

Geography BA Concentrations

Detailed Requirement Tables

The following tables offer detail on the requirements for each of our six concentrations within the BA degree. Please note that:

(1) ALL six concentrations include a set of core courses including 2 intro classes (one human geography, one physical geography) and 4 skills and techniques courses, including writing, field methods, statistics, and mapping/GIS.

(2) ALL BA students must fulfill the College of Natural Sciences foreign language requirement. [Click here for details on the CNS foreign language requirement for BA students.](#)

(3) ALL six concentrations total 4 credits – see the right-side column on each table for credits in each requirement area.

For more information on the UMass Geography program, visit <http://blogs.umass.edu/umgeog>

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Geography BA – Human Geography Concentration

Introductory Courses (2 Courses)	8
GEOGRAPH 102 Diversity, Globalization, and Sustainability: Introduction to Human Geography	
Take <i>ONE</i> introductory physical geography course from the following: GEOGRAPH 100 Earth: Introduction to Physical Geography –OR- GEOGRAPH 110 Global Environmental Change –OR- GEOGRAPH 150 The Earth Transformed: World Environmental Issues	
Skills & Techniques (4 Courses)	12
GEOGRAPH 314 Writing in Geography (required; fulfills Junior Year Writing)	
GEOGRAPH 486 Field Methods in Geography (required; fulfills integrative experience requirement)	
Take <i>ONE</i> Statistics course from the following: GEOGRAPH 340 Quantitative Methods -OR- STATISTIC 240 Intro to Statistics –OR- RES-ECON 212 Intro to Statistics for Social Science –OR- SOCIOLOGY 212 Elementary Statistics	
Take <i>ONE</i> spatial methods class from the following: GEOGRAPH 352 Computer Mapping -OR- GEOGRAPH 426 Introduction to Remote Sensing -OR- GEOGRAPH 468 Introduction to GIS/GEOGRAPH 597G Introduction to GIS	
Upper-Division Elective Courses (7 Courses)	21
Students take 21 credits in Geography/cognate courses numbered 200 and above. These courses are chosen in consultation with the chief undergraduate adviser. Up to two courses may be approved cognate courses. Students may choose electives from the methods and skills courses (see list above) which they have not used to fulfill those requirements, may use any other GEOGRAPH courses, and may also take cognate elective courses outside of the Geography Program with the approval of the undergraduate advisor. Up to 3 credits may be independent study and an additional 3 credits may be senior thesis credits.	
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Additional requirements:	
BA students must fulfill the College of Natural Sciences foreign language requirement	

Geography BA - Environmental Geography and Sustainability Concentration

Introductory Courses (2 Courses)	8
GEOGRAPH 102 Diversity, Globalization, and Sustainability: Introduction to Human Geography	
Take ONE introductory physical geography course from the following: GEOGRAPH 100 Earth: Introduction to Physical Geography –OR- GEOGRAPH 110 Global Environmental Change –OR- GEOGRAPH 150 The Earth Transformed: World Environmental Issues	
Skills & Techniques (4 Courses)	12
GEOGRAPH 314 Writing in Geography (required; fulfills Junior Year Writing)	
GEOGRAPH 486 Field Methods in Geography (required; fulfills integrative experience requirement)	
Take ONE Statistics course from the following: GEOGRAPH 340 Quantitative Methods -OR- STATISTC 240 Intro to Statistics –OR- RES-ECON 212 Intro to Statistics for Social Science –OR- SOCIOLOGY 212 Elementary Statistics	
Take ONE spatial methods class from the following: GEOGRAPH 352 Computer Mapping -OR- GEOGRAPH 426 Introduction to Remote Sensing -OR- GEOGRAPH 468 Introduction to GIS/GEOGRAPH 597G Introduction to GIS	
Environmental Studies and Sustainability Core Course (1 course)	3
GEOGRAPH 492S Sustainability: Critical Perspectives and Pathways	
Environmental Studies and Sustainability Elective Courses (choose 3):	9
GEOGRAPH 360 Economic Geography	
GEOGRAPH 364 Geography of Development	
GEOGRAPH 372 Urban Issues	
GEOGRAPH 397WG Water Geographies: Conflict and Sustainability	
GEOGRAPH 420 Political Ecology	
GEOGRAPH 440 Political Geography	
GEOGRAPH 450 Indigenous Peoples and Conservation	
GEOGRAPH 458 Climate Change	
GEOGRAPH 497C Climate Crisis: Political Ecology of Climate Change	
GEOGRAPH 497E Geography, Policy and the Environment	
GEOGRAPH 497EG Energy Geographies	
GEOGRAPH 492NP National Parks and Protected Areas	
GEOGRAPH 492PA Protected Areas and Indigenous Peoples	
GEOGRAPH 492UH Urban Environmental History	
Other environmental studies/sustainability classes, such as courses in natural resource management, sustainable communities, economics, history or politics numbered 200+, with approval.	
Upper-Division Elective Courses	9
Students take 9 credits in Geography/cognate courses numbered 200 and above. These courses are chosen in consultation with the chief undergraduate adviser. At least 6 of these elective credits must be in Geography courses. Students may choose electives from the core courses or methods and skills courses (see lists above) which they have not used to fulfill those requirements, may use any other GEOGRAPH courses, and may also take elective cognate courses outside of the Geography Program with the approval of the undergraduate advisor. Up to 3 credits may be independent study and an additional 3 credits may be senior thesis credits.	
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Additional requirements:	
BA students must fulfill the College of Natural Sciences foreign language requirement	

Geography BA – Climate Change and Society Concentration

Introductory Courses (2 Courses)	8
GEOGRAPH 102 Diversity, Globalization, and Sustainability: Introduction to Human Geography	
Take <i>ONE</i> introductory physical geography course from the following: GEOGRAPH 100 Earth: Introduction to Physical Geography –OR- GEOGRAPH 110 Global Environmental Change –OR- GEOGRAPH 150 The Earth Transformed: World Environmental Issues	
Skills & Techniques (4 Courses)	12
GEOGRAPH 314 Writing in Geography (required; fulfills Junior Year Writing)	
GEOGRAPH 486 Field Methods in Geography (required; fulfills integrative experience requirement)	
Take <i>ONE</i> Statistics course from the following: GEOGRAPH 340 Quantitative Methods -OR- STATISTIC 240 Intro to Statistics –OR- RES-ECON 212 Intro to Statistics for Social Science –OR- SOCIOLOGY 212 Elementary Statistics	
Take <i>ONE</i> spatial methods class from the following: GEOGRAPH 352 Computer Mapping -OR- GEOGRAPH 426 Introduction to Remote Sensing -OR- GEOGRAPH 468 Introduction to GIS/GEOGRAPH 597G Introduction to GIS	
Climate and Society Required Core Courses (2 courses)	6
GEOGRAPH 354 Climatology	
GEOGRAPH 497C Climate Crisis: Political Ecology of Climate Change	
Climate and Society Elective Courses (choose 2):	6
GEOGRAPH 372 Urban Issues	
GEOGRAPH 458 Climate Change	
REGIONPL 585 Planning for Climate Change	
Other climate-centered social science/humanities classes, such as history, politics, or literature, numbered 200+, with approval of the Chief Undergraduate Adviser.	
Upper-Division Elective Courses (3 courses)	9
Students take 9 credits in Geography/cognate courses numbered 200 and above. These courses are chosen in consultation with the chief undergraduate adviser. At least 6 of these elective credits must be in Geography courses. Students may choose electives from the core courses or methods and skills courses (see lists above) which they have not used to fulfill those requirements, may use any other GEOGRAPH courses, and may also take elective cognate courses outside of the Geography Program with the approval of the undergraduate advisor. Up to 3 credits may be independent study and an additional 3 credits may be senior thesis credits.	
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Additional requirements:	
BA students must fulfill the College of Natural Sciences foreign language requirement	

Geography BA - Globalization and International Studies Concentration

International Experience Requirement	
Students must complete at least 6 of the credits for the degree (in any category except junior writing and integrative experience) in conjunction with a study-abroad program, internship, experiential learning program or other appropriate international academic experience involving a period of residence outside the United States. These courses are chosen in consultation with, and must be approved by, the Chief Undergraduate Adviser.	
Introductory Courses (2 Courses)	8
GEOGRAPH 102 Diversity, Globalization, and Sustainability: Introduction to Human Geography	
<i>Take ONE introductory physical geography course from the following:</i> GEOGRAPH 100 Earth: Introduction to Physical Geography –OR- GEOGRAPH 110 Global Environmental Change –OR- GEOGRAPH 150 The Earth Transformed: World Environmental Issues	
Skills & Techniques (4 Courses)	12
GEOGRAPH 314 Writing in Geography (required; fulfills Junior Year Writing)	
GEOGRAPH 486 Field Methods in Geography (required; fulfills integrative experience requirement)	
<i>Take ONE Statistics course from the following:</i> GEOGRAPH 340 Quantitative Methods -OR- STATISTIC 240 Intro to Statistics –OR- RES-ECON 212 Intro to Statistics for Social Science –OR- SOCIOLOGY 212 Elementary Statistics	
<i>Take ONE spatial methods class from the following:</i> GEOGRAPH 352 Computer Mapping -OR- GEOGRAPH 426 Introduction to Remote Sensing -OR- GEOGRAPH 468 Introduction to GIS/GEOGRAPH 597G Introduction to GIS	
Globalization and International Studies Required Courses (3 courses)	6
GEOGRAPH 220 World Regional Geography	
GEOGRAPH 398I International Experience Pre-trip	
GEOGRAPH 498I International Experience Capstone	
Globalization Elective Courses (choose 2)	6
GEOGRAPH 360 Economic Geography	
GEOGRAPH 364 Geography of Development	
GEOGRAPH 372 Urban Issues	
GEOGRAPH 397WG Water Geographies: Conflict and Sustainability	
GEOGRAPH 420 Political Ecology	
GEOGRAPH 440 Political Geography	
GEOGRAPH 450 Indigenous Peoples and Conservation	
GEOGRAPH 497EG Energy Geographies	
GEOGRAPH 492NP National Parks and Protected Areas	
GEOGRAPH 492PA Protected Areas and Indigenous Peoples	
Other globally-based social science/humanities classes, such as history, politics, or literature, numbered 200+, with approval of the Chief Undergraduate Adviser.	
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World Regional Elective Courses (choose 2)	6
GEOGRAPH 200 U.S. and Canada	
GEOGRAPH 330 East Asia	
GEOGRAPH 320 Latin America	
GEOGRAPH 332 Southeast Asia	
Other region-based social science/humanities classes, such as history, politics, or literature, numbered 200+, with approval of the Chief Undergraduate Adviser.	
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Additional requirements:	
BA students must fulfill the College of Natural Sciences foreign language requirement	

Geography BA - Urban Geography Concentration

Introductory Courses (2 Courses)	8
GEOGRAPH 102 Diversity, Globalization, and Sustainability: Introduction to Human Geography	
Take <i>ONE</i> introductory physical geography course from the following: GEOGRAPH 100 Earth: Introduction to Physical Geography –OR- GEOGRAPH 110 Global Environmental Change –OR- GEOGRAPH 150 The Earth Transformed: World Environmental Issues	
Skills & Techniques (4 Courses)	12
GEOGRAPH 314 Writing in Geography (required; fulfills Junior Year Writing)	
GEOGRAPH 486 Field Methods in Geography (required; fulfills integrative experience requirement)	
Take <i>ONE</i> Statistics course from the following: GEOGRAPH 340 Quantitative Methods -OR- STATISTIC 240 Intro to Statistics –OR- RES-ECON 212 Intro to Statistics for Social Science –OR- SOCIOLOGY 212 Elementary Statistics	
Take <i>ONE</i> spatial methods class from the following: GEOGRAPH 352 Computer Mapping -OR- GEOGRAPH 426 Introduction to Remote Sensing -OR- GEOGRAPH 468 Introduction to GIS/GEOGRAPH 597G Introduction to GIS	
Urban Geography Required Core Courses:	6
GEOGRAPH 370 Urban Geography	
GEOGRAPH 372 Urban Issues	
Urban Geography Elective Courses (choose 2; 1 may be a cognate course):	6
GEOGRAPH 470 Chinese Cities	
GEOGRAPH 497UE Urban Environmental History	
CLASSICS 380 The Ancient City	
SOCIOLOGY 360 Urban Sociology	
SUSTCOMM 580 Sustainable Cities	
ARCH 211 The City	
COMPLIT 292U Imagining the City	
HIST 591S U.S. Urban History	
HIST 382 City in Modern U.S.	
POLISCI 214 Urban Government & Politics	
Other urban-centered social science/humanities classes, such as sustainable communities, architecture, history, politics, or literature, numbered 200+, with approval of the Chief Undergraduate Adviser.	
Upper-Division Elective Courses	9
Students take 9 credits in Geography/cognate courses numbered 200 and above. These courses are chosen in consultation with the chief undergraduate adviser. One course may be an approved cognate course.	
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Additional requirements:	
BA students must fulfill the College of Natural Sciences foreign language requirement	

Geography BA - GIST Concentration

Introductory Courses (2 Courses)	8
GEOGRAPH 102 Diversity, Globalization, and Sustainability: Introductory Human Geography	
<i>plus one of the following:</i> GEOGRAPH 100 Earth: Introduction to Physical Geography –OR- GEOGRAPH 110 Global Environmental Change –OR- GEOGRAPH 150 The Earth Transformed: World Environmental Issues	
GIST Required Core Courses (3 Courses)	10
GEOGRAPH 352/592M Computer Mapping	
GEOGRAPH 426 Introduction to Remote Sensing	
GEOGRAPH 468 Introduction to GIS* -Or- GEOGRAPHY 597G Introduction to GIS*	
GIST Elective Courses (choose 2 Courses)	6
GEOGRAPH 497ARS/ 626 Advanced remote sensing**	
GEOGRAPH 497SDA/668 Spatial Data Analysis (advanced GIS)**	
GEOGRAPH 497GISP Advanced Practicum in GIS**	
GEOGRAPH 597WB Web GIS*	
--OR other advanced UMass or 5 College GIST courses with adviser's approval	
Skills & Techniques (3 Courses)	9
GEOGRAPH 314 Writing in Geography (required; fulfills Junior Year Writing)	
GEOGRAPH 486 Field Methods in Geography (required; fulfills integrative experience requirement)	
Take ONE Statistics course from the following list: GEOGRAPH 340 Quantitative Methods -OR- STATISTC 240 Intro to Statistics –OR- RES-ECON 212 Intro to Statistics for Social Science –OR- SOCIOLOGY 212 Elementary Statistics	
Upper-Division Elective Courses (2-3 courses; 8 credits)	8
Students take 8 credits in Geography/cognate courses numbered 200 and above. These courses are chosen in consultation with the chief undergraduate adviser. At least 6 of these elective credits must be in GEOGRAPH courses. Students may choose electives from any of the above courses which they have not used to fulfill requirements or may use any other GEOGRAPH courses. They may also take cognate elective courses outside Program with the approval of the undergraduate adviser. Up to 3 credits may be independent study and an additional 3 credits may be senior thesis credits.	
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Additional requirements:	
BA students must fulfill the College of Natural Sciences foreign language requirement	