GEOGRAPHY, B.A.

Degree Requirements (120 hours)

Program of Study

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Founding Documents Requirement
All undergraduate students must take a 3-credit course or its equivalent with a passing grade in the subject areas of History, Political Science, or African American Studies that covers the founding documents including the United States Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the Emancipation Proclamation and one or more documents that are foundational to the African American freedom struggle and a minimum of five essays from the Federalist papers. This course may count as a requirement in any part of the program of study including the Carolina Core, the major, minor or cognate, or as a general elective. Courses that meet this requirement are listed here (https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/founding-document-courses/).

1. Carolina Core Requirements (32-44 hours)

CMW – Effective, Engaged, and Persuasive Communication: Written (6 hours)

must be passed with a grade of C or higher

• any CC-CMW courses (https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/carolina-core-courses/)

ARP – Analytical Reasoning and Problem Solving (6-8 hours)

• any CC-ARP courses (https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/carolina-core-courses/)

SCI – Scientific Literacy (8 hours)

• Two 4-credit hour CC-SCI courses (https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/carolina-core-courses/)

GFL – Global Citizenship and Multicultural Understanding: Foreign Language (0-6 hours)

Demonstration of proficiency in one foreign language equivalent to the minimal passing grade on the exit examination in the 122 course is required. Students can demonstrate this proficiency by successfully completing Phase II of the Proficiency Test or by successfully completing the 122 course, including the exit exam administered as part of that course.

• CC-GFL courses (https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/carolina-core-courses/)

It is strongly recommended that students continuing the study of a foreign language begin college-level study of that language in their first semester and continue in that language until their particular foreign language requirement is completed.

GHS – Global Citizenship and Multicultural Understanding: Historical Thinking (3 hours)

• any CC-GHS course (https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/carolina-core-courses/)

GSS – Global Citizenship and Multicultural Understanding: Social Sciences (3 hours)

• any CC-GSS course (https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/carolina-core-courses/)

AIU – Aesthetic and Interpretive Understanding (3 hours)

• any CC-AIU course (https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/carolina-core-courses/)

CMS – Effective, Engaged, and Persuasive Communication: Spoken Component 1 (0-3 hours)

• any overlay or stand-alone CC-CMS course (https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/carolina-core-courses/)

INF – Information Literacy 1 (0-3 hours)

• any overlay or stand-alone CC-INF course (https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/carolina-core-courses/)

VSR – Values, Ethics, and Social Responsibility 1 (0-3 hours)

• any overlay or stand-alone CC-VSR course (https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/carolina-core-courses/)

Choose at least 1 of the following to fulfill a Carolina Core requirement

must be passed with a grade of C or higher

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 103</td>
<td>Foundations of Geography (*)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 104</td>
<td>Introduction to Physical Geography (*)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 105</td>
<td>The Digital Earth (*)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 121</td>
<td>Geographies of Global Change (*)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 201</td>
<td>Landform Geography (*)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 202</td>
<td>Weather and Climate (*)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 210</td>
<td>Peoples, Places, and Environments (*)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. College Requirements (15-18 hours)

Foreign Language (0-3 hours)

• only if needed to meet 122-level proficiency

History (3 hours)

The College of Arts and Sciences requires only an additional GHS course beyond the Carolina Core GHS requirement.
• If the Carolina Core GHS requirement is fulfilled by a U.S.
  history course, the College of Arts and Sciences history requirement
  must be fulfilled by a non-U.S. history course.
• If the Carolina Core GHS requirement is fulfilled by a non-U.S.
  history course, the College of Arts and Sciences history requirement
  must be fulfilled by a U.S. history course.

Please select the College of Arts and Sciences history requirement
from the approved list of U.S. and non-U.S. history courses (https://
academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/history-
requirement/).

Social Science and Fine Arts or Humanities (12 hours)
• Social Science (3 hours)
  • The College of Arts and Science requires one 3-hour Social
    Science Course (https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/
    undergraduate/arts-sciences/courses-acceptable-social-
    science/)
• Fine Arts/Humanities (9 Hours)
  • A Bachelor of Arts from the College of Arts and Sciences
    requires three 3-hour Fine Arts/Humanities Courses (https://
    academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/courses-
    acceptable-fine-arts-humanities/)

3. Program Requirements (34-49 hours)

Cognate or Minor (12-18 hours)
Students must complete a cognate (12 hours) or a minor as part of
this program. In lieu of a cognate or minor, an additional major may be
added to a student’s program of study. Additional majors must include all
major courses as well as any prescribed courses noted (*) in the bulletin.
Prescribed courses noted in the bulletin may be shared with Carolina
Core, College requirements, and Program requirements in the primary
program.

Cognate (12 hours)
The cognate must consist of twelve (12) hours of courses at the
advanced level, outside of but related to the major. The cognate may be
taken in one or more departments or programs.

Courses offered by departments and programs that are acceptable for
cognate credit are outlined in the section titled Courses Acceptable for
Cognate Credit in Degree Programs in the College of Arts and Sciences.
(https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/courses-
acceptable-cognate/) Some major programs have specific cognate
requirements. It should be emphasized that the cognate is not a second
set of elective courses to be chosen at random by the student. Students
are urged to consult their major advisors for specific requirements in their
major.

For Bachelor of Arts degrees, all cognate courses must be passed with a
grade of C or higher.

Minor (18 hours)
In place of the cognate a student in the College of Arts and Sciences
may choose a minor consisting of at least 18 credit hours of prescribed
courses.

The minor is intended to develop a coherent basic preparation in a
second area of study. It differs from the cognate inasmuch as the
courses must follow a structured sequence.

Courses applied toward general education requirements cannot be
counted toward the minor. No course may satisfy both major and minor
requirements. All minor courses must be passed with a grade of C or
higher. At least half of the courses in the minor must be completed in
residence at the University.

A list of minor programs of study can be found at Programs A-Z (https://
academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/programs-az/).

Electives (16-37 hours)
120 (or 128) degree applicable credits are required to complete any
degree at USC. After the cognate, minor or second major is complete,
any additional credits needed to reach 120 (or 128) total credits can be
fulfilled by electives. No courses of a remedial, developmental, skill-
acquiring, or vocational nature may apply as credit toward degrees in the
College of Arts and Sciences. The College of Arts and Sciences allows
the use of the Pass-Fail option on elective courses. Further clarification
on inapplicable courses can be obtained from the College of Arts and
Sciences.

Note: 4-25 hours of electives will be needed to reach hours to graduate, if
completing the B.A. with Distinction.

4. Major Requirements (24 hours)
a minimum grade of C is required in all major courses

Major Courses (6 hours)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GEG 495</td>
<td>Seminar in Geography</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select one of the following:</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEG 263</td>
<td>Geographic Information Systems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEG 341</td>
<td>Cartography</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEG 345</td>
<td>Introduction to Remote Sensing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEG 551</td>
<td>Remote Sensing of the Environment</td>
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Total Credit Hours 6

Major Electives (18 hours)
• Select 5-6 GEOG courses with advisor’s approval that are tailored
towards a topical, methodological, or geographical focus.

Note: Majors may take up to 9 hours of GEOG courses at the 200-
level to fulfill major requirements; 6 hours must be at the 500-level.
GEOG 595 can be used to fulfill up to 3 hours of geography elective
credit, but not the 500-level requirement. Courses used to fulfill Carolina
Core or College Requirements may not be used again to fulfill these
requirements.

B.A. with Distinction in Geography (36 hours)
Available to students majoring in Geography who wish to participate in
significant research activities in their major field under the supervision of
a faculty mentor.

Prerequisite
A minimum GPA of 3.50 in the major, and 3.30 cumulative, is required to
apply for a BA or BS with Distinction in Geography.

Requirements
• Students must submit a written application for the BA with
  Distinction in Geography at least eight months before completion of
  the degree.
• Written sponsorship agreement from a Geography faculty mentor on file in the department.

• An established thesis committee consisting of a tenure-track faculty member in Geography and at least one other tenure-track or research faculty member at the University of South Carolina.

• A written thesis demonstrating significant original work and approved by the thesis committee.

• A public presentation of the Senior Thesis research.

• Successful fulfillment of all requirements below with a minimum GPA of 3.50 in the major and 3.30 cumulative.

• General major requirements, plus 12 additional credit hours including:
  • A minimum of nine credit hours in GEOG 498, or any GEOG 500-level courses (9 hours)
  • GEOG 499

Note: South Carolina Honors College students satisfying the above requirements will graduate with “Honors from the South Carolina Honors College” and with “Distinction in Geography.”