

Program Change Request

Date Submitted: 09/02/21 4:25 pm

Viewing: **SC-BA-GEOG : Geography, BA**

Last approved: 01/30/20 10:09 pm

Last edit: 12/06/21 9:28 am

Changes proposed by: tleslie

**Catalog Pages
Using this Program**
[Geography, BA](#)

2022-2023

Rationale for

Are you completing this form on someone else's behalf?

No

Requestor:

Effective Catalog: 2022-2023

Program Level: Undergraduate

Program Type: Bachelor's

Degree Type: Bachelor of Arts

Title:

Geography, BA

Banner Title:

Geography, BA

In Workflow

1. **GGS Chair**
2. **SC Curriculum Committee**
3. SC Associate Dean
4. SC CAT Editor
5. Assoc Provost- Undergraduate
6. Registrar-Programs

Approval Path

1. 09/02/21 3:09 pm
Nathan Burtch (nburtch): Rollback to Initiator
2. 11/04/21 12:13 pm
Nathan Burtch (nburtch): Approved for GGS Chair
3. 11/12/21 3:02 pm
Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz): Rollback to GGS Chair for SC Curriculum Committee
4. 12/05/21 10:09 am
Nathan Burtch (nburtch): Approved for GGS Chair

History

1. Nov 1, 2017 by clmig-jwehrheim

- 2. Jan 17, 2018 by rzachari
- 3. Feb 28, 2018 by Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz)
- 4. Mar 15, 2018 by rzachari
- 5. Feb 6, 2019 by Dieter Pfoser (dpfoser)
- 6. Jan 30, 2020 by Nathan Burtch (nburtch)

Is this a retitling of an existing program?

Existing Program

Registrar/OAPI Use Only – SCHEV Status Approved

Registrar’s Office Use Only – Program Start Term

Registrar/OAPI Use Only – SCHEV Letter

Registrar/OAPI Use Only – SACSCOC Status

Concentration(s):

	Associated Concentrations	Registrar's Office Use Only: Concentration Code
1	Environmental Geography	EGEO
2	Health Geography	HGEO
3	Geoanthropology	GEA

INTO Major(s):

Registrar/IRR Use Only – Concentration CIP Code

College/School: College of Science

Department / Academic Unit: Geography & Geoinformation Science

Jointly Owned Program? No

Participating

Participating

Justification

Add Departmental Honors structure to Degree Program. This requires a 3.5GPA at the major and university level, and a B+ or better in a departmental Mason Impact course (the department currently has just one), a departmental independent study, and a graduate level course.

Other changes are housekeeping to remove deleted (or pending deletion) courses, and moving GGS 412 requirements to be GGS 379 within a concentration after the department made this the core remote sensing undergraduate course.

Wording was changed to the "Additional Program" section to eliminate the "coherent selection" option, which made credit counting for degree audits more difficult and students are have not been pursuing this option .

Retroactively add: The addition of the honors program; we believe this opportunity should be extended to current students without the burden of catalog year updates.

Catalog Published Information

Total Credits Required: Total credits: minimum 120

Registrar's Office Use Only - Program Code:

SC-BA-GEOG

Registrar/IRR Use Only – Program CIP Code

Admission Requirements:

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](#).

**Program-Specific
Policies:**

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 Geographic Thought and Methodology fulfills the writing intensive requirement.

For policies governing all undergraduate programs, see [AP.5 Undergraduate Policies](#).

Degree Requirements:

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.

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 102	Physical Geography (Mason Core)	3-4
or GGG 121	Dynamic Atmosphere and Hydrosphere (Mason Core)	
or GGG 122	Dynamic Geosphere and Ecosphere	
GGG 103	Human Geography (Mason Core)	3
GGG 110	Introduction to Geoinformation Technologies	3
GGG 300	Quantitative Methods for Geographical Analysis	3
GGG 310	Cartographic Design	3
GGG 311	Geographic Information Systems	3
GGG 415	Seminar in Geographic Thought and Methodology 1	3
Total Credits		21-22

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 (Mason Core)
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	Geographic Approaches for Sustainable Development

GGS 309	Introduction to Weather and Climate
GGS 312	Physical Climatology
GGS 314	Severe and Extreme Weather
GGS 319	Air Pollution
GGS 321	Biogeography
GGS 322	Course GGS 322 Not Found
GGS 340	Health Geography
GGS 344	Military Geography
GGS 357	Urban Planning
GGS 398	Course GGS 398 Not Found
GGS 399	Select Topics in GGS
GGS 456	Introduction to Atmospheric Radiation

Regional Courses

Select one from the following:

3

GGS 315	Geography of the United States
GGS 316	Geography of Latin America
GGS 317	Geography of China (Mason Core)
GGS 320	Geography of Europe
GGS 325	Geography of North Africa and the Middle East
GGS 326	Geography of Eastern Europe and Russia
GGS 330	Course GGS 330 Not Found
GGS 333	Issues in Regional Geography
GGS 380	Geography of Virginia

Total Credits

6

GGG Electives

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

Select 9-10 credits of electives. ~~1~~

9-10

Select 3-4 credits of GGS electives

3-4

Select 6 credits of upper division GGS electives

6

Total Credits

9-10

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	Human Dimensions of the Environment	3
or EVPP 337	Environmental Policy Making in Developing Countries	
or EVPP 377	Applied Ecology	
Methods Course		
GGG 354	Data Analysis and Global Change Detection Techniques	3
or GGG 379	Remote Sensing	
Electives		
Select two additional courses from the following:		6-7
GGG 302	Global Environmental Hazards	
GGG 307	Geographic Approaches for Sustainable Development	
GGG 309	Introduction to Weather and Climate	
GGG 312	Physical Climatology	
GGG 314	Severe and Extreme Weather	
GGG 319	Air Pollution	
GGG 322	Course GGS 322 Not Found	
GGG 354	Data Analysis and Global Change Detection Techniques 1	
GGG 412	Air Photography Interpretation 1	
GGG 379	Remote Sensing	
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
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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
GGS 302	Global Environmental Hazards	
GGS 303	Geography of Resource Conservation (Mason Core)	
GGS 304	Population Geography (Mason Core)	
GGS 306	Urban Geography	
GGS 319	Air Pollution	
GGS 321	Biogeography	
GGS 322	Course GGS 322 Not Found	
GGS 354	Data Analysis and Global Change Detection Techniques	
GGS 463	RS: GIS Analysis and Application	
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

Geoanthropology Concentration (GEA)

Anthropology, a social science, focuses on human activities—past, present, and future. Geography, positioned in the social science and STEM field, studies the physical features of the Earth and its atmosphere, and human activities as they affect and are affected by these, including the distribution of populations and resources, land use, urbanization and other topics. Just as anthropologists use insights from other disciplines to understand humans, geographers cross disciplinary boundaries to collect, store, analyze, model and visualize data. Such broad and inclusive disciplines and definitions yield a large number of possible themes in Geoanthropology. This concentration enables BA in Geography majors, versed in systematic techniques and regional geography, to become better versed in the theoretical constructs of anthropology that situate the environment as part of a global cultural system.

Core Courses

GGS 304	Population Geography (Mason Core)	3
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Select one core track: 3

Cultural Track

[ANTH 114](#) Introduction to Cultural Anthropology ([Mason Core](#))

Archaeology Track

[ANTH 120](#) Unearthing the Past: Prehistory, Culture and Evolution ([Mason Core](#))

Biological Track

[ANTH 135](#) Introduction to Biological Anthropology ([Mason Core](#))

Electives

Select 9 credits from the following courses. Choose at least one GGS elective and at least one ANTH elective: 1 9

GGS 301	Political Geography (Mason Core)
GGS 305	Economic Geography
GGS 306	Urban Geography
GGS 307	Geographic Approaches for Sustainable Development
GGS 309	Introduction to Weather and Climate
GGS 319	Air Pollution
GGS 321	Biogeography
GGS 322	Course GGS 322 Not Found
GGS 357	Urban Planning
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	Course GGS 330 Not Found
GGS 333	Issues in Regional Geography
GGS 380	Geography of Virginia

Cultural Track

ANTH 302	Peoples and Cultures of Latin America (Mason Core)
ANTH 308	Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East (Mason Core)
ANTH 309	Peoples and Cultures of India (Mason Core)
ANTH 376	Food and Culture
ANTH 381	Medical Anthropology
ANTH 382	Urban Anthropology (Mason Core)
ANTH 396	Issues in Anthropology: Social Sciences (Mason Core) (Cultural Topic)
ANTH 499	Independent Research (Cultural Topic)

Archaeology Track

ANTH 307	Ancient Mesoamerica (Mason Core)
ANTH 325	Field Techniques in Archaeology
ANTH 357	Bioarchaeology
ANTH 370	Environment and Culture
ANTH 377	Mortuary Archaeology
ANTH 379	Andean Archaeology
ANTH 396	Issues in Anthropology: Social Sciences (Mason Core) (Archaeological Topic)
ANTH 499	Independent Research (Archaeological Topic)

Biological Track

ANTH 355	Human Origins
ANTH 357	Bioarchaeology
ANTH 366	Food and Human Evolution
ANTH 396	Issues in Anthropology: Social Sciences (Mason Core) (Biological Topic)
ANTH 499	Independent Research (Biological Topic)

Total Credits

15

1 Students must select ANTH electives that are associated with the chosen core course track (Cultural, Archaeology, or Biology).

Alternative to a Concentration

Students who are not selecting a concentration may choose an established minor or second major.

~~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	0

Retroactive Requirements

Updates:

1) Effective Catalog years: 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2021-2022

Previous requirement: No honors program available.

New requirement: Adding the honors program.

Plan of Study:

Honors Information:

Honors in the Major

To graduate with departmental honors in Geography, students must have a minimum GPA of 3.50 in GGS courses, an overall GPA of 3.50, and complete the following courses each with a grade of 'B+' or above:

<u>GGG 463</u>	RS: GIS Analysis and Application	3
<u>GGG 499</u>	GGG Independent Study 1	3
<u>3 credits of 500-699 level GGS courses</u>	2	3

1 Before registering for this course, students must have identified a topic under the guidance of a full-time faculty member following departmental guidelines.

2 Eligibility for these courses is restricted to students who obtain permission from the undergraduate coordinator or those in the Accelerated Master's program.

Accelerated Description/Dual Degree Description:

**INTO-Mason
Requirements:**

**College
Requirements &
Policies:**

**Department /
Academic Unit
Requirements &
Policies:**

Program Outcomes

Additional Program Information

This information is required by the Office of Accreditation and Program Integrity.

Courses offered via distance (if applicable):

Indicate whether students are able

What is the primary delivery format for the program?
Face-to-Face Only

Does any portion of this program occur off-campus?

No

Off-campus details:

Are you working with a vendor / other collaborators to offer your program?

No

Please explain:

Related Departments

Could this program prepare students for any type of professional licensure, in Virginia or elsewhere?

No

Please explain:

Are you adding or removing a licensure component?

No

Please explain:

Additional SCHEV & SACSCOC Information

Are you changing the total number of credits required for this program?

No

Are you changing the delivery format in any way (e.g adding an online option)?

No

Are you adding/removing a licensure option which was approved by SCHEV?

No

Will any portion of this program be offered at an off-campus location?

No

What off-campus location(s)? List all

What percentage of credits toward this program are offered at the off-campus location(s)? Please list percentages by site (i.e. 15% at Site A, 35% at Site B etc.)

Will this program change affect any specialized accreditation?

No

Is the content of the new program closely related to that of an existing approved program?

No

Which existing approved program(s)?

Is this new program considered to be "advancing the degree level of a currently approved program" (i.e. existing content is at lower degree level, new content is at the higher degree level)?

No

Which existing approved program(s)?

Is this new program considered to be "lowering the degree level of a currently approved program" (i.e. existing content is at higher degree level, new content is at the lower degree level)?

No

Which existing approved program(s)?

Does this change represent a repackaging of content in an existing approved degree/certificate program?

No

Which existing approved program(s)?

Percentage of total credits containing new course content, excluding gen ed courses for undergraduate program: ("New content" means content that is not currently included in an existing approved degree/certificate program.) Please choose a percentage (i.e. 0%-100%)

less than 25%

Are the total credits for the program increasing or decreasing by more than 3 credits?

No

Will any additional equipment/facilities be needed?

No

Description of institutional impact:

Will any additional faculty be required?

No

Description of institutional impact:

Will any additional financial resources be needed?

No

Description of institutional impact:

Will any additional library/learning resources needed?

No

Description of institutional impact:

OAPI Use Only – Determination of SACSCOC Impact

Comments or Notes

Green Leaf Program Designation

Is this a Green Leaf program? No

Green Leaf Designation

Sustainability-focused academic programs require at least one green leaf course. Either that course is itself sustainability-focused or else the program requires a set of sustainability-related courses with aggregated

Relationship to Existing Courses

Relationship to Existing Programs

List sustainability-focused courses

currently required

Sustainability-related academic programs either require at least one sustainability-related course or else offer any green leaf course as an option or elective *

List sustainability-related courses currently required in the degree

Does this program cover material which crosses into another department?

No

Impacted Departments

Additional Attachments [UGC-COS-Program-Mod-Geography-BA.pdf](#)

SCHEV Proposal

Executive Summary

Reviewer Comments

Nathan Burtch (nburtch) (09/02/21 3:09 pm): Rollback: Dr. Leslie requested a rollback to work on additional edits.

Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz) (11/12/21 3:02 pm): Rollback: Additional details into the Honors section per our email conversation.

Additional Comments

Is this course required of all students in this degree program?

%wi_required.eshtml%

Attached Document