

GEOGRAPHY, BA

Contact

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Faculty

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Have you ever wondered why the world works the way it does? So do geographers, who study everything from economic, political, and cultural relations within and between countries, to environmental practices of different people, to the physical and biological processes of the planet - in brief, the spatial aspects of human life and the natural environment. At Syracuse University, geographers study globalization, environmental change and history, mapping and spatial techniques, immigration, urban and cultural politics, social movements, and surface processes of the physical environment. As a major, geography gives you a range of skills **and** a new perspective on the world. Because geographers research issues such as sustainable development, gender equity, and environmental change, geography provides tools not only to understand the world but also to change it!

Geography is easy to pair with another major, such as international relations or biology, or a degree from another college, such as the Newhouse School of Public Communications or Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science. After graduation, geography students find jobs in emergency management, federal and state environmental agencies, GIS and cartography, urban planning, non-profit organizations, community and international development, teaching and research, journalism, real-estate analysis, environmental consulting, and other fields. The Geography Department also offers research opportunities for undergraduates. Our majors work with community groups to address concerns like hunger, and public transportation. They complete senior theses on topics from political change in East Africa to water management in Central America. Finally, majors can take advantage of internships or study-abroad opportunities to obtain course credits while gaining valuable work and international experience.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Explore and critically reflect on geographic issues, concepts, and debates
2. Identify, locate, evaluate, use, and share information as it pertains to geography
3. Articulate what a geographic perspective brings to our understandings of a changing world and its human and environmental dynamics
4. Describe and explain the changing relationship between humans and the environment and its different form over time and across space
5. Describe and explain features of the physical environment, including patterns and causal processes, and variations over time and across space
6. Describe and explain the dynamic relationship between people and places, and among places, over time and across space and scales

7. Develop and apply basic geographic skills and methods using spatial information, such as map making and map reading, spatial analysis and visualization, and quantitative and qualitative analysis

Major Requirements

The program leading to a B.A. in geography requires at least 30 credits in geography, 18 of which must be at the upper division (i.e. 300-level or above).

Code	Title	Credits
Lower-division Courses		
GEO 103	Environment and Society	3
GEO 155	The Natural Environment	3
GEO 171	Human Geographies	3
Select one of the following five techniques courses:		3-4
GEO 323	Quantitative Methods in Human Geography	
GEO 381	Cartographic Design	
GEO 383	Geographic Information Systems	
GEO 386	Quantitative Geographic Analysis	
GEO 482	Environmental Remote Sensing	
Tracks		
Majors may select the remainder of their credits from any of five tracks:		17-18
Environmental Systems and Landscape Dynamics		
Nature, Society, Sustainability		
Globalization, Development and Citizenship		
Culture, Justice, and Urban Space		
Geographic Information Science: Analysis, Modeling, and Applications		
Total Credits		29-31

Environmental Systems and Landscape Dynamics

Code	Title	Credits
GEO 215	Global Environmental Change	3
GEO 314	Hazardous Geographic Environments	3
GEO 316	River Environments	3
GEO 317	Geography of Mountain Environments	3
GEO 319	Cold Environments	3
GEO 326	The Geography of Climate and Weather	3
GEO 327	Geography of Coastal Environments	3
GEO 371	Climate Extremes	3
GEO 426	Environmental Change in the Anthropocene	3
GEO 455	Biogeography	3
GEO 583	Environmental Geographical Information Science	3
Plus, Appropriate Topics Courses		
GEO 200	Selected Topics	
GEO 300	Selected Topics	
GEO 400	Selected Topics	
GEO 500	Topics in Geography	

Nature, Society, Sustainability

Code	Title	Credits
GEO 203	Society and the Politics of Nature	3
GEO 215	Global Environmental Change	3

GEO 314	Hazardous Geographic Environments	3
GEO 316	River Environments	3
GEO 317	Geography of Mountain Environments	3
GEO 319	Cold Environments	3
GEO 328	Political Ecology	3
GEO 340	Geography of Oil	3
GEO 353	Geographies of Environmental Justice	3
GEO 354	American Environmental History and Geography	3
GEO 356	Environmental Ideas and Policy	3
GEO 358	Animals and Society	3
GEO 360	Sustainability Science and Policy	3
GEO 374	Environment and Development in the Global South	3
GEO 415	Food: A Critical Geography	3
GEO 422	Water: Environment, Society and Politics	3
GEO 423	Urban Environmental History and Political Ecology	3
GEO 430	Energy, History and Society	3
Plus, Appropriate Topics Courses		
GEO 200	Selected Topics	
GEO 300	Selected Topics	
GEO 400	Selected Topics	
GEO 500	Topics in Geography	

Globalization, Development and Citizenship

Code	Title	Credits
GEO 105	World Urban Geography	3
GEO 272	World Cultures	3
GEO 273	Geography of Capitalism: The Political Economy of Global Inequality	3
GEO 321	Latin American Development: Politics & Environment	3
GEO 324	Maps, Power, History	3
GEO 325	Latin American Historical Geography	3
GEO 328	Political Ecology	3
GEO 331	The European Union	3
GEO 340	Geography of Oil	3
GEO 361	Global Economic Geography	3
GEO 367	Gender in a Globalizing World	3
GEO 372	Political Geography	3
GEO 374	Environment and Development in the Global South	3
GEO 388	Geographic Information and Society	3
GEO 422	Water: Environment, Society and Politics	3
GEO 430	Energy, History and Society	3
GEO 432	Authoritarianism & the Environment	3
GEO 440	Race and Space	3
GEO 450	Geographies of Migration and Mobility	3
GEO 564	Urban Historical Geography	3
GEO 573	The Geography of Capital	3
GEO 595	Geography and the Internet	3
Plus, Appropriate Topics Courses		
GEO 200	Selected Topics	
GEO 300	Selected Topics	

GEO 400	Selected Topics
GEO 500	Topics in Geography

Culture, Justice, and Urban Space

Code	Title	Credits
GEO 105	World Urban Geography	3
GEO 272	World Cultures	3
GEO 273	Geography of Capitalism: The Political Economy of Global Inequality	3
GEO 313	The United States	3
GEO 353	Geographies of Environmental Justice	3
GEO 362	The European City	3
GEO 367	Gender in a Globalizing World	3
GEO 364	Urban Social Justice	3
GEO 372	Political Geography	3
GEO 415	Food: A Critical Geography	3
GEO 423	Urban Environmental History and Political Ecology	3
GEO 440	Race and Space	3
GEO 473	Geography of Memory	3
GEO 484	GIS for Urban Environments	3
GEO 485	Community Geography	3
GEO 489	Practicum in Community Geography	1-3
GEO 564	Urban Historical Geography	3
GEO 572	Landscape Interpretation in Cultural Geography	3
GEO 573	The Geography of Capital	3
GEO 576	Gender, Place, and Space	3

Plus, Appropriate Topics Courses

GEO 200	Selected Topics
GEO 300	Selected Topics
GEO 400	Selected Topics
GEO 500	Topics in Geography

Geographic Information Science: Analysis, Modeling, and Applications

Code	Title	Credits
GEO 108	Mapping Today: Technology and Spatial Thinking	3
GEO 323	Quantitative Methods in Human Geography	3
GEO 324	Maps, Power, History	3
GEO 381	Cartographic Design	3
GEO 382	Counter-Mapping	3
GEO 383	Geographic Information Systems	3-4
GEO 386	Quantitative Geographic Analysis	3
GEO 388	Geographic Information and Society	3
GEO 478	Spatial Storytelling	3
GEO 479	Introduction to Unmanned Aerial Vehicles: Research & Applications	3
GEO 482	Environmental Remote Sensing	3-4
GEO 484	GIS for Urban Environments	3
GEO 485	Community Geography	3
GEO 489	Practicum in Community Geography	1-3
GEO 583	Environmental Geographical Information Science	3
GEO 595	Geography and the Internet	3
GEO 382	Counter-Mapping	3

GEO 323	Quantitative Methods in Human Geography	3
Plus, Appropriate Topics Courses		
GEO 200	Selected Topics	
GEO 300	Selected Topics	
GEO 400	Selected Topics	
GEO 500	Topics in Geography	

Degree with Distinction

Majors who meet certain academic requirements have the opportunity to graduate with distinction. To do so, students must meet minimum GPA requirements, carry out original research under the supervision of a geography professor, and write a Senior Thesis based on that research. This honor recognizes a student's achievement of academic excellence and is acknowledged on the diploma.

College of Arts and Sciences Requirements

For all Arts and Sciences|Maxwell students, successful completion of a bachelor's degree in this major requires a minimum of 120 credits, 96 of which must be Arts and Sciences|Maxwell credits, completion of the Liberal Arts Core (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/#text>) requirements, and the requirements for this major (30 credits) that are listed above.

Dual Enrollments:

Students dually enrolled in **Newhouse*** and Arts and Sciences|Maxwell will complete a minimum of 122 credits, with at least 90 credits in Arts and Sciences|Maxwell coursework and an Arts and Sciences|Maxwell major.

*Students dually enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences|Maxwell as first year students must complete the Liberal Arts Core (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/#text>). Students who transfer to the dual program after their first year as singly enrolled students in the Newhouse School will satisfy general requirements for the dual degree program by completing the Newhouse Core Requirements.

Undergraduate University Requirements

The following requirements and experiences apply to all Syracuse University Undergraduate matriculated degree programs.

- IDEA Course Requirement (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/undergraduate/idea-course-requirement/>)
- First Year Seminar (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/undergraduate/courses/fys/>)