

Geography Degrees at UMass Amherst: BA Concentrations

All seven degree choices share a common core which establishes a foundation in Geography and build job-related skills such as GIS and statistical analysis, professional writing, and field research design and methodology. Each option includes the core curriculum plus an upper-division concentration.

THE GEOGRAPHY UNDERGRADUATE CORE CURRICULUM

20 credits for both BA & BS

- A. **Introductory Courses in Human and Physical Geography** (8 credits)
- B. **Skills & Techniques:** Writing, Research Methods, Quantitative Analysis, Mapping/GIS/Remote Sensing (12 credits)

BA-GEOGRAPHY UPPER-DIVISION CONCENTRATION OPTIONS

BA students choose one concentration. This coursework is in addition to the core curriculum. 21 credits
BA students must fulfill the College of Natural Sciences foreign language requirement.

HUMAN GEOGRAPHY CONCENTRATION

Students take 21 elective credits in Geography/cognate courses numbered 200 and above. These courses are chosen in consultation with the chief undergraduate adviser.

ENVIRONMENTAL GEOGRAPHY AND SUSTAINABILITY CONCENTRATION

- A. Environmental Geography and Sustainability Core Course (3 credits)
- B. Environmental Geography and Sustainability Elective Courses (9 credits)
- C. General Elective Courses in Geography and Cognate Fields (9 credits)

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SOCIETY CONCENTRATION

- A. Core courses in Climatology and Political Ecology of Climate Change (6 credits)
- B. Climate and Society Elective Courses (6 credits)
- C. General Elective Courses in Geography and Cognate Fields (9 credits)

GLOBALIZATION AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES CONCENTRATION

At least 6 of these credits must be in conjunction with a study-abroad program, internship, experiential learning program or other international academic experience involving a period of residence outside the U.S.

- A. Globalization/International Studies Core Course (World Regional Geography), pre-trip & capstone (6 credits)
- B. Globalization Elective courses (6 credits)
- C. International Studies Elective courses (6 credits)
- D. General Elective Course in Geography or a Cognate Field (3 credits)

URBAN GEOGRAPHY CONCENTRATION

- A. Core Courses in Urban Geography and Urban Issues (6 credits)
- B. Urban Geography Elective Courses (6 credits)
- C. General Elective Courses in Geography and Cognate Fields (9 credits)

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (GIST) CONCENTRATION

- A. Two Additional Mapping/GIS/Remote Sensing Core Courses (6-8 credits)
- B. GIST Elective Courses (6 credits)
- C. General Elective Courses in Geography and Cognate Fields (9 credits)

Geography Degrees at UMass Amherst: BS-Physical Geography, Minor, GIST Certificate & 4+1 GIST MS

BS-Physical Geography majors complete the Geography Undergraduate Core Curriculum plus the BS-Physical Geography requirements as follows:

THE GEOGRAPHY UNDERGRADUATE CORE CURRICULUM

20 credits for both BA & BS

- A. **Introductory Courses in Human and Physical Geography** (8 credits)
- B. **Skills & Techniques:** Writing, Research Methods, Quantitative Analysis, Mapping/GIS/Remote Sensing (12 credits)

BS-PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY REQUIREMENTS

BS-Physical Geography students take the following courses in addition to the Geography undergraduate core curriculum (see above)

- A. General Science Courses (25-31 credits)
- B. Advanced Physical Geography Courses (9 credits)
- C. General Elective Courses in Geography and Cognate Fields (15 credits)

Opportunities in Geography for all UMass undergraduates

All UMass Amherst undergraduate students, regardless of major, may complete a geography minor, a GIST certificate, and/or a GIST 4+1 MS degree as follows:

GEOGRAPHY MINOR

Students wishing to earn a minor in Geography take five GEOGRAPH courses, including one 100-level course.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY CERTIFICATE

- A. Three required foundation courses in mapping, GIS and remote sensing (11 credits)
- B. Two advanced elective courses (6-8 credits)

For more information on the GIST certificate, contact Professor Qian Yu, gyu@geo.umass.edu

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY “4+1” M.S.

Undergraduates accepted into the 4+1 program may apply 3 graduate courses taken as an undergrad to a Geography M.S., GIST concentration, provided those courses are not used toward the undergrad degree.

For more information on the 4+1 M.S. in GIST, contact Professor Qian Yu, gyu@geo.umass.edu