

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

Suggested Academic Plan

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2026-27 academic year. To access previous years' suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/>) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition.

Geography, B.A. at University Park Campus

The course series listed below provides **only one** of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an **Academic Requirements** or **What If** report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
EMSC 100S (GWS) ^{††1}	3 General Education Foundation selection (GWS) (ENGL 15, 30, or ESL 15) [‡]	3
General Education Foundation selection (GQ) [‡]	3 General Education Foundation selection (GQ) (STAT 200 preferred) [‡]	4
World Language level 1	4 World Language Level 2	4
General Education Knowledge Domain selection	3 General Education Knowledge Domain selection	3
GEOG 210, 220, 230, or 260 [*]	3 GEOG 220, 210, 230, or 260 [*]	3
	16	17

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
World Language Level 3	4 General Education Foundation selection (GWS) (ENGL 202A, ENGL 202B, ENGL 202C, ENGL 202D, CAS 100A, CAS 100B, or CAS 100C) [‡]	3
General Education Health and Wellness (GHW)	1.5 General Education Knowledge Domain selection	3
GEOG 230, 210, 220, or 260 [*]	3 General Education Knowledge Domain selection	3
GEOG 260, 210, 220, or 230 [*]	3 GEOG 301 [*]	3
GEOG 364 or 308 [*]	3 300-level GEOG selection [*]	3
GEOG 390 [*]	1	
	15.5	15

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
General Education Knowledge Domain selection	3 General Education Knowledge Domain selection	3
General Education Knowledge Domain selection	3 General Education Knowledge Domain selection	3
General Education Knowledge Domain selection	3 BA Fields selection	3
300-level GEOG selection [*]	3 400-level GEOG selection [*]	3
300-level GEOG selection [*]	3 400-level GEOG selection [*]	3
	15	15

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BA Fields selection	3 General Education Health and Wellness (GHW)	1.5
BA Fields selection	3 BA World Cultures selection	3
400-level GEOG selection [*]	3 400-level GEOG engaged scholarship selection (GEOG 493, 494, 494H, 495, 495B, 495G, or 499) [*]	3
400-level GEOG selection [*]	3 Elective	3
	Elective	4
	12	14.5

Total Credits 120

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major

‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education

Course is an Entrance to Major requirement

† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy Cultural Diversity Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ), Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS) and Integrative Studies (Inter-domain) requirements. N or Q (Honors) is the suffix at the end of a course number used to help identify an Inter-domain course, but the inter-domain attribute is used to fill audit requirements. Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL 137H/CAS 137H in the fall semester and ENGL 138T/CAS 138T in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and satisfy a portion of that General Education requirement. If the student's program prescribes GWS these courses will replace both ENGL 15/ENGL 30H and CAS 100A/CAS 100B/CAS 100C. Each course is 3 credits.

Bachelor of Arts Requirements:

Bachelor of Arts students must take 9 credits in Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Fields (Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Arts; World Languages [2nd language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the 1st]; Natural Sciences; Quantification). The B.A. Fields courses may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major. See your adviser and the Degree Requirements section (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/>) of this Bulletin.

Bachelor of Arts students must take 3 credits in World Cultures. See your adviser and the full list of courses approved as World Cultures courses (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/course-lists/ba-world-cultures/>).

¹ Students who begin their studies at non-UP locations and/or join the college after their first year should substitute CAS 100 (GWS) or ENGL 202A (GWS) or ENGL 202B (GWS) or ENGL 202C (GWS) or ENGL 202D (GWS) for EMSC 100S (GWS). EMSC 100S Earth and Mineral Sciences First year Seminar (3) is a required course only for students who begin their studies at UP in the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences.

Advising Notes:

Students who place out of world language courses will have additional electives. For example, a student who has had 4 years of high school French and begins world language study at Penn State in Intermediate French (FR 3) will have 8 additional elective credits.

STAT 200 is a prerequisite for GEOG 364 and therefore only required for GEOBA students if the student elects to take GEOG 364 rather than GEOG 308. However, the Geography Department recommends that all students have a foundation in statistics.

To enter the major, students need a minimum 2.00 grade point average and third semester standing.

Courses required for the major may be offered fall semester only, spring semester only, or both fall and spring semesters. Consult with your adviser and department to discuss your academic progress and course sequencing.

Geography course notes:

- Students who have taken GEOG 10, GEOG 20, GEOG 30N/Geographic Perspectives on Sustainability and Human-Environment Systems (GEOG 30), GEOG 115, Urban Geography (GEOG 120), GEOG 124, GEOG 126, GEOG 128, or GEOG 160 should NOT take GEOG 210, GEOG 220, GEOG 230, GEOG 315, GEOG 320, GEOG 324, GEOG 326, GEOG 328, or GEOG 260 as the latter courses are functionally equivalent to the former and substitutions will be made as needed.
- The following courses are typically offered in **Fall semesters only** at UP: GEOG 210, GEOG 220, GEOG 310, GEOG 324, GEOG 328, GEOG 361, GEOG 362, GEOG 364, GEOG 365, GEOG 461W
- The following courses are typically offered in **Spring semesters only** at UP: GEOG 301, GEOG 314, GEOG 315, GEOG 363, GEOG 464, GEOG 467
- Some courses may alternate between Fall and Spring offerings depending on teaching resources, and some 400-level courses may be offered only once every other year. Consult with geography undergraduate adviser (advising@geog.psu.edu) for current offering schedule.
- Geography majors must select at least one writing-intensive course (WAC) in their 300/400-level courses. Some courses

alternate between writing-intensive and non-writing-intensive offerings (e.g., GEOG 310/GEOG 310W; GEOG 411/GEOG 411W; GEOG 410/GEOG 412WAC, whose number will be changed to GEOG 410W). Other courses are offered only as writing-intensive, even if the suffix W/Y does not appear (e.g. GEOG 461W).

Geography majors are encouraged to complete at least one 12-credit undergraduate certificate in geography as part of their degree program. With careful planning, there is room in the curriculum to complete 2 certificates. Certificate topics include Human Geography; Physical Geography; Environment & Society Geography; Geographic Information Science; Geospatial Big Data Analytics; Justice, Ethics, Diversity in Space; and Landscape Ecology. Certificate courses double-count with major requirements, but students completing more than one certificate may only double-count a single course for each.

Geography, B.A. at Commonwealth Campuses

The course series listed below provides **only one** of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an **Academic Requirements** or **What If** report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
General Education	3 General Education	3
Foundation selection (GWS) (ENGL 15, 30, or ESL 15) [‡]	Foundation selection (GWS) (CAS 100, 100A, 100B, or 100C) ^{††1}	
General Education Foundation selection (GQ) [‡]	3 General Education Foundation selection (GQ) (STAT 200 preferred) [‡]	4
World Language level 1	4 World Language Level 2	4
General Education Knowledge Domain selection	3 General Education Knowledge Domain selection	3
General Education Knowledge Domain selection	3 General Education Health and Wellness (GHW)	1.5
	16	15.5

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
General Education Foundation selection (GWS) (ENGL 202A, ENGL 202B, ENGL 202C, ENGL 202D) [‡]	3 General Education Knowledge Domain selection	3
World Language Level 3	4 General Education Knowledge Domain selection	3
General Education Knowledge Domain selection	3 General Education Knowledge Domain selection	3
General Education Knowledge Domain selection	3 BA Fields selection	3
General Education Knowledge Domain selection	3 General Education Health and Wellness (GHW)	1.5
	16	13.5

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
GEOG 210 [*]	3 GEOG 301 [*]	3
GEOG 220 [*]	3 300-level GEOG selection [*]	3
GEOG 230 [*]	3 300-level GEOG selection [*]	3
GEOG 260 [*]	3 BA Fields selection	3
GEOG 364 or 308	3 BA World Cultures selection	3
GEOG 390 [*]	1	
	16	15

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
300-level GEOG selection [*]	3 400-level GEOG selection [*]	3
400-level GEOG selection [*]	3 400-level GEOG selection [*]	3
400-level GEOG selection [*]	3 400-level GEOG engaged scholarship selection (GEOG 493, 494, 494H, 495, 495B, 495G, or 499) [*]	3
BA Fields selection	3 Elective	4
Elective	3	
	15	13

Total Credits 120

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Bachelor of Arts Requirements:

Bachelor of Arts students must take 9 credits in Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Fields (Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Arts; World Languages [2nd language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the 1st]; Natural Sciences; Quantification). The B.A. Fields courses may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major. See your adviser and the Degree Requirements section (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/>) of this Bulletin.

Bachelor of Arts students must take 3 credits in World Cultures. See your adviser and the full list of courses approved as World Cultures courses (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/course-lists/ba-world-cultures/>).

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Advising Notes:

Commonwealth campus students are **strongly** advised to complete all GWS, GQ, and GHW credits before transitioning to UP, as these courses may be challenging to schedule at UP.

Students who place out of world language courses will have additional electives. For example, a student who has had 4 years of high school French and begins world language study at Penn State in Intermediate French (FR 3) will have 8 additional elective credits.

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To enter the major, students need a minimum 2.00 grade point average and third semester standing.

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