

GEOGRAPHY BA

More Information

Advising Requirement

Advising is mandatory for this program. Consult your department advisor or program coordinator for information.

E-advising Tools

Students are encouraged to use the interactive e-advising tools that have been designed to help them graduate within four years. These tools can be accessed through the Student Center.

The Bachelor of Arts in Geography is available to students through two options.

The option in human geography and planning. This option focuses on major challenges and trends of society, including the growth, ageing, and distribution of populations; urban expansion and decline; the distribution of resources; global cultural and economic diversity; and ecological sustainability. Students gain knowledge and skills to understand and intervene in urban, rural, and regional processes. Graduates will contribute to the creation of livable communities, regenerative economies, and sustainable places.

The option in physical and environmental geography. The focus is on the physical geographic processes that take place on Earth as well as human-environment relations. Drawing from the natural and social sciences, physical and environmental geographers study climate patterns; landforms; environmental policy; planning; and stewardship including forests, rangelands, and wetlands; the role of fire in nature and society; applied conservation, restoration, and stewardship; and global climate change, mitigation, and adaptation. Graduates will address critical social and ecological issues into the future through professional work in environmental impact analysis, environmental planning, and natural resource stewardship.

Grading Requirement

All courses taken to fulfill program course requirements must be taken for a letter grade except those courses specified by the department as credit/no credit grading only.

Course Requirements for the Major: 45 units

Completion of the following courses, or their approved transfer equivalents, is required of all candidates for this degree. Courses in this program may complete more than one graduation requirement.

Techniques courses completed for the geography core cannot be double-counted toward the techniques courses taken in the geography options.

Course	Title	Units
Major Core		
GEOG 101W	Earth Systems and Physical Geography (W)	3
GEOG 211	Introduction to Geographical Information Systems	3
GEOG 219	Introduction to Geographic Methods	3
GEOG 390W	Foundations of Geographical Analysis (W)	3
Select one of the following:		3
GEOG 102	Peoples, Places, and Environments	

GEOG 105	California Cultural Landscapes	
GEOG 106	The American West	
SOSC 301	Spatial Concepts: Geographical Patterns and Processes	
Select two of the following:		6
GEOG 306	Geographies of Disaster	
GEOG 313	Introductory Cartography	
GEOG 315	Applied Statistical Methods in Geography	
GEOG 317	Field Techniques	
GEOG 418	Remote Sensing of Environment	
Select one of the following:		3
GEOG 303	Geography and World Affairs	
GEOG 304	Sustainability and Climate Change Issues	
Select one of the following:		3
GEOG 407W	Earth Systems Analysis of Global Change (W)	
GEOG 439W	American Cultural Landscapes (W)	
Major Option		
Select one of the following options:		18
Human Geography and Planning (p. 1)		
Physical and Environmental Geography (p. 2)		
Total Units		45

Major Option Course Requirements

Students must select one of the following options for completion of the major course requirements.

The Option in Human Geography and Planning: 18 units

Any 3 unit upper-division course from outside the department may be selected with advisor approval.

Course	Title	Units
GEOG 301W	Global Economic Geography (W)	3
GEOG 320	Introduction to Land Use Planning	3
GEOG 438	Urban Geography	3
GEOG 506	Community Service Practice in Geography	3
Select two of the following:		6
GEOG 313	Introductory Cartography	
GEOG 315	Applied Statistical Methods in Geography	
GEOG 342	Geomorphology	
GEOG 343	Climatology	
GEOG 352	The United States	
GEOG/LAST 357	Lands and Peoples of Latin America	
GEOG 411	Geospatial Analysis and Modeling in GIS	
GEOG 413	Advanced Cartography and Geovisualization	
GEOG 418	Remote Sensing of Environment	
GEOG 425	Planning for Sustainable Communities and Regions	
GEOG 426	Water Resource Policy and Planning	
GEOG 427	Environmental Impact Analysis	
GEOG 428	Land Use Planning Studio	
GEOG 429	Environmental and Conservation Planning	
GEOG 436	Sustainable Transportation Planning	
GEOG 440	Environmental Thought in Action	

GEOG 444	Biogeography and Landscape Ecology	
GEOG 445	Pyrogeography	
Total Units		18

The Option in Physical and Environmental Geography: 18 units

Any 3 unit upper-division course from outside the department may be selected with advisor approval.

Course	Title	Units
GEOG 342	Geomorphology	3
GEOG 343	Climatology	3
Select one of the following:		3
GEOG 444	Biogeography and Landscape Ecology	
GEOG 445	Pyrogeography	
Select one of the following:		3
GEOG 405	Conservation, Restoration, and Stewardship	
GEOG 426	Water Resource Policy and Planning	
Select two of the following:		6
GEOG 301W	Global Economic Geography (W)	
GEOG 313	Introductory Cartography	
GEOG 315	Applied Statistical Methods in Geography	
GEOG 317	Field Techniques	
GEOG 320	Introduction to Land Use Planning	
GEOG 411	Geospatial Analysis and Modeling in GIS	
GEOG 413	Advanced Cartography and Geovisualization	
GEOG 418	Remote Sensing of Environment	
GEOG 425	Planning for Sustainable Communities and Regions	
GEOG 427	Environmental Impact Analysis	
GEOG 428	Land Use Planning Studio	
GEOG 429	Environmental and Conservation Planning	
GEOG 436	Sustainable Transportation Planning	
GEOG 438	Urban Geography	
GEOG 440	Environmental Thought in Action	
Total Units		18

Electives Requirement

To complete the total units required for the bachelor's degree, select additional elective courses from the total University offerings. You should consult with an advisor regarding the selection of courses which will provide breadth to your University experience and possibly apply to a supportive second major or minor.

Honors in the Major

Honors in the Major is a program of independent work in your major. It requires 6 units of honors course work completed over two semesters.

The Honors in the Major program allows you to work closely with a faculty mentor in your area of interest on an original performance or research project. This year-long collaboration allows you to work in your field at a professional level and culminates in a public presentation of your work. Students sometimes take their projects beyond the University for submission in professional journals, presentation at conferences, or academic competition. Such experience is valuable for graduate

school and professional life. Your honors work will be recognized at your graduation, on your permanent transcripts, and on your diploma. It is often accompanied by letters of commendation from your mentor in the department or the department chair.

Some common features of Honors in the Major program are:

- You must take 6 units of Honors in the Major course work. All 6 units are honors classes (marked by a suffix of H), and at least 3 of these units are independent study (399H, 499H, 599H) as specified by your department. You must complete each class with a minimum grade of B.
- You must have completed 9 units of upper-division course work or 21 overall units in your major before you can be admitted to Honors in the Major. Check the requirements for your major carefully, as there may be specific courses that must be included in these units.
- Your cumulative GPA should be at least 3.5 or within the top 5% of majors in your department.
- Your GPA in your major should be at least 3.5 or within the top 5% of majors in your department.
- Most students apply for or are invited to participate in Honors in the Major during the second semester of their junior year. Then they complete the 6 units of course work over the two semesters of their senior year.
- Your honors work culminates with a public presentation of your honors project.

While Honors in the Major is part of the Honors Program, each department administers its own program. Please contact your major department or major advisor to apply.

Geography and Economics Double Major

Students may take two geography and two economics courses from the following list. All 12 units will count toward both majors (geography courses will count toward 100-level electives in the economics major).

Course	Title	Units
ECON 365	Environmental Economics	3
ECON 375	The Developing Countries	3
ECON 466W	Environmental and Natural Resource Economics (W)	3
GEOG 301W	Global Economic Geography (W)	3
GEOG 304	Sustainability and Climate Change Issues	3
GEOG 320	Introduction to Land Use Planning	3
GEOG 425	Planning for Sustainable Communities and Regions	3
GEOG 436	Sustainable Transportation Planning	3
GEOG 438	Urban Geography	3

Geography and History Double Major

Students may elect a geography and history double major. Up to 9 units of appropriate upper-division history courses (HIST) may be applied to the geography major. Prior approval by a department advisor and the chair is required.

See Bachelor's Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/undergraduate-requirements/bachelors-degree-requirements/>) for complete details on general degree requirements. A minimum of 39 units, including those required for the major, must be upper division.

General Education Requirements: 48 units

See General Education (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/undergraduate-education/general-education/>) and the Class Schedule (<http://www.csuchico.edu/schedule/>) for the most current information on General Education Requirements and course offerings.

General Education Courses Suggested for Geography Majors

The following General Education courses are recommended to support the student in either of the options for the geography major:

- Critical Thinking: EARTH 104 or PHIL 102
- Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning: MATH 105, MATH 118, or MATH 120
- Life Science: BIOL 161, PSSC 101, or SCED 102

Diversity Course Requirements: 6 units

You must complete a minimum of two courses that focus primarily on cultural diversity. At least one course must be in U.S. Diversity (USD) and at least one in Global Cultures (GC). See Diversity Requirements (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/undergraduate-requirements/diversity-requirements/>) for a full list of courses. Most courses taken to satisfy these requirements may also apply to General Education (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/undergraduate-education/general-education/>).

Upper-Division Writing Requirement

Writing Across the Curriculum (EM 17-009 (<http://www.csuchico.edu/prs/EMs/2017/17-009.shtml/>)) is a graduation requirement and may be demonstrated through satisfactory completion of four Writing (W) courses, two of which are designated by the major department. See Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning and Writing Requirements (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/undergraduate-requirements/mathematicsquantitative-reasoning-writing-requirements/>) for more details on the four courses. The first of the major designated Writing (W) courses is listed below.

- GEOG 301W Global Economic Geography (W)
- GEOG 390W Foundations of Geographical Analysis (W)

The second major-designated Writing course is the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GW) (EO 665 (<https://calstate.policystat.com/policy/9585618/latest/>)). Students must earn a C- or higher to receive GW credit. The GE Written Communication (A2) (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/undergraduate-education/general-education/#A2>) requirement must be completed before a student is permitted to register for a GW course.