Bachelor of Science in Geography

Why study geography?

A much more specialized degree, the Bachelor of Science offers concentrated specializations in one of two aspects of Geography: physical geography or geographic information science (GIS). The BS has fewer general education requirements and require solid backgrounds in mathematics and basic science.

There are two B.S. degree options:

Physical Geography Option
Students prepare for a career in environmental assessment and problem solving. Basic requirements include preparation in chemistry, biology, physics and mathematics. Advanced course work includes the study of the processes that affect the physical environment (soils, vegetation, climate and geomorphology), and techniques for performing statistical and computational analysis of these processes (statistics, GIS and remote sensing).

Geographical Information and Analysis Option
Students prepare for a career in the area of geographic information science and problem solving using a variety of spatial analysis techniques. Basic requirements include preparation in mathematics, science and computer science. Advanced course work includes work in cartography, GIS, remote sensing, spatial statistics, spatial analysis and data presentation and visualization. In addition, students are expected to take some coursework in one of the other areas of geography (physical, human, and regional).

Beyond the basic requirements listed under each option, both Geography B.S. degrees have a common set of general education requirements, including courses in English, mathematics, communications, humanities, social sciences and a history or philosophy of science course. Some courses are shared by the two options; however, different course selection menus apply for the remaining requirements.

Undergraduate Admission

Admission to KU

All students applying for admission must send high school and college transcripts to the Office of Admissions. Unless they are college transfer students with at least 24 hours of credit, prospective students must send ACT or SAT scores to the Office of Admissions. Prospective first-year students should be aware that KU has qualified admission requirements that all new first-year students must meet to be admitted. Consult the Office of Admissions (http://admissions.ku.edu) for application deadlines and specific admission requirements.

Visit the Office of International Student and Scholar Services (http://www.iss.ku.edu) for information about international admissions.

Students considering transferring to KU may see how their college-level course work will transfer on the Office of Admissions (http://credittransfer.ku.edu) website.

Admission to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Admission to the College is a different process from admission to a major field. Some CLAS departments have admission requirements. See individual department/program sections for departmental admission requirements.

Geography Programs

The B.A., B.G.S., and B.S. in geography provide general liberal arts enrichment, preparation for graduate work, and training for careers in geography and related fields. Geography may be combined with another program as a double major, or courses in another area may simply be added to those in geography.

First- and Second-Year Preparation

Students should begin the major by meeting the core requirements and preparing for major courses.

Requirements for the B.S. Degree

Geography B.S. General Education Requirements

Written Communication – Core Skill and Critical Inquiry.

Composition (0)
Satisfied by one of the following. Requirement must be completed during initial term of admission at KU.

ENGL 101 Composition
ACT English score of 27 or above or SAT English score of 600 or above
AP English Literature & Composition score of 3 or above
Equivalent transfer course

Critical Reading and Writing (0)
Satisfied by one of the following. Requirement must be completed during initial term of admission at KU.

ENGL 102 Critical Reading and Writing
or ENGL 105 Honors Introduction to English
AP English Literature & Composition score of 3 or above
Equivalent transfer course

Sophomore Reading and Writing II (0)
Satisfied by one of the following:

ENGL 203 Topics in Reading and Writing: ______ or ENGL 205 Freshman-Sophomore Honors Proseminar: ______
ENGL 209 Introduction to Fiction
ENGL 210 Introduction to Poetry
ENGL 211 Introduction to the Drama
ENGL 362 Foundations of Technical Writing (recommended)
AP English Literature & Composition score of 5 or above
Equivalent transfer course

Communications. Satisfied by COMS 130 (COMS 230, PHIL 148, PHIL 310 or exemption).

History or philosophy of science.

Select one of the following or consult undergraduate committee for approval of alternatives:
Bachelor of Science in Geography

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Humanities - Understanding the Human Condition. Satisfied by completing 2 principal courses in the humanities. Approved courses may be searched for availability through the Kyou portal.

Social and Behavioral Sciences - Understanding Society and Behavior. Satisfied by completing 2 principal courses in the social sciences. Approved courses may be searched for availability through the Kyou portal.

**Major Hours & Major GPA**

While completing all required courses, majors must also meet each of the following hour and grade-point average minimum standards:

**Major Hours**
Satisfied by 44 hours of major courses.

**Major Hours in Residence**
Satisfied by a minimum of 15 hours of KU resident credit in the major.

**Major Junior/Senior Hours**
Satisfied by a minimum of 12 hours from junior/senior courses (300+) in the major.

**Major Junior/Senior Graduation GPA**
Satisfied by a minimum of a 2.0 KU GPA in junior/senior courses (300+) in the major. GPA calculations include all junior/senior courses in the field of study including F's and repeated courses. See the Semester/Cumulative GPA Calculator (http://clas.ku.edu/undergrad/tools/gpa).

**Physical Geography Option**

**Geography Prerequisite or Co-requisite Knowledge (29-31)**
Calculus I. Satisfied by one of the following:
- MATH 125 Calculus I
Calculus II. Satisfied by one of the following:
- MATH 126 Calculus II
  (MATH 220 and 320 are also recommended)
Physics I. Satisfied by one of the following:
  4-5
- PHSX 211 General Physics I
  & PHSX 216 and General Physics I Laboratory (recommended)
- PHSX 214 College Physics I
  & PHSX 201 and Calculus Supplement to College Physics I
  & PHSX 216 and General Physics I Laboratory
Physics II. Satisfied by one of the following:
  4-5
- PHSX 212 General Physics II
  & PHSX 236 and General Physics II Laboratory

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**Biology. Satisfied by:**
- BOL 151      Principles of Molecular and Cellular Biology
- BOL 152      Principles of Organismal Biology

**Chemistry. Satisfied by:**
- CHEM 130     General Chemistry I
- CHEM 135     General Chemistry II (or CHEM 190 and CHEM 191 and CHEM 195 and CHEM 196)

**Information Technology. Satisfied by:**
- EEC 138     Introduction to Computing: 3

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**Information Technology. Satisfied by:**
- EEC 138     Introduction to Computing: 3
Bachelor of Science in Geography

Geography Prerequisite or Co-requisite Knowledge (20)

Calculus I. Satisfied by one of the following:
- MATH 125 Calculus I
- or MATH 145 Calculus I, Honors

Calculus II. Satisfied by one of the following:
- MATH 126 Calculus II
- or MATH 146 Calculus II, Honors

General Physics I. Satisfied by one of the following:
- PHSX 211 General Physics I
- or PHSX 114 & PHSX 201 College Physics I and Calculus Supplement to College Physics I

General Physics II. Satisfied by one of the following:
- PHSX 212 General Physics II
- or PHSX 115 & PHSX 202 College Physics II and Calculus Supplement to College Physics II

Computing Fundamentals. Satisfied by:
- GEOG 360 Computer Programming for Mapping and Spatial Analysis
- or EECS 138 Introduction to Computing: _____

Overview Geography Courses (18)

Principles of Physical Geography or Scientific Principles of Environmental Studies. Satisfied by one of the following:
- GEOG 104 Principles of Physical Geography
- & GEOG 105 and Introductory Laboratory in Physical Geography
- GEOG 140 Global Environment I: The Discovery of Environmental Change

Maps and Mapping or Computers, Maps, and Geographical Analysis. Satisfied by:
- GEOG 111 Mapping Our Changing World
- or GEOG 35 Principles of Geographic Information Systems

Principles of Human Geography. Satisfied by:
- GEOG 102 People, Place, and Society
- or GEOG 103 Principles of Human Geography, Honors

2 GEOG 300+ courses. One in Physical and one in Human and/or Regional Geography

Core Geographic Information Science Courses (21)

Six courses, at least one from each category:

Cartography and Visualization. Satisfied by:
- GEOG 311 Introductory Cartography and Geovisualization
- GEOG 512 Advanced Cartography and Geovisualization

Geographical Information Systems. Satisfied by:
- GEOG 558 Intermediate Geographical Information Systems
- GEOG 560 GIS Application Programming
- GEOG 758 Geographic Information Science

Remote Sensing. Satisfied by:
- GEOG 526 Remote Sensing of Environment I
- GEOG 726 Remote Sensing of Environment II

Statistics. Satisfied by:
- GEOG 316 Methods of Analyzing Geographical Data
- GEOG 516 Applied Multivariate Analysis in Geography
- GEOG 716 Advanced Geostatistics

Senior Capstone in Geography (3)
Satisfied by:
- GEOG 500 Senior Capstone in Geography

Geographic Information Science Electives (6)
Two other courses from geographic information science

Allied Field (9)
Three courses and nine hours minimum in one field (or a minor) (area studies, atmospheric science, biology, computer science, design, environmental studies, engineering, geology, psychology, urban planning).

Electives (14-23)
14-23 credit hours of any university courses.

Geography Major Hours & Major GPA

While completing all required courses, majors must also meet each of the following hour and grade-point average minimum standards:

Major Hours
Satisfied by 48 hours of major courses.

Major Hours in Residence
Satisfied by a minimum of 15 hours of KU resident credit in the major.

Major Junior/Senior (300+) Hours
Satisfied by a minimum of 12 hours from junior/senior courses (300+) in the major.

Major Junior/Senior (300+) Graduation GPA
Satisfied by a minimum of a 2.0 KU GPA in junior/senior courses (300+) in the major. GPA calculations include all junior/senior courses in the field of study including F’s and repeated courses. See the Semester/Cumulative GPA Calculator (http://clas.ku.edu/undergrad/tools/gpa).

Departmental Honors in Geography

To be accepted as a candidate for honors, an undergraduate major must have completed at least 9 hours of upper-division credit in geography with a grade-point average of 3.5 in all geography courses and of at least 3.25 overall. In addition to outstanding work in geography, the program requires GEOG 499, an independent study course consisting of an honors paper.

The student presents the results of this paper in an oral examination to a committee of at least 2 faculty members, normally from the geography department, chaired by the GEOG 499 supervisor. To graduate with honors, the student must complete the paper and the examination and maintain the 3.5 and 3.25 grade-point averages.