

GEOGRAPHY, BS

Banner Code: SC-BS-GEOG

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The Geography, BS 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), emphasizing application and technique-driven coursework, in addition to a rigorous science and mathematics curriculum. 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 analytical, technical, and practical training that prepares them to be successful in an ever-evolving job market. For students who wish to pursue their interest in geography via a more flexible degree program, the department also offers a Geography, BA.

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.

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.

Geography

Candidates for the Geography, BS degree must complete the following Core, Breadth and Experience, and Geography Elective courses with a minimum GPA of 2.00:

Core Courses

GGG 102	Physical Geography (Mason Core)	3-4
or GGS 121	Dynamic Atmosphere and Hydrosphere (Mason Core)	
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
Total Credits		22-23

¹ Fulfills the writing intensive requirement.

Breadth and Experience Courses

Advanced Technique Courses

GGG 412	Air Photography Interpretation	3
Select three from the following:		9
GGG 308	Field Mapping Techniques	
GGG 354	Data Analysis and Global Change Detection Techniques	
GGG 410	Introduction to Hyperspectral Imaging	
GGG 411	Advanced Digital Cartography	
GGG 416	Satellite Image Analysis	
GGG 463	Applied Geographic Information Systems	
GGG 470	Special Topics in Geographic Techniques	

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	

GGS 357	Structures in Urban Governance and Planning	
GGS 398	Selected Topics in Global Change	
GGS 399	Select Topics in GGS	
Regional Courses		
Select one from the following:		3
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 333	Issues in Regional Geography	
GGS 380	Geography of Virginia	
Total Credits		18

Geography Electives

Select 3 credits of undergraduate-level GGS courses	3
Select 6 credits of 300 or 400-level GGS courses	6
Total Credits	9

Outside Requirements

MATH 113	Analytic Geometry and Calculus I (Mason Core)	4
MATH 114	Analytic Geometry and Calculus II	3-4
or IT 207	Applied IT Programming	
or STAT 250	Introductory Statistics I (Mason Core)	
CS 112	Introduction to Computer Programming (Mason Core)	4
Total Credits		11-12

Mason Core and Elective Credits

In order to meet a minimum of 120 credits, this degree requires an additional 58-60 credits, which may be applied toward any remaining Mason Core requirements, Requirements for Bachelor's Degrees, and elective courses. 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