

Program Change Request

Date Submitted: 03/08/24 4:31 pm

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

Last approved: 05/04/23 1:05 pm

Last edit: 03/08/24 4:31 pm

Changes proposed by: nburtch

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

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

No

Effective Catalog: 2024-2025

Program Level: Undergraduate

Program Type: Bachelor's

Degree Type: Bachelor of Arts

Title:
Geography, BA

Banner Title: Geography, BA

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):

In Workflow

1. **GGS Chair**

2. **SC Curriculum Committee**

3. SC Assistant Dean

4. Assoc Provost- Undergraduate

5. Registrar-Programs

Approval Path

1. 03/15/24 11:33 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)

7. Jan 29, 2022 by Timothy Leslie (tleslie)

8. May 20, 2022 by Jennifer Bazaz

Gettys (jbazaz)
 9. May 4, 2023 by
 Jennifer Bazaz
 Gettys (jbazaz)

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

**Registrar/IRR Use
 Only –
 Concentration CIP
 Code**

College/School: College of Science

**Department /
 Academic Unit:** Geography & Geoinformation Science

**Jointly Owned
 Program?** No

Justification

What: Adding new classes to degree and concentrations

Why: We have a new systematic class, and this keeps non-GGS courses for concentrations robust.

**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 ([Mason Core](#)) 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.

Geography

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 (Mason Core)	13
GGG 485 Capstone in Geography and Geoinformation Science	3
Total Credits	24-25

1
Fulfills writing intensive requirement.

Breadth and Experience Courses

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

[GGS 303](#) Geography of Resource Conservation ([Mason Core](#))

[GGS 304](#) Population 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 312](#) Physical Climatology

[GGS 314](#) Severe and Extreme Weather

[GGS 321](#) Biogeography

[GGS 340](#) Health Geography

[GGS 344](#) Military Geography

[GGS 346](#) Geography of Religions and Belief Systems

[GGS 357](#) Urban Planning

[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 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 333](#) Issues in Regional Geography

[GGS 380](#) Geography of Virginia

Total Credits 6

Elective Courses

[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

[GGS 303](#) Geography of Resource Conservation ([Mason Core](#)) 3

[EVPP 336](#) Tackling Wicked Problems in Society the Environment ([Mason Core](#)) 3

or [EVPP 337](#) Environmental Policy Making in Developing Countries ([Mason Core](#))

or [EVPP 377](#) Applied Ecology

Methods Course

GGS 354	Data Analysis and Global Change Detection Techniques	3
or GGS 379	Remote Sensing	

Electives 6-7

Select at least 6 credits from the following options, 3 credits of which must be prefixed GGS:

GGS 302	Global Environmental Hazards	
GGS 307	Geographic Approaches for Sustainable Development	
GGS 308	Field Mapping Techniques	
GGS 309	Introduction to Weather and Climate	
GGS 312	Physical Climatology	
GGS 314	Severe and Extreme Weather	
GGS 354	Data Analysis and Global Change Detection Techniques 1	
GGS 379	Remote Sensing 1	
EVPP 302	Environmental Science: Biomes and Human Dimensions	
EVPP 318	Conservation Biology	
or BIOL 318	Conservation Biology	
EVPP 336	Tackling Wicked Problems in Society the Environment (Mason Core)	1
EVPP 337	Environmental Policy Making in Developing Countries (Mason Core)	1
EVPP 338	Economics of Environmental Policy	
EVPP 361	Introduction to Environmental Policy	
EVPP 362	Intermediate Environmental Policy	
EVPP 377	Applied Ecology 1	
EVPP 381	Nature and Culture in Global Wetlands (Mason Core)	
EVPP 421	Marine Conservation	
EVPP 428	Planetary Health	
EVPP 430	Fundamentals of Environmental Geographic Information Systems	
EVPP 434	Food-Energy-Water-Climate Nexus	
EVPP 436	Politics of Climate Change Governance	
EVPP 440	Field Environmental Science	
EVPP 475	Global Biodiversity Governance	
EVPP 480	Sustainability in Action (Mason Core)	
ANTH 370	Environment and Culture	
ECON 105	Environmental Economics for the Citizen (Mason Core)	
ECON 335	Environmental Economics	
GCH 360	Health and Environment	
GEOL 305	Environmental Geology (Mason Core)	
GOVT 361	Introduction to Environmental Policy	
GOVT 362	Intermediate Environmental Policy	
PHIL 243	Global Environmental Ethics (Mason Core)	

Total Credits 15-16

1

Course cannot be selected if previously selected as a core 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

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

Methods Course

GGS 432	Spatial Modeling for Public Health	<u>3</u>
or GGS 463	RS: GIS Analysis and Application	

Electives

Select at least 6 credits from the following options, 3 credits of which must be prefixed GGS:6

GGS 302	Global Environmental Hazards
GGS 303	Geography of Resource Conservation (Mason Core)
GGS 304	Population Geography (Mason Core)
GGS 306	Urban Geography
GGS 321	Biogeography
GGS 354	Data Analysis and Global Change Detection Techniques
GGS 357	Urban Planning
GGS 432	Spatial Modeling for Public Health 1
GGS 463	RS: GIS Analysis and Application 1
GCH 205	Global Health (Mason Core)
GCH 332	Health and Disease
GCH 335	Applied Health Statistics
GCH 360	Health and Environment
GCH 380	Public Health Research Methods
GCH 405	Global Health Interventions: History and Systems
GCH 406	Global Health Interventions: Emerging Issues
GCH 426	Global Emerging Infectious Diseases
GCH 412	Fundamentals of Epidemiology
GCH 445	Social Determinants of Health
GCH 450	Culture, Sexuality and the Global AIDS Epidemic
ANTH 363	Humans, Disease, and Death (Mason Core)
ECON 374	Health Economics
GLOA 388	Global Health and Development
PHIL 344	Ethical Issues in Global Health

[RELI 341](#)[Spirituality and Healing \(Mason Core\)](#)[SOCL 390](#)[Sociology of Health, Illness, and Disability](#)

Total Credits

15

1

<p>Course cannot be selected if previously selected as a core course.</p>

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

[ANTH 114](#) Introduction to Cultural Anthropology ([Mason Core](#)) 3

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

Methods Course

[GGS 308](#) Field Mapping Techniques 3

or [GGS 379](#) Remote Sensing

Electives

Select at least 6 credits from the following options, 3 credits of which must be prefixed GGS: 6

[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 321](#) Biogeography

[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 326](#) Geography of Eastern Europe and Russia

[GGS 333](#) Issues in Regional Geography

[GGS 380](#) Geography of Virginia

[GGS 422](#) Drone Remote Sensing

[ANTH 302](#) Peoples and Cultures of Latin America ([Mason Core](#))

[ANTH 307](#) Ancient Mesoamerica ([Mason Core](#))

[ANTH 308](#)Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East ([Mason Core](#))

[ANTH 309](#)Peoples and Cultures of India ([Mason Core](#))

[ANTH 317](#)East Asian Cultures

[ANTH 320](#)Global Africa

[ANTH 325](#)Field Techniques in Archaeology

[ANTH 330](#)Peoples and Cultures of Selected Regions: Non-Western

[ANTH 332](#)Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Globalization ([Mason Core](#))

[ANTH 357](#)Bioarchaeology

[ANTH 366](#)Food and Human Evolution

[ANTH 370](#)Environment and Culture

[ANTH 373](#)Archaeological Science

[ANTH 374](#)Archaeology of Hunter-Gatherers

[ANTH 376](#)Food and Culture

[ANTH 377](#)Mortuary Archaeology

[ANTH 379](#)Andean Archaeology

[ANTH 381](#)Medical Anthropology

[ANTH 382](#)Urban Anthropology ([Mason Core](#))

[ANTH 394](#)Archaeology of Climate Change

[ANTH 396](#)Issues in Anthropology: Social Sciences ([Mason Core](#)) (When the topic is related to culture)

[ANTH 499](#)~~Independent Research (When the topic is related to culture)~~

Total Credits

15

Urban Planning (URBP)

Urban planners work to solve issues surrounding the built environment, examining spaces of everyday life in urban regions. While inherently spatial in nature, urban planners also develop transdisciplinary skills involving policy, analytical methods, and social sciences in order to create and maintain communities with high quality of life. Students pursuing the Urban Planning concentration build upon their GIS, cartographic, and geospatial analysis skills through a focus on urban spaces and urban problems.

Core Courses

[GGS 357](#) Urban Planning 3

[ARTH 103](#) Introduction to Architecture ([Mason Core](#)) 3

Methods Course

[GGS 304](#) Population Geography ([Mason Core](#)) 3

Electives

Select at least 6 credits from the following options, 3 credits of which must be prefixed GGS: 1 6

[GGS 301](#) Political Geography ([Mason Core](#))

[GGS 302](#) Global Environmental Hazards

[GGS 303](#) Geography of Resource Conservation ([Mason Core](#))

[GGS 305](#) Economic Geography

[GGS 306](#) Urban Geography

[GGS 307](#) Geographic Approaches for Sustainable Development

[GGG 432 Spatial Modeling for Public Health](#)

[GGG 463 RS: GIS Analysis and Application](#)

[ANTH 382 Urban Anthropology \(Mason Core\)](#)

[ARTH 311 Design of Cities \(Mason Core\)](#)

[ARTH 371 American Architecture and Material Culture \(Mason Core\)](#)

[CONF 326 Negotiation](#)

[CONF 329 Community Engagement and Collaborative Problem Solving](#)

[ECON 309 Economic Problems and Public Policies](#)

[ECON 330 Public Finance](#)

[EVPP 361 Introduction to Environmental Policy](#)

[EVPP 442 Urban Ecosystems and Processes](#)

[EVPP 490 Special Topics in Environmental Science and Policy \(When the topic is "Urban Smart Growth Strategies"\)](#)

[FNAN 351 Principles of Real Estate](#)

[FNAN 454 Real Estate Development and Investment Fund](#)

[GOVT 304 American State and Local Government](#)

[GOVT 351 Administration in the Political System](#)

[GOVT 354 Nonprofit Sector in Society](#)

[GOVT 464 Issues in Public Policy and Administration \(When title is "Urban Economic Development in Smart Growth Era"\)](#)

[HIST 316 History of Modern Architecture \(Mason Core\)](#)

[INTS 331 The Nonprofit Sector \(Mason Core\)](#)

[NUTR 435 Urban Agriculture](#)

[RMGT 302 Park Management and Operations](#)

[RMGT 405 Planning and Operation of Recreation Facilities](#)

[SOCI 332 The Urban World \(Mason Core\)](#)

[SOCI 352 Social Problems and Solutions \(Mason Core\)](#)

[SOCI 355 Social Inequality \(Mason Core\)](#)

[SOCI 431 Survey Research](#)

[STAT 474 Introduction to Survey Sampling](#)

[USST 390 Special Topics in Urban and Suburban Studies](#)

Total Credits

15

1

Other urban topics courses may be taken with advisor approval.

Alternative to a Concentration

Students who are not selecting a concentration must choose an established minor or second major that provides 15 unique credits. If 15 unique credits are not available in the chosen minor or second major, additional GGS courses may be taken to fulfill this requirement; please consult with an advisor for details. 1

1

Students choosing an established minor or major must apply a minimum number of credits only to that minor or major, as detailed in [AP 4.2.1](#).

**Retroactive
Requirements
Updates:**

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:

[GGS 463](#)RS: GIS Analysis and Application3

[GGS 499](#)GGS Independent Study 1 3

[3 credits of 500-699 level GGS courses](#) 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.

Program Outcomes

Additional Program Information

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

**Courses offered via
distance (if
applicable):**

**What is the
primary delivery
format for the
program?**

Face-to-Face Only

Does any portion of this program occur off-campus?

No

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

No

**Related
Departments**

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

No

Are you adding or removing a licensure component?

No

Additional SCHEV & SACSCOC Information

Is this change a simple retitling of an existing program, with no other changes, to any existing program content, curriculum requirements, etc?

No

Does this change represent a repackaging of content in an existing approved degree/certificate program at the same instructional level (i.e., baccalaureate, master's, or doctoral)?

No

Percentage of total credits containing new course content. ("New course content" is defined by SACSCOC as content that is not currently included in an existing approved degree/certificate program at the same instructional level. Do not exclude gen ed credits in calculations for undergraduate programs.)

0%-24%

Does this change include the addition of a distance education or face-to-face method of delivery for this program?

No

Does this change include the addition of a course/credit-based competency-based education delivery option?

No

Will any additional equipment/facilities be needed?

No

Will any additional faculty be required?

No

Will any additional financial resources be needed?

No

Additional library/learning resources needed?

No

OAPI Use Only – Determination of SACSCOC Impact

Comments or Notes

Green Leaf Program Designation

Is this a Green Leaf
program? No

Does this program cover material which crosses into another department?

No

Additional
Attachments

SCHEV Proposal

Executive Summary

Reviewer
Comments

Additional
Comments

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

%wi_required.eshtml%

Key: 148