

GEOGRAPHY, BA

Banner Code: SC-BA-GEOG

Jonathan Kozar, Program Coordinator

4400 University Drive, MSN 6C3
Fairfax, VA 22030

Phone: 703-993-1212

Email: jkozar@gmu.edu

Website: cos.gmu.edu/ggs/academic-programs/ba-in-geography/

The Geography, BA is designed to offer students the opportunity to study the integrated social and environmental processes that continuously shape and reshape the world we live in. This major provides students with broad training across the core subdisciplines of geography (human, physical, and GIScience), while also offering the requisite flexibility for those students seeking a multidisciplinary educational experience. Students will find numerous opportunities for employment in both the private and public sectors, as well as in academia, as geographers are well suited to address important local, regional, and global challenges in today's world, given their interdisciplinary approach and uniquely spatial perspective.

The Department of Geography and Geoinformation Science fosters a supportive, active learning environment in which students are encouraged to work closely with both faculty and peers. The curriculum in this major provides students with the synthesis skills and broad base of knowledge that prepares them to be successful in an ever-evolving job market. For students who wish to pursue their interest in geography with a more technical curriculum, the department also offers a Geography, BS.

Admissions & Policies

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 (<https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/apply-now>).

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.

GGG 415 Seminar in Geography fulfills the writing intensive requirement.

For policies governing all undergraduate programs, see AP.5 Undergraduate Policies.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: minimum 120

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.S

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.

Core Courses

GGG 103	Human Geography (Mason Core)	3
GGG 110	Introduction to Geoinformation Technologies	3
GGG 300	Quantitative Methods for Geographical Analysis	3
GGG 310	Introduction to Digital Cartography	4
GGG 311	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems	3
GGG 415	Seminar in Geography ¹	3
Select one from the following:		3-4
GGG 102	Physical Geography (Mason Core)	
GGG 121	Dynamic Atmosphere and Hydrosphere (Mason Core)	
GGG 122	Dynamic Geosphere and Ecosphere	
Total Credits		22-23

¹ Fulfills writing intensive requirement.

Systematic and Regional Geography

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

Systematic Courses

Select one from the following:		3
GGG 301	Political Geography	
GGG 302	Global Environmental Hazards	
GGG 303	Geography of Resource Conservation (Mason Core)	
GGG 304	Population Geography (Mason Core)	
GGG 305	Economic Geography	
GGG 306	Urban Geography	
GGG 307	Sustainable Development	
GGG 309	Meteorology and Climate	
GGG 312	Physical Climatology	
GGG 314	Severe and Extreme Weather	
GGG 319	Air Pollution	
GGG 321	Biogeography	
GGG 322	Issues in Global Change	
GGG 357	Structures in Urban Governance and Planning	
GGG 455	Environmental Impact Assessment	
GGG 456	Introduction to Atmospheric Radiation	

Regional Courses

Select one from the following:	3
GGG 315	Geography of the United States
GGG 316	Geography of Latin America
GGG 320	Geography of Europe
GGG 325	Geography of North Africa and the Middle East
GGG 330	Geography of the Soviet Succession States
GGG 333	Issues in Regional Geography
GGG 380	Geography of Virginia
Total Credits	6

GGS Electives

Select 9-10 credits of electives. ¹	9-10
Total Credits	9-10

¹ Two of the three courses must be upper-level GGS courses.

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

GGG 303	Geography of Resource Conservation (Mason Core)	3
EVPP 336 or EVPP 337	Human Dimensions of the Environment Environmental Policy Making in Developing Countries	3
or EVPP 377	Applied Ecology	

Methods Course

GGG 354	Data Analysis and Global Change Detection Techniques	3
or GGS 412	Air Photography Interpretation	

Electives 6-7

Select two courses from the following:

GGG 302	Global Environmental Hazards
GGG 307	Sustainable Development
GGG 309	Meteorology and Climate
GGG 312	Physical Climatology
GGG 314	Severe and Extreme Weather
GGG 319	Air Pollution
GGG 322	Issues in Global Change
GGG 354	Data Analysis and Global Change Detection Techniques ¹
GGG 412	Air Photography Interpretation ¹
EVPP 336	Human Dimensions of the Environment ¹
EVPP 337	Environmental Policy Making in Developing Countries ¹

EVPP 361	Introduction to Environmental Policy
EVPP 362	Intermediate Environmental Policy
EVPP 377	Applied Ecology ¹
EVPP 421	Marine Conservation
EVPP 440	Field Environmental Science
EVPP 480	Sustainability in Action (Mason Core)
GEOL 305	Environmental Geology
Total Credits	15-16

¹ Course cannot be selected if previously selected as a core or methods 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

GGG 340	Health Geography	3
GCH 300	Introduction to Public Health	3

Electives

Select 9 credits from the following courses. Choose at least one GGS elective and at least one GCH elective: 9

GGG 302	Global Environmental Hazards
GGG 303	Geography of Resource Conservation (Mason Core)
GGG 304	Population Geography (Mason Core)
GGG 306	Urban Geography
GGG 319	Air Pollution
GGG 321	Biogeography
GGG 322	Issues in Global Change
GGG 354	Data Analysis and Global Change Detection Techniques
GGG 463	Applied Geographic Information Systems
GCH 205	Global Health (Mason Core)
GCH 332	Health and Disease
GCH 360	Health and Environment
GCH 412	Fundamentals of Epidemiology
GCH 445	Social Determinants of Health
GCH 450	Culture, Sexuality and the Global AIDS Epidemic

Total Credits 15

Additional Program

Students who are not selecting a concentration may choose 15 or more credits consisting of an established minor, concentration, second major, or other coherent selection of courses approved by the advisor and the department chair:

Select 15 or more credits as outlined above.	15
Total Credits	15

Mason Core and Elective Credits

In order to meet a minimum of 120 credits, this degree requires an additional 65-68 credits, which may be applied toward any remaining Mason Core requirements (outlined below), Requirements for Bachelor's Degrees, College Requirements for the BA Degree (outlined below), and electives. Students are strongly encouraged to consult with their advisors to ensure that they fulfill all requirements.

Mason Core

Note: Some Mason Core requirements may already be fulfilled by the major requirements listed above. Students are strongly encouraged to consult their advisors to ensure they fulfill all remaining Mason Core requirements.

Code	Title	Credits
Foundation Requirements		
	Written Communication	6
	Oral Communication	3
	Quantitative Reasoning	3
	Information Technology	3-7
Core Requirements		
	Arts	3
	Global Understanding	3
	Literature	3
	Natural Science	7
	Social and Behavioral Sciences	3
	Western Civilization/World History	3
Synthesis/Capstone Requirement ¹		
	Synthesis/Capstone	3
Total Credits		40

¹ minimum 3 credits

College Requirements for the BA Degree

In addition to the program requirements and the Mason Core requirements, students pursuing a BA degree must complete the coursework below. Except where expressly prohibited, a course used to fulfill this college-level requirement may also be used simultaneously to satisfy other requirements such as Mason Core requirements, other college-level requirements, or requirements for the major. In some cases, the requirements listed below may be superseded by requirements of the degree program and the Mason Core.

Philosophy or Religious Studies

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credits from the following:		
	PHIL ¹	3
	RELI	

¹ PHIL 323 Classical Western Political Theory and PHIL 324 Modern Western Political Theory may not be used to fulfill this requirement.

Social and Behavioral Sciences

Choose one approved Mason Core: Social and Behavioral Sciences course in addition to the Mason Core-required course for a total

of 6 credits. The two courses used to fulfill the combined college-level and university requirements must be from different disciplines.

This requirement may be fulfilled by completing any course in ANTH, CRIM, ECON, GOVT, HIST¹, LING, PSYC, or SOCI, and the following GGS courses:

Code	Title	Credits
Select any course from the disciplines above or select from the following GGS courses:		
GGS 101	Major World Regions (Mason Core)	3
GGS 103	Human Geography (Mason Core)	
GGS 110	Introduction to Geoinformation Technologies	
GGS 301	Political Geography	
GGS 303	Geography of Resource Conservation (Mason Core)	
GGS 304	Population Geography (Mason Core)	
GGS 305	Economic Geography	
GGS 306	Urban Geography	
GGS 315	Geography of the United States	
GGS 316	Geography of Latin America	
GGS 320	Geography of Europe	
GGS 325	Geography of North Africa and the Middle East	
GGS 330	Geography of the Soviet Succession States	
GGS 357	Structures in Urban Governance and Planning	
GGS 380	Geography of Virginia	
Total Credits		3

¹ HIST 100 History of Western Civilization (Mason Core) and HIST 125 Introduction to World History (Mason Core) may not be used to fulfill this requirement.

Natural Science

Choose one credit in addition to the Mason Core: Natural Science requirement for a total of 8 credits. This combined college-level and university requirement must be fulfilled by completing two of any approved Mason Core: Natural Science courses that include a laboratory experience¹.

Code	Title	Credits
Select an additional Mason Core Natural Science course		
		1

¹ BIOL 124 Human Anatomy and Physiology and BIOL 125 Human Anatomy and Physiology may not be used to fulfill this requirement.

Foreign Language

Intermediate-level proficiency in one foreign language is required¹. This requirement may be fulfilled by completing a course in a foreign language numbered 202, 209, or 210 (or higher-level courses taught in the language).

Code	Title	Credits
Select a foreign language course numbered 202, 209, 210, or higher if a waiver isn't applicable		
		0-3

¹ Students may be eligible for a waiver of this requirement if they are already proficient in a second language or if they have received a satisfactory score on an approved proficiency test. Additional information on waivers can be found via the college's Office of Academic and Student Affairs (<https://cos.gmu.edu/uaa>).

Non-Western Culture

Choose one approved Non-Western Culture Requirement¹ course in addition to the course used to fulfill the Mason Core: Global Understanding requirement. A course used to fulfill the Mason Core: Global Understanding requirement may not be simultaneously used to satisfy this college-level requirement. However, a course used to fulfill this requirement may be used simultaneously to fulfill any *other* requirements (Mason Core requirements, college-level requirements, or requirements for the major).

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credits from approved Non-Western Culture courses if a waiver isn't applicable: 0-3		
ANTH 114	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 300	Civilizations	3
ANTH 301	Native North Americans	3
ANTH 302	Peoples and Cultures of Latin America (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 303	Peoples and Cultures of the Andes	3
ANTH 306	Peoples and Cultures of Island Asia (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 307	Ancient Mesoamerica (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 308	Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 309	Peoples and Cultures of India (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 313	Myth, Magic, and Mind (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 314	Zombies	3
ANTH 316	Peoples and Cultures of the Caribbean (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 323	Digging and Dealing in the Dead: Ethics in Archaeology	3
ANTH 330	Peoples and Cultures of Selected Regions: Non-Western	3
ANTH 332	Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Globalization (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 381	Medical Anthropology	3
ANTH 383	Cities of the Global South	3
ANTH 396	Issues in Anthropology: Social Sciences (Mason Core)	3
ARAB 360	Topics in Arabic Cultural Production	3
ARAB 420	Survey of Arabic Literature	3
ARAB 440	Topics in Arabic Religious Thought and Texts (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 203	Survey of Asian Art (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 204	Survey of Latin American Art (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 206	Survey of African Art (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 318	Art and Archaeology of Ancient Egypt	3
ARTH 319	Art and Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 320	Art of the Islamic World (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 382	Arts of India (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 383	Arts of Southeast Asia (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 384	Arts of China (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 385	Arts of Japan (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 386	The Silk Road (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 482	RS: Advanced Studies in Asian Art	3
CHIN 318	Introduction to Classical Chinese (Mason Core)	3
CHIN 320	Contemporary Chinese Film	3
CHIN 325	Major Chinese Writers (Mason Core)	3
DANC 118	World Dance (Mason Core)	3
ECON 361	Economic Development of Latin America (Mason Core)	3
ECON 362	African Economic Development (Mason Core)	3
FREN 451	Topics in Sub-Saharan Francophone Literature and Culture	3
FREN 454	Topics in Caribbean Francophone Literature and Culture	3
GGS 101	Major World Regions (Mason Core)	3
GGS 316	Geography of Latin America	3
GGS 325	Geography of North Africa and the Middle East	3
GGS 330	Geography of the Soviet Succession States	3
GGS 399	Select Topics in GGS	3
GOVT 328	Non-Western Political Theory	3
GOVT 332	Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa	3
GOVT 333	Government and Politics of Asia	3
GOVT 340	Central Asian Politics	3
GOVT 341	Chinese Foreign Policy	3
GOVT 345	Islam and Politics	3
GOVT 432	Political Change and Social Development in Sub-Saharan Africa	3
GOVT 433	Political Economy of East Asia	3
HIST 251	Survey of East Asian History (Mason Core)	3
HIST 252	Survey of East Asian History (Mason Core)	3
HIST 261	Survey of African History (Mason Core)	3
HIST 262	Survey of African History (Mason Core)	3
HIST 271	Survey of Latin American History (Mason Core)	3
HIST 272	Survey of Latin American History (Mason Core)	3
HIST 281	Survey of Middle Eastern Civilization (Mason Core)	3
HIST 282	Survey of Middle Eastern Civilization (Mason Core)	3
HIST 326	Stalinism	3

HIST 327	The Soviet Union and Russia Since World War II	3
HIST 328	Rise of Russia (Mason Core)	3
HIST 329	Modern Russia and the Soviet Union (Mason Core)	3
HIST 353	History of Traditional China	3
HIST 354	Modern China	3
HIST 356	Modern Japan (Mason Core)	3
HIST 357	Postwar Japan (Mason Core)	3
HIST 358	Post-1949 China (Mason Core)	3
HIST 360	History of South Africa (Mason Core)	3
HIST 364	Revolution and Radical Politics in Latin America (Mason Core)	3
HIST 365	Conquest and Colonization in Latin America (Mason Core)	3
HIST 366	Comparative Slavery	3
HIST 367	History, Fiction, and Film in Latin America	3
HIST 387	Topics in Global History (Mason Core)	3-6
HIST 426	The Russian Revolution	3
HIST 460	Modern Iran (Mason Core)	3
HIST 461	Arab-Israeli Conflict	3
HIST 462	Women in Islamic Society (Mason Core)	3
HIST 465	The Middle East in the 20th Century	3
JAPA 310	Japanese Culture in a Global World (Mason Core)	3
JAPA 340	Topics in Japanese Literature (Mason Core)	3
KORE 320	Korean Popular Culture in a Global World	3
MUSI 103	Musics of the World (Mason Core)	3
RELI 211	Religions of the West (Mason Core)	3
RELI 212	Religions of Asia (Mason Core)	3
RELI 240	Death and the Afterlife in World Religions	3
RELI 272	Islam	3
RELI 313	Hinduism (Mason Core)	3
RELI 314	Chinese Philosophies and Religious Traditions	3
RELI 315	Buddhism (Mason Core)	3
RELI 337	Mysticism: East and West	3
RELI 365	Muhammad: Life and Legacy	3
RELI 374	Islamic Thought (Mason Core)	3
RELI 375	Qur'an and Hadith	3
RELI 379	Islamic Law, Society, and Ethics	3
RELI 387	Islam, Democracy, and Human Rights	3
RELI 490	Comparative Study of Religions (Mason Core)	3
RUSS 353	Russian Civilization (Mason Core)	3
RUSS 354	Contemporary Post-Soviet Life (Mason Core)	3

¹ Students who can document attendance at a native school in a non-western country for at least four years may request a waiver from this requirement through the CHSS Undergraduate Academic Affairs Office (<http://chssundergrad.gmu.edu>).