

Geography Major

Geography Teaching Major

Department of Environment and Society
College of Natural Resources

Published November 2008

Effective for students beginning degree Summer Sem. 2008 thru Spring Sem. 2009

Admission Requirements For This Major

1. New freshmen admitted to USU in good standing qualify for admission to this major.
2. Transfer students from other institutions or other USU majors need at least a 2.5 total GPA for admission to the Geography major or the Geography Teaching Major in good standing. Special attention will be given to the amount of, and performance in, prerequisite courses for the major.

The Program

Geography is the study of the relationship between human society and the biophysical environment. Having a protracted concern with the broadest dimensions of environmental studies and human impact on the environment, trained geographers explore the availability and location of the earth's natural resources, the physical/cultural processes that occur at the earth's surface, and the spatial interactions among components of human society and their biophysical environment. As social scientists, geographers are concerned with the examination of observable phenomena resulting from human occupation of the earth, political decisions, and economic activities that create or alter cultural landscapes. The geography major is designed to provide students with maximum flexibility in creating a specialty area of concentrated studies beyond the required geography major foundation courses. Under the supervision of an advisor, students choose courses matching their personal goals and/or interests, including opportunities for internships and practicums, enhancing their opportunities for future employment and/or entrance to graduate school.

Career Opportunities

Geographic training prepares students for many types of careers, with a variety of employers, in the private, public, and academic sectors.

In the **private sector**, geographers may be hired to undertake locational analyses or environmental impact statements for businesses. Cartographers and remote sensing specialists are hired by the private sector. Others with geographic information systems (GIS) skills and those with socioeconomic training are hired as planners in a variety of business and commercial careers. Physical geographers are hired in the field of resource development, environmental assessment, and advocacy and resource management.

In the **public sector**, at all levels of government (local, state, and federal), geographers are hired to undertake a variety of tasks. Geographers may work for local and state economic development offices, conduct research about recreation and park utilization, or map land use from remotely sensed data. At the federal level, geographers often work for the Bureau of Land Management, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Forest Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Defense Mapping Agency, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Department of State, and the U.S. Census Bureau. Physical geographers work as hydrologists and physical scientists with many agencies. Geography Teaching graduates may teach geography in grades 7-12 in the public schools.

Degrees and Programs Offered Through This Department

- Environmental Studies:** Bachelor of Science (BS)
Geography: BS, Bachelor of Arts (BA), Master of Science (MS), and Master of Arts (MA)
Recreation Resource Management: BS, MS, and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Bioregional Planning: MS

Human Dimensions of Ecosystem Science and Management: MS, PhD

Ecology: MS, PhD

Natural Resources: Master of Natural Resources (MNR)

Academic Advisement

All students should contact their academic advisor for assistance with course selection, program planning, and meeting graduation requirements. If they do not know who their advisor is, students should contact the Department of Environment and Society (NR 201) or the College of Natural Resources Academic Service Center (NR 120).

Graduation Requirements: BS Degree in Geography*

*A BA degree requires foreign language training. For further information, see the *Online General Catalog*.

Minimum University Requirements**

Total credits	120
Grade point average (most majors require higher GPA)	2.00 GPA
Credits of C- or better	100
Credits of upper-division courses (#3000 or above)	40
USU credits	30
(20 of which must be upper division, including 10 required by major)	
Completion of approved major program of study	See department
Credits in minor (if required by department)	12
Credits in American Institutions (ECON 1500; HIST 1700, 2700, or 2710; POLS 1100; or USU 1300)	3
University Studies requirements	See below

**Colleges and departments may require more credits or a higher GPA. See requirements on this sheet.

University Studies Requirements for Geography Major

Note: Approved University Studies courses and requirements are listed in the back section of each semester's *Schedule of Classes*.

General Education Requirements (30-34 credits)

Competency Requirements (9-10 credits)

Communications Literacy (CL1 and CL2) (6 credits)

ENGL 1010 (CL1) (3 credits) or satisfactory AP, CLEP, IBO, ACT, or SAT score

AND

ENGL 2010 (CL2) (3 credits) or satisfactory IBO score

Quantitative Literacy (QL) (3-4 credits)

MATH 1050 (4 credits)

OR

One MATH or STAT course requiring MATH 1050 as a prerequisite

OR

Satisfactory AP, CLEP, IBO, ACT, or SAT score

Computer and Information Literacy (0 credits)

Passing grade on six computer and information literacy related examinations. Students must pass all six examinations before earning 37 USU semester credits.

Breadth Requirements (18-20 credits)

Select at least one approved course from each of the following six categories: **American Institutions (BAI)**, **Creative Arts (BCA)**, **Humanities (BHU)**, **Life Sciences (BLS)**, **Physical Sciences (BPS)**, and **Social Sciences (BSS)**. (CLEP or AP credit may be used.) At least two of the six breadth courses must be University Studies courses with a **USU prefix** (excluding USU 1000, 1010, 1100, 3330, 4900, and 6900). GEOG 1000 (BPS) and GEOG 1300 (BSS) may be used toward this requirement.

Exploration Requirement (3-4 credits)

Choose an additional class from one of the following General Education categories: QL, BAI, BCA, BHU, BLS, BPS, or BSS. GEOG 1400 (BSS) will fulfill this requirement for students in the Geography major or the Geography Teaching major.

Depth Education Requirements

Communications Intensive (CI) (2 courses)

GEOG 4200, plus another course having CI designation (such as SCED 3210 or SCED 4200), will meet this requirement.

Quantitative Intensive (QI) (1 course)

STAT 2000 will meet this requirement.

Depth Course Requirements (4 credits minimum, including 2 credits minimum completed in each of two courses)

Complete at least 2 credits in approved 3000-level or above courses from each of the following two categories: **Humanities and Creative Arts (DHA)** and **Life and Physical Sciences (DSC)**.

Departmental Requirements

All courses required for the major must be taken on an *A-B-C-D-F* basis. A grade of *C-* or better is required for all ENVS or GEOG courses taken to meet the requirements for the major. **In order to graduate, students must maintain a 2.5 or higher grade point average in all courses taken from offerings within the College of Natural Resources.**

Geography Major (48 credits minimum)

Effective Summer Semester 2006, some course numbers changed, due to House Bill 320 (Common Course Numbering). Course numbers used *prior to* Summer Semester 2006 are shown in parentheses, following *formerly*.

A. Disciplinary Foundation Courses (29 credits) Credits

- ENVS 1990 Professional Orientation for Environment and Society (F) . . . 2
- ENVS 3330 Environment and Society (Sp) 3
- GEOG 1000 (BPS) Physical Geography (F,Sp,Su) 3
(formerly GEOG 1130)
- GEOG 1005 Physical Geography Lab (F,Sp) 1
(formerly GEOG 1140)
- GEOG 1300 (BSS) World Regional Geography (F) 3
(formerly GEOG 1030)
- GEOG 1400 (BSS) Human Geography (Sp) 3
(formerly GEOG 2030)
- GEOG 3850 Map, Air Photo, and GIS Interpretation (F) 4
- GEOG 4200 (CI) Regional Geography (F,Sp,Su) 3
- GEOG 4850 Cartographic Design (Sp) 3
- WATS 4930 Geographic Information Systems (F) 4

B. Quantitative Foundation (7 credits)

- MATH 1050 (QL) College Algebra (F,Sp,Su) 4
- STAT 2000 (QI) Statistical Methods (F,Sp) 3

C. Emphasis Area (12 credits)

Students majoring in Geography are required to select an emphasis of at least 12 credits to complement their disciplinary foundation. Students must file an approved emphasis plan prior to applying for graduation, but it is recommended they meet with their faculty advisor to develop and gain approval for the emphasis *no later* than midway through the first semester of the junior year. Some courses may require prerequisites; for additional information, see course descriptions in the *Online General Catalog*.

Complete 12 credits chosen from one of the following four emphasis areas:

Cultural/Social Geography Credits

- ANTH 3160 (DSS) Anthropology of Religion (F) 3
- ENVS 5550 Sustainable Development (Sp) 3
- FREN 3550 (DHA) French Civilization (3 cr) **or**
- JAPN 3100 Readings in Contemporary Japanese Culture (F) (3 cr) **or**
- Any other culture course offered as part of a foreign language program (3 cr) 3
- GEOG 4200 (CI) Regional Geography (F,Sp,Su) 3
(Must be the *second* geographic area of study
beyond the area chosen in the
Disciplinary Foundation Courses.)
- GEOG 5650 (DSS) Developing Societies (F) 3
- SOC 4710 Asian Societies (Sp) 3
- Other course related to cultural/social geography approved by faculty advisor 3-4

Human Impacts on the Environment

- ENVS 3600 (DSC) Living with Wildlife (Sp) 3
- ENVS 5000 Collaborative Problem-Solving for Environment and Natural Resources (Sp) 3
- ENVS 5550 Sustainable Development (Sp) 3
- ENVS 5570 Sustainable Living (Sp) 3
- HIST 3950 (DHA/CI) Environmental History 3
- WILD 2200 (BLS) Ecology of Our Changing World (F,Sp) (3 cr) **or**
- NR 2220 General Ecology (F,Sp) (3 cr) 3
(Students can count *either* WILD 2200 *or* NR 2220 toward the emphasis area, but *cannot* count both.)
- WILD 4600 Conservation Biology (Sp) 3
- Other appropriate course approved by faculty advisor 3-4

Planning and Analysis

- ENVS 3000 Natural Resource Policy and Economics (F) 4
- ENVS 5000 Collaborative Problem-Solving for Environment and Natural Resources (Sp) 3
- ENVS 5300 Natural Resources Law and Policy (Sp) 2
- GEOG 3610 Geography of Rural/Urban Planning (F) 3
- LAEP 3700 City and Regional Planning (Sp) 3
- Other planning course approved by faculty advisor 3-4

Geographic Perspectives

In consultation with his or her advisor, a student may develop a customized emphasis that meets specific career goals not addressed in the other three emphases. Students pursuing this option must complete an emphasis form describing educational goals and specific courses to be taken. A University-approved minor may be used to meet this requirement, subject to approval by the student's advisor and department head.

D. Electives

After meeting the University Studies, USU upper-division, and geography major requirements, students may take the remainder of their 120 required credits in any discipline and from any department. A maximum of 18 credits in Intensive English may be counted toward the Geography degree.

Geography Major Recommended Four-Year Plan of Study

Students should meet regularly with their faculty advisor and carefully plan their academic program, keeping in mind that many upper-division courses have prerequisites and must be taken in sequence. Students following the recommended schedule listed below should be able to complete degree requirements in four years (eight semesters). **Note:** Students in the Geography Teaching Major should contact their advisor for information about their recommended four-year plan of study.

A. Freshman Year (30 credits) Credits

Fall Semester (14 credits)

- ENVS 1990 Professional Orientation for Environment and Society . . . 2
- ENGL 1010 (CL1) Introduction to Writing: Academic Prose 3
- GEOG 1300 (BSS) World Regional Geography 3
(formerly GEOG 1030)
- USU 1300 (BAI) U.S. Institutions (3 cr) **or**
- Other approved Breadth American Institutions (BAI) course (3 cr) . . . 3
- USU 1320 (BHU) Civilization: Humanities (3 cr) **or**
- Other approved Breadth Humanities (BHU) course (3 cr) 3

Spring Semester (16 credits)	Credits
<input type="checkbox"/> GEOG 1000 (BPS) Physical Geography	3
(formerly GEOG 1130)	
<input type="checkbox"/> GEOG 1005 Physical Geography Lab	1
(formerly GEOG 1140)	
<input type="checkbox"/> MATH 1050 (QL) College Algebra	4
<input type="checkbox"/> USU 1330 (BCA) Civilization: Creative Arts (3 cr) or	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other approved Breadth Creative Arts (BCA) course (3 cr)	3
<input type="checkbox"/> USU 1350 (BLS) Integrated Life Science (3 cr) or	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other approved Breadth Life Sciences (BLS) course (3 cr)	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Elective course(s)	2

B. Sophomore Year (31-33 credits)

Fall Semester (16 credits)	
<input type="checkbox"/> STAT 2000 (QI) Statistical Methods	3
<input type="checkbox"/> GEOG 3850 Map, Air Photo, and GIS Interpretation	4
<input type="checkbox"/> Elective courses	9

Spring Semester (15-17 credits)

<input type="checkbox"/> GEOG 1400 (BSS) Human Geography	3
(formerly GEOG 2030)	
<input type="checkbox"/> ENGL 2010 (CL2) Intermediate Writing: Research Writing in a Persuasive Mode	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Depth Humanities and Creative Arts (DHA) course	2-3
<input type="checkbox"/> Geography area of emphasis or elective courses	7-8

C. Junior Year (28-30 credits)

Fall Semester (13-14 credits)	
<input type="checkbox"/> GEOG 4200 (CI) Regional Geography	3
<input type="checkbox"/> WATS 4930 Geographic Information Systems	4
<input type="checkbox"/> Geography area of emphasis or elective courses	6-7

Spring Semester (15-16 credits)

<input type="checkbox"/> GEOG 4850 Cartographic Design	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Depth Life and Physical Sciences (DSC) course	3-4
<input type="checkbox"/> Elective courses (including CI course)	9

D. Senior Year (28-30 credits)

Fall Semester (14-15 credits)	
<input type="checkbox"/> ENVS 4990 Environmental and Natural Resource Professionalism Seminar (highly recommended)	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Geography area of emphasis or elective courses	12-13

Spring Semester (14-15 credits)

<input type="checkbox"/> ENVS 3330 Environment and Society	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Geography area of emphasis or elective courses	11-12

Geography Minor (24 credits minimum)

All courses required for the Geography minor *must* be taken on an *A-B-C-D-F* basis. A grade of *C-* or better is required for all GEOG courses taken to meet requirements for the minor. **In order to graduate, students must maintain a 2.5 or higher grade point average in all courses taken from offerings within the College of Natural Resources.**

	Credits
<input type="checkbox"/> GEOG 1000 (BPS) Physical Geography (F,Sp,Su)	3
(formerly GEOG 1130)	
<input type="checkbox"/> GEOG 1005 Physical Geography Lab (F,Sp)	1
(formerly GEOG 1140)	
<input type="checkbox"/> GEOG 1300 (BSS) World Regional Geography (F)	3
(formerly GEOG 1030)	
<input type="checkbox"/> GEOG 1400 (BSS) Human Geography (Sp)	3
(formerly GEOG 2030)	
<input type="checkbox"/> GEOG 3850 Map, Air Photo, and GIS Interpretation (F)	4
<input type="checkbox"/> GEOG 4200 (CI) Regional Geography (F,Sp,Su)	3
<input type="checkbox"/> GEOG 4850 Cartographic Design (Sp)	3
<input type="checkbox"/> WATS 4930 Geographic Information Systems (F)	4

Geography Teaching Major (90-106 credits)

The teaching major in geography consists of the geography courses (38 credits minimum, shown in sections *A, B, and C* below), a teaching minor (17-33 credits), and the Secondary Teacher Education Program (STEP) (35 credits). **A 2.75 or higher overall cumulative GPA in 90 credits is required for admission to the STEP. The 2.75 minimum overall cumulative GPA must be maintained for graduation.**

A. Geography Teaching Major Foundation Courses (24-25 credits)

	Credits
<input type="checkbox"/> ENVS 1990 Professional Orientation for Environment and Society (F)	2
<input type="checkbox"/> GEOG 1000 (BPS) Physical Geography (F,Sp,Su)	3
(formerly GEOG 1130)	
<input type="checkbox"/> GEOG 1300 (BSS) World Regional Geography (F)	3
(formerly GEOG 1030)	
<input type="checkbox"/> GEOG 1400 (BSS) Human Geography (Sp)	3
(formerly GEOG 2030)	
<input type="checkbox"/> GEOG 3850 Map, Air Photo, and GIS Interpretation (F)	4
<input type="checkbox"/> GEOG 4200 (CI) Regional Geography (Utah)	3
<input type="checkbox"/> GEOG 4200 (CI) Regional Geography (International Course) (F,Sp,Su)	3
<input type="checkbox"/> GEOG 4850 Cartographic Design (Sp) (3 cr) or	
<input type="checkbox"/> WATS 4930 Geographic Information Systems (F) (4 cr)	3 or 4

B. Geography Education Pedagogical Methods Courses (4 credits)

<input type="checkbox"/> SCED 3300 Clinical Experience I (F,Sp)	1
<input type="checkbox"/> SCED 3500 Teaching Social Studies (F,Sp)	3

C. Geography Education Elective Courses (9-10 credits)

Students may select the remaining 9-10 credits in Geography from courses numbered 2000 or above. It is recommended that students take additional coursework in the following areas: regional, physical, and human geography; human-environment interaction techniques; technology in geography education; and classroom technology. All electives must be coordinated with the geography education advisor.

D. Teaching Minor (17-33 credits)

A teaching major in Geography also requires an approved teaching minor from another field of study acceptable to the Secondary Education Department.

E. Secondary Teacher Education Program (STEP) (35 credits)

Students must complete three levels in the STEP. All three levels of the STEP will be offered during fall and spring semesters, *not* during summers. Levels of the STEP are taken as a package, not piecemeal. Each level must be satisfactorily completed before a student is advanced to the next level. All courses must be completed with a minimum grade of *C-*. **Prior to admission to the STEP, students in the Geography Teaching Major must complete MATH 1050, unless their Math ACT score is 25 or higher.**

Students should consult with advisors in major and minor departments for scheduling of special methods classes at Levels 1 and 2. Although certain combinations of majors and minors require three special methods classes, only *two* clinical experiences (total) should be scheduled at Levels 1 and 2. These in-school experiences are coordinated by methods instructors.

1. Level 1 (15-week courses) (11 credits minimum) Credits

<input type="checkbox"/> INST 3500 Technology Tools for Secondary Teachers (F,Sp,Su)	1
<input type="checkbox"/> SCED 3100 Motivation and Classroom Management (F,Sp)	3
<input type="checkbox"/> SCED 3210 (CI/DSS) Educational and Multicultural Foundations (F,Sp)	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Clinical Experience I (30 hrs. minimum) (3300 in various departments)	1
<input type="checkbox"/> One or more methods courses in major (3-6 credits in minor—Social Studies Education)	3

2. Level 2 (15-week courses) (12 credits minimum)

<input type="checkbox"/> SPED 4000 Education of Exceptional Individuals (may be taken anytime) (F,Sp,Su)	2
<input type="checkbox"/> SCED 4200 (CI) Reading, Writing, and Technology (F,Sp)	3
<input type="checkbox"/> SCED 4210 Cognition and Evaluation of Student Learning (F,Sp)	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Clinical Experience II (30 hrs. minimum) (4300 in various departments)	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Special Methods II (major or minor) (taught in various departments)	3

