

GEOGRAPHY, B.A.

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: University Park

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	8-20
Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements	24
Requirements for the Major	46

3 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 3 credits of GWS courses.

3 of the 24 credits for Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements are included in the Requirements for the Major, General Education, or Electives and 0-12 credits are included in Electives if world language proficiency is demonstrated by examination.

Requirements for the Major

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>).

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
EMSC 100S	Earth and Mineral Sciences First-Year Seminar ¹	3
GEOG 210	Geographic Perspectives on Environmental Systems Science	3
GEOG 220	Are we geographic? Fundamentals of Human Geography	3
GEOG 230	Geographic Perspectives on Environment, Society and Sustainability	3
GEOG 260	Geographic Information in a Changing World: Introduction to GIScience	3
GEOG 301	Thinking Geographically	3
GEOG 390	Professional Development Seminar in Geography	1
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Engaged Scholarship:		
Select 3 credits from the following:		3
GEOG 493	Service Learning (1-3 credits)	
GEOG 494	Research Project in Geography (1-3 credits)	
GEOG 494H	Research Project in Geography (1-3 credits)	
GEOG 495B	Geography Teaching Internship (1-3 credits)	

GEOG 495G	Giscience Internship (1-3 credits)
GEOG 499	Foreign Studies (1-3 credits)
Qualitative or quantitative methods in geography:	
Select 3 credits from the following:	
GEOG 308	Research and Qualitative Inquiry in Geography
GEOG 364	Spatial Analysis ²
300-level geography:	
Select 9 credits, not including courses taken above:	
GEOG 308	Research and Qualitative Inquiry in Geography
GEOG 310	Introduction to Global Climatic Systems
GEOG 314	Biogeography and Global Ecology
GEOG 315	Landforms and Geomorphic Systems in the Anthropocene
GEOG 320	Urban Geography: A Global Perspective
GEOG 324	Place, Space and Culture
GEOG 326	Geographic Perspectives on Economic Systems
GEOG 328	War, Peace, and Diplomacy: Understanding Contemporary Geopolitics
GEOG 330N	Political Ecology
GEOG 333	Human Dimensions of Natural Hazards
GEOG 361	Cartography—Maps and Map Construction
GEOG 362	Remote Sensing and Image Analysis
GEOG 363	Geographic Information Systems
GEOG 364	Spatial Analysis
GEOG 365	Intermediate GIS Programming
400-level geography:	
Select 12 credits, not including courses taken above:	
GEOG 410	
GEOG 411	Forest Geography
GEOG 411W	Forest Geography
GEOG 412	
GEOG 414	Principles and Applications in Landscape Ecology
GEOG 420Y	Comparative Urbanism
GEOG 421	Population Geography
GEOG 422W	
GEOG 424	
GEOG 424W	Geography of the Global Economy
GEOG 425	Geography of Race, Class, and Poverty in America
GEOG 426W	Gendered Worlds
GEOG 428W	Political Geography
GEOG 430	Human Use of Environment
GEOG 431	Geography of Water Resources
GEOG 432	Energy Policy
GEOG 433	Geographies of Justice
GEOG 434	Politics of the Environment
GEOG 436	
GEOG 438W	Human Dimensions of a Changing Climate
GEOG 439	
GEOG 444	Resource Governance in Africa
GEOG 461W	Dynamic Cartographic Representation
GEOG 462	Advanced Observation of Earth and Its Environment
GEOG 463	Geospatial Information Management

GEOG 464	Advanced Spatial Analysis
GEOG 465	Advanced Geographic Information Systems Modeling
GEOG 467	Applied Cartographic Design
GEOG 481	Topographic Mapping with Lidar
GEOG 485	GIS Programming and Software Development
GEOG 493	Service Learning (1-3 credits)
GEOG 494	Research Project in Geography (1-3 credits)
GEOG 495	Internship (1-3 credits)
GEOG 495B	Geography Teaching Internship (1-3 credits)
GEOG 495G	Giscience Internship (1-3 credits)
GEOG 496	Independent Studies (1-3 credits)
GEOG 497	Special Topics
GEOG 498	Special Topics
GEOG 499	Foreign Studies (1-6 credits)

¹ The following substitutions are allowed for students attending campuses where the indicated course is not offered: CAS 100 or ENGL 202C can be substituted for EMSC 100S.

² Note: GEOG 364 has a prerequisite of STAT 200.

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/>) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Quantification (GQ):** 6 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 9 credits

Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Arts (GA):** 3 credits
- **Health and Wellness (GHW):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 3 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 3 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 3 credits

Integrative Studies

- **Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain):** 6 credits

Exploration

- **GN**, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- **GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses.** This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the

requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

B.A. Degree Requirements

World Language (0-12 credits): Student must attain 12th credit level of proficiency in one world language in addition to English. This proficiency must be demonstrated by either examination or course work. See the Placement Policy for Penn State World Language Courses (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/advising-planning-degree-program/course-placements/placement-policy-world-language-courses/>).

B.A. Fields (9 credits): Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts, World Languages, Natural Sciences, Quantification (may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major; world language credits in this category must be in a second world language in addition to English or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the first language). Credits must be selected from the list of approved courses.

World Cultures (0-3 credits): Select 3 credits from approved list. Students may count courses in this category in order to meet other major, minor, elective, or General Education requirements, except for the University Cultural Diversity (US/IL) requirement.