction to Environmental Policy

[EVPP 362](#)

Intermediate Environmental Policy

[EVPP 377](#)Applied Ecology ¹[EVPP 381](#)Nature and Culture in Global Wetlands([Mason Core](#)).

<u>EVPP 421</u>	Marine Conservation
<u>EVPP 428</u>	Planetary Health
<u>EVPP 430</u>	Fundamentals of Environmental Geographic Information Systems
<u>EVPP 434</u>	Food-Energy-Water-Climate Nexus
<u>EVPP 436</u>	Politics of Climate Change Governance
<u>EVPP 440</u>	Field Environmental Science
<u>EVPP 475</u>	Global Biodiversity Governance
<u>EVPP 480</u>	Sustainability in Action(<u>Mason Core</u>).
<u>ANTH 370</u>	Environment and Culture
<u>ECON 105</u>	Environmental Economics for the Citizen(<u>Mason Core</u>).
<u>ECON 335</u>	Environmental Economics
<u>GCH 360</u>	Health and Environment
<u>GEOL 305</u>	Environmental Geology(<u>Mason Core</u>).
<u>GOVT 361</u>	Introduction to Environmental Policy
<u>GOVT 362</u>	Intermediate Environmental Policy
<u>PHIL 243</u>	Global Environmental Ethics(<u>Mason Core</u>).

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
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GCH 300	Introduction to Public Health	3
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Methods Course

GGS 432	Spatial Modeling for Public Health	3
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or GGS 463	RS: GIS Analysis and Application	
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Electives

Select at least 6 credits from the following options, 3 credits of which must be prefixed GGS:	6
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GGS 302	Global Environmental Hazards	
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GGS 303	Geography of Resource Conservation(Mason Core)	
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GGS 304	Population Geography(Mason Core)	
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GGS 306	Urban Geography	
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GGS 321	Biogeography	
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GGS 354	Data Analysis and Global Change Detection Techniques	
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GGS 357	Urban Planning	
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GGS 432	Spatial Modeling for Public Health ¹	
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GGS 463	RS: GIS Analysis and Application ¹	
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GCH 205	Global Health(Mason Core)	
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GCH 332	Health and Disease	
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<u>GCH 335</u>	Applied Health Statistics
<u>GCH 360</u>	Health and Environment
<u>GCH 380</u>	Public Health Research Methods
<u>GCH 405</u>	Global Health Interventions: History and Systems
<u>GCH 406</u>	Global Health Interventions: Emerging Issues
<u>GCH 426</u>	Global Emerging Infectious Diseases
<u>GCH 412</u>	Fundamentals of Epidemiology
<u>GCH 445</u>	Social Determinants of Health
<u>GCH 450</u>	Culture, Sexuality and the Global AIDS Epidemic
<u>ANTH 363</u>	Humans, Disease, and Death(<u>Mason Core</u>)
<u>ECON 374</u>	Health Economics
<u>GLOA 388</u>	Global Health and Development
<u>PHIL 344</u>	Ethical Issues in Global Health
<u>RELI 341</u>	Spirituality and Healing(<u>Mason Core</u>)
<u>SOCI 390</u>	Sociology of Health, Illness, and Disability

Total Credits

15

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

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

<u>GGS 304</u>	Population Geography(<u>Mason Core</u>)	3
<u>ANTH 114</u>	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology(<u>Mason Core</u>)	3
or <u>ANTH 120</u>	Introduction to Archaeology(<u>Mason Core</u>)	

Methods Course

<u>GGS 308</u>	Field Mapping Techniques	3
or <u>GGS 379</u>	Remote Sensing	

Electives

Select at least 6 credits from the following options, 3 credits of which must be prefixed GGS:	6
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<u>GGS 301</u>	Political Geography(<u>Mason Core</u>)	
<u>GGS 305</u>	Economic Geography	
<u>GGS 306</u>	Urban Geography	
<u>GGS 307</u>	Geographic Approaches for Sustainable Development	
<u>GGS 309</u>	Introduction to Weather and Climate	
<u>GGS 321</u>	Biogeography	
<u>GGS 357</u>	Urban Planning	
<u>GGS 315</u>	Geography of the United States	
<u>GGS 316</u>	Geography of Latin America	
<u>GGS 320</u>	Geography of Europe	
<u>GGS 325</u>	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
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 317	East Asian Cultures(Mason Core)
ANTH 320	Global Africa(Mason Core)
ANTH 325	Field Techniques in Archaeology
ANTH 330	Peoples and Cultures of Selected Regions: Non-Western
ANTH 332	Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Globalization(Mason Core)
ANTH 357	Bioarchaeology
ANTH 366	Food and Human Evolution
ANTH 370	Environment and Culture
ANTH 373	Archaeological Science
ANTH 374	Archaeology of Hunter-Gatherers
ANTH 376	Food and Culture
ANTH 377	Mortuary Archaeology
ANTH 379	Andean Archaeology

ANTH 381	Medical Anthropology	
ANTH 382	Urban Anthropology(Mason Core)	
ANTH 394	Archaeology of Climate Change	
ANTH 396	Issues in Anthropology: Social Sciences(Mason Core) (When the topic is related to culture)	
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.

Core Courses

GGS 357	Urban Planning	3
ARTH 103	Introduction to Architecture(Mason Core)	3

Methods Course

GGS 304	Population Geography(Mason Core)	3
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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	

<u>GGG 307</u>	Geographic Approaches for Sustainable Development
<u>GGG 432</u>	Spatial Modeling for Public Health
<u>GGG 463</u>	RS: GIS Analysis and Application
<u>ANTH 382</u>	Urban Anthropology(<u>Mason Core</u>)
<u>ARTH 311</u>	Design of Cities(<u>Mason Core</u>)
<u>ARTH 371</u>	American Architecture and Material Culture(<u>Mason Core</u>)
<u>CONF 326</u>	Negotiation
<u>CONF 329</u>	Community Engagement and Collaborative Problem Solving
<u>ECON 309</u>	Economic Problems and Public Policies
<u>ECON 330</u>	Public Finance
<u>EVPP 361</u>	Introduction to Environmental Policy
<u>EVPP 442</u>	Urban Ecosystems and Processes
<u>EVPP 490</u>	Special Topics in Environmental Science and Policy (When the topic is "Urban Smart Growth Strategies")
<u>FNAN 351</u>	Principles of Real Estate
<u>FNAN 454</u>	Real Estate Development and Investment Fund
<u>GOVT 304</u>	American State and Local Government
<u>GOVT 351</u>	Administration in the Political System
<u>GOVT 354</u>	Nonprofit Sector in Society
<u>GOVT 464</u>	Issues in Public Policy and Administration (When title is "Urban Economic Development in Smart Growth Era")
<u>HIST 316</u>	History of Modern Architecture(<u>Mason Core</u>)
<u>INTS 331</u>	The Nonprofit Sector(<u>Mason Core</u>)

NUTR 435	Urban Agriculture	
RMGT 302	Park Management and Operations	
RMGT 405	Planning and Operation of Recreation Facilities	
SOCI 332	The Urban World(Mason Core)	
SOCI 352	Social Problems and Solutions(Mason Core)	
SOCI 355	Social Inequality(Mason Core)	
STAT 474	Introduction to Survey Sampling	

Total Credits	15
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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 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
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¹
Students 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
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GGS 499	GGS Independent Study ¹	3
3 credits of 500-699 level GGS courses ²		3

- 1

Before registering for this course, students must have identified a topic under the guidance of a full-time faculty member following departmental guidelines.
- 2

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

Accelerated Description/Dual Degree Description: INTO-Mason Requirements:	
College Requirements & Policies:	
Department / Academic Unit Requirements & Policies: Program Outcomes	

Additional Program Information

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

Courses offered via
distance (if
applicable):

Indicate whether

What is the primary delivery	Face-to-Face Only
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No

Is the content of the
 exhibit pertinent
 Is this new program
 exhibit pertinent
 Is this new program
 exhibit pertinent
 Is this new program
 exhibit pertinent
 Date of Program
 Date of Program
 Date of Program

No

Which existing

18/20

0%-24%

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

No

Description 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

Will any additional faculty be required?

No

Description of

Will any additional financial resources be needed?

No

Description of

Additional library/learning resources needed?

No

Description of

Have you reached out to the Libraries to determine whether there are adequate resources to support your program? If not, please email Meg Meiman, Associate University Librarian for Learning, Research, and Engagement at mmeiman2@gmu.edu.

OAPI Use Only – Determination of SACSCOC Impact

Comments or Notes

Green Leaf Program Designation

Is this a Green Leaf
program? No

Sustainability focused app
List sustainability-
List sustainability-

Does this program cover material which crosses into another department?

No

Additional
Attachments

SCHEV Proposal

Executive Summary

Reviewer
Comments

Additional
Comments

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

%wi_required.eshtml%

Key: 148