

# Completing a Bachelor of Arts Geography major or a Geography minor in two years – a plan for graduates of the AA program



## Why Geography?

Geography explores questions regarding environment and place. **Environment** includes the entire natural world and its relationship to human activities. **Place** recognizes the wide range of variation in environments, natural and built, across the earth's surface, that make each location unique. What are the explanations for a particular climatic, biotic and soil association? Why is a certain kind of human activity located at a certain place? What natural resources control where a particular kind of manufacturing should be located? Why are there so many differences in cultural landscapes around the world. How does spatial distance affect economic decisions. What are the internal and external characteristics and qualities of a place or landscape? How do atmospheric processes in the tropics influence the climate of the United States? Why are things located where they are?

These questions are not unique to geography, but geography is unique in trying to integrate environment and place.

Geography also features a special set of methods and techniques for analyzing data that are spread out over the surface of the earth. Georeferenced data require special techniques for graphical representation and for analysis. Mapping, spatial statistics, and database analysis all come together in the general area of **Geographic Information Systems (GIS)**, which is a major and growing source of employment.

## A program for the last two years of college

Geography requires breadth of understanding. We like our students to understand a wide variety of topics that relate to how human and physical processes produce unique places, as well as learning useful techniques, such as mapping and geographic information systems for understanding those places. As a result of our emphasis on breadth, we do not have long chains of courses that must be taken in a sequence. It is therefore possible to do the Geography major in two years, with mostly introductory courses in the first year and advanced courses in the second year.

## The BA major in Geography

Breadth and other requirements will be satisfied by some courses in the Geography major – see back of page. A minimum of 35 credits will be required.

<u>Introductory Physical Geography</u>	(7)
GEOG 101/111 <i>Physical Geography: Climatic Processes</i> (with lab)	4
or	
GEOG 152 <i>Climate and Life</i>	4
and	
GEOG 106 <i>Physical Geography: Topography and Soils</i> (3 cr, natural science)	3
<u>Introductory Human Geography</u>	(6)
Choose <i>two</i> from these four courses	
GEOG 102 <i>Human Geography</i>	3
GEOG 120 <i>World Regional Geography</i>	3
GEOG 203 <i>Cultural Geography</i>	3
GEOG 210 <i>Economic Geography</i>	3
<u>Geographic Methods</u>	(7)
GEOG 271 <i>Introduction to Geographic Data Analysis</i>	4
or	
GEOG 250 <i>Computer Methods for Geographic and Environmental Sciences</i>	4
and	
GEOG 372 <i>Geographic Information Systems</i>	3
<u>Geographic Electives</u>	(12–16)
Any <i>two</i> GEOG courses at 200 level or above	
and	
Any <i>two</i> GEOG courses at 300 level or above	
<u>Capstone course</u>	(3)
GEOG 445 <i>Method and Theory in Geography</i>	3

## The minor in Geography

The Minor in Geography adds a geographic perspective and GIS skills to any BA or BS major available at UD. A minimum of 18 credits will be required.

<u>Physical Geography</u> : any <i>one</i> course from GEOG 101, 106, 152, or 220	(3–4)
<u>Human Geography</u> : any <i>one</i> course from GEOG 102, 120, 203, or 210	(3–4)
<u>Geographic Methods</u> : any <i>one</i> course from GEOG 250, 271, or 372	(3–4)
<u>Geography Electives</u> : any <i>three</i> regular (3 or 4 credit) courses at the 300 level or above, totaling at least 9 credits.	(9–12)

## A Geography major in two years

This course schedule shows one possible way of completing the Geography major in four regular semesters while taking no more than three Geography courses in a semester to allow for completion of other requirements. Many other paths through the program are possible – meeting with an adviser to set up a specific plan is important for satisfying all degree requirements while also fitting your interests.

### First-Year Fall Semester

GEOG 101/111 *Physical Geography: Climatic Processes* 4  
 GEOG 102 *Human Geography* 3  
 GEOG 271 *Geographic Data Analysis* 4

### First-Year Spring Semester

GEOG 106 *Physical Geography: Topography and Soils* 3  
 GEOG 120 *World Regional Geography* 3  
 GEOG 372 *Geographic Information Systems* 3

### Second-Year Fall Semester

GEOG 203 *Cultural Geography* 3  
 GEOG 2xx, 3xx, or 4xx 3-4  
 GEOG 3xx or 4xx 3-4  
 (GEOG 471 recommended for GIS specialization)

### Second-Year Spring Semester

GEOG 3xx or 4xx 3-4  
 GEOG 445 *Method and Theory in Geography* 3

## A Geography minor in two years

The minor has only six courses and can readily be completed in a single year, or by many tracks through a two-year program. One possibility is shown here, with notes about completing the informal “GIS sequence” consisting of 271, 372, and 471.

### First-Year Fall Semester

GEOG 101/111 *Physical Geography: Climatic Processes* 4  
 GEOG 271 *Geographic Data Analysis* 4

### First-Year Spring Semester

GEOG 120 *World Regional Geography* 3  
 GEOG 3xx or 4xx 3-4  
 (GEOG 372 recommended for GIS specialization)

### Second-Year Fall Semester

GEOG 3xx or 4xx 3-4  
 (GEOG 471 recommended for GIS specialization)

### Second-Year Spring Semester

GEOG 3xx or 4xx 3-4

## Geography courses also satisfy other requirements

Geography courses taken for the major or minor may simultaneously satisfy some breadth, writing, and multicultural course requirements. (Only two GEOG courses per group may be used)

Group A: Arts & Humanities:	203, 345, 346
Group C: Social Science:	102, 120, 210, 235, 240, 320
Group D: Natural Sciences:	101, 106, 220
Group D: Natural Sciences with lab:	101/111, 152
Multicultural:	102, 120, 203, 226
Arts & Science second-writing courses:	346, 445

## After College

Only a limited number of positions bear the name “Geographer.” However, geography prepares an individual for a wide list of careers. A large number of private consulting firms working on environmental impact statements find the geographer’s integrative capabilities useful. Firms dealing with transportation and marketing, especially the location of plants and stores, also employ geographers. Increasingly, businesses are seeing the value of GIS in analyzing the spatial aspects of their operations and markets.

In government, geographers are employed in all levels, particularly with environmental, planning, and natural resource agencies. Geographic concepts are part of the science and social science curricula at the Secondary Education level. Geography is also taught in most colleges, from university to community college, although such positions usually require graduate degrees. Graduate work is a goal pursued by about a third of our majors.

Computer programming, GIS, and cartographic skills are particularly important job skills for a geographer, in addition to a solid background in thinking about spatial problems.

## More Information

The UD catalog contains complete descriptions of course requirements for the Geography major and minor. Brochures available from the Geography Department describe geography in more detail and discuss careers. Advisers in the Geography department can work out tracks through the program to fit your pacing and interests. If the possibilities mentioned here interest you, please seek further information.

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