



Alignment of Degree Programs

CIP Code & Title: 45.0701 Geography

Level: Bachelor's

Area of Strategic Emphasis: None

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Bachelor of Arts in Geography offers courses in Physical Geography, Human Geography, and Geographic Information Systems. Human Geography courses focus on the social and spatial effects of the growth of cities, including issues such as the historical evolution of urban form and function, land-use changes and conflicts, economic restructuring, the growth and decline of inner cities, and urban racial and ethnic relations. Physical Geography courses focus on major environmental systems including the hydrosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) courses provide skills in GIS and technology, remote sensing, geovisualization, and spatial analysis and modelling. Particular emphasis is placed on the human modification of the natural environment and the global interconnections of the major earth systems.

CURRICULUM:

A. Student Learning Outcomes:

Goal 1: Discipline Specific Content Knowledge and Skills

- 1a. Outcome: Upon completing the capstone course Geography Colloquium, students will demonstrate knowledge of fundamental concepts of human and physical geography by describing global human systems and their diverse social, cultural, and economic characteristics and processes over space and time. To achieve this outcome, students will read current scholarly articles in the discipline, engage in course discussions, and critically analyze the research in breakout groups. These activities culminate in a research report that students include in a Comprehensive Professional Portfolio.
- 1b. Outcome: The research reports are evaluated by two members of the Geosciences faculty using a rubric approved by the Geosciences Undergraduate Committee. The rubric evaluates the level of achievement as Benchmark (1 point), Milestone (2 points), or Capstone (3 points). Interrater reliability is measured using the percent agreement calculation. If the percent agreement is greater than 75%, then the rubric is acceptable. If the percent agreement is less than 75%, then the rubric is evaluated by the Geosciences Undergraduate Committee for recalibration.

Goal 2: Communication Skills

- 2a. Outcome: Upon completing the capstone course Geography Colloquium, students will be able to critically analyze and formulate solutions for geographic problems using contemporary geographical research tools by demonstrating the ability to independently collect, display, analyze, and interpret geographic data using cartographic, GIS, GPS, RS,

statistical, and qualitative methods. These activities culminate in a research report that students include in a Comprehensive Professional Portfolio.

- 2b. Outcome: Critical thinking is a habit of mind characterized by the comprehensive exploration of issues, ideas, artifacts, and events before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion. The research reports are evaluated by two members of the Geosciences faculty using a rubric approved by the Geosciences Undergraduate Committee. The rubric evaluates the level of achievement as Benchmark (1 point), Milestone (2 points), or Capstone (3 points). Interrater reliability is measured using the percent agreement calculation. If the percent agreement is greater than 75%, then the rubric is acceptable and the raters' scores are averaged. If the percent agreement is less than 75%, then the rubric is evaluated by the Geosciences Undergraduate Committee for recalibration.

Goal 3: Critical Thinking Skills

- 3a. Outcome: Upon completing the capstone course Geography Colloquium, students will demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate geographic information by proficiently writing a research paper for a contemporary geographic problem. These activities culminate in a Comprehensive Professional Portfolio.
- 3b. Outcome: The Comprehensive Professional Portfolios are evaluated by two members of the Geosciences faculty using a rubric approved by the Geosciences Undergraduate Committee. The rubric evaluates the level of achievement as Benchmark (1 point), Milestone (2 points), or Capstone (3 points). Interrater reliability is measured using the percent agreement calculation. If the percent agreement is greater than 75%, then the rubric is acceptable and the raters' scores are averaged. If the percent agreement is less than 75%, then the rubric is evaluated by the Geosciences Undergraduate Committee for recalibration.

B. Admission Standards for the Program:

B1. University Admissions: Admission to the University is based on the University's Undergraduate Admission Requirements that may be found by clicking on the following urls:

- **Freshman:** <https://www.usf.edu/admissions/freshmen/admission-information/requirements-deadlines.aspx>
- **Transfer:** <https://www.usf.edu/admissions/transfer/admission-information/index.aspx>
- **International:** <https://www.usf.edu/admissions/international/admission-information/index.aspx>

C. Graduation Requirements for the Program:

Satisfactory completion of the following requirements:

- General Education Program (36 credit hours), including State Core General Education, State Computation and State Communication;
- Minimum of 120 unduplicated credit hours;
- A minimum adjusted grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 on all coursework taken at USF and an overall 2.0 GPA average on all college-level coursework;
- Major and college requirements in a chosen degree program;

- Nine credit hours of coursework taken during the summer term(s) (if entered USF with less than 60 credit hours);
- Registration and successful completion of at least thirty (30) of the last sixty (60) credit hours;
- 42 credit hours of upper-level coursework;
- Civics Literacy;
- Foreign language admissions coursework.

D. Curricular Framework:

D1. State Mandated Common Prerequisites:

State Mandated	Credits	USF Course	Credits
One introductory course in Geography with GEO prefix: GEO XXXX	3	GEO 2200 Introduction to Physical Geography (3)	3
One introductory course in Geography with GEO prefix: GEO XXXX	3	GEO 2400 Human Geography (3)	3
Total Credit Hours	6	Total Credit Hours	6

D2. Required Courses: (19 credit hours)

D2a. Major Core Courses: 7 courses; 19 credit hours

- GEO 2400 Human Geography (3)
- GEO 2200 Introduction to Physical Geography (3)
- GIS 3006 Mapping and Geovisualization (3)
- GIS 4043C Geographic Information Systems (3)
- GEO 4340 Natural Hazards (3)
- EVR 4910 Environmental Science and Policy Project (3)
- GEO 4933 Geography Colloquium (1)

D3. Major (Restricted) Electives: (18 credit hours)

Students complete a Geography and Geographic Information Systems program of study or complete and one of two concentrations: Geography or Geographic Information Systems.

D3a. Geography Concentration: 6 courses; 18 credit hours

Concentration Core: 3 courses; 9 credit hours

- GEA 2000 World Regional Geography (3)
- GEO 4502 Economic Geography (3)
- EVR 4114 Climate Change (3)

Concentration (Restricted) Electives: 3 courses; 9 credit hours

Choose 3 courses (9 credit hours) from the following list of courses:

- GEO 3164 Research Methods (3)
- GIS 4035C Remote Sensing of the Environment (3)
- EVR 3218 Wildlife Research Methods (3)
- GEO 3112 Qualitative Research Methods (3)
- GEO 2400 Human Geography (3)

- GEO 3352 The Human Footprint on the Landscape (3)
- GEO 3602 Urban Geography (3)
- GEO 4210 Process Geomorphology (3)
- GEO 4372 Global Conservation (3)
- GEO 4284 Water Resources Management (3)
- GEO 4471 Political Geography (3)
- GEO 4930 Special Topics in Geography (3)
- GIS 4302C GIS for Sustainability (3)
- GEO 4265 Soil Genesis and Classification (3)
- GEO 3280 Environmental Hydrology (3)
- GEO 4340 Natural Hazards
- GEO 4700 Transportation Geography (3)
- GEO 4450 Medical Geography (3)
- EVR 4027 Wetland Environments (3)
- EVR 4051 Environmental Field Methods (3)
- EVR 4104 Karst Environments (3)
- GLY 4734 Beaches and Coasts (3)
- MET 4106C Climate Studies (3)
- EVR 4163 Forest Ecology and Management (3)
- EVR 4807 Sustainable Healthy Environments (3)
- URP 4052 Urban and Regional Planning (3)
- URP 4050 City Planning and Community Development (3)

D3b. Geographic Information Systems Concentration: 6 courses; 18 credit hours

Concentration Core: 3 courses; 9 credit hours

- GEO 3164C Research Methods in Geography (3)
- GIS 4035C Remote Sensing of the Environment (3)
- EVR 3218 Wildlife Research Techniques (3)

Concentration (Restricted) Electives: 3 courses; 9 credit hours

Choose 3 courses (9 credit hours) from the following list of courses:

- GIS 4302C GIS for Sustainability (4)
- GEO 3280 Environmental Hydrology (3)
- GEO 4502 Economic Geography (3)
- GEO 4700 Transportation Geography (3)
- GEO 4450 Medical Geography (3)
- EVR 4051 Environmental Field Methods (3)
- GEO 4265 Soil Genesis and Classification (3)
- GIS 4300 Environmental Modeling with GIS (3)
- GEO 4114C Geographic Techniques and Methodology (3)
- GEO 4930 Selected Topics (1-3)
- GEO 3602 Urban Geography (3)
- EVR 4027 Wetland Environments (3)
- EDG 3801 Cybersecurity and the Everyday Citizen (3)
- IDC 2000C Introduction to Scientific Computing (3)
- URP 4052 Urban and Regional Planning (3)
- URP 4050 City Planning and Community Development (3)

D4. Sequenced Course of Study:

- An exclamation mark (!) is indicated for any course and/or placeholder that must be taken in sequence and/or in the semester listed.
- Course Type refers to how the course is utilized in the degree program, e.g., Supporting, Major Core, Business Foundation, etc. It also includes “placeholder” information such as: Civics Literacy Test, Apply for Graduation.
- General Education Course Type refers to the General Education core area the course meets.

D4a. 8-Semester Plan for FTIC Students

Fall 1						
!	Current Course Prefix and Number	Course Type	State Mandated Common Prerequisite	Enhanced General Education Requirement	General Education Course Type	Total
	GEO 2200	Major Core	Yes	No		3
	XXX XXXX	General/Unrestricted Elective	No	No		3
	XXX XXXX		No	Yes	State Computation	3
	ENC 1101		No	Yes	State Core General Education Communication	3
		Placeholder: Civics Literacy Exam				
Total Semester Credit Hours:						12

Spring 1						
!	Current Course Prefix and Number	Course Type	State Mandated Common Prerequisite	Enhanced General Education Requirement	General Education Course Type	Total
	XXX XXXX		No	Yes	State Core General Education Natural Sciences	3
	XXX XXXX		No	Yes	State Core General Education Social Sciences	3
	ENC 1102		No	Yes	Enhanced General Education	3
	XXX XXXX	General/Unrestricted Elective	No	No		3
Total Semester Credit Hours:						12

Summer 1						
!	Current Course Prefix and Number	Course Type	State Mandated Common Prerequisite	Enhanced General Education Requirement	General Education Course Type	Total
	XXX XXXX		No	Yes	State Core General Education Humanities	3
	XXX XXXX	General/Unrestricted Elective	No	No		3
Total Term Credit Hours:						6

Fall 2						
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!	Current Course Prefix and Number	Course Type	State Mandated Common Prerequisite	Enhanced General Education Requirement	General Education Course Type	Total
	GEO 2400	Major Core	Yes	Yes	Enhanced General Education Human and Cultural Diversity	3
	XXX XXXX	General/Unrestricted Elective	No	No		3
	STA 2023		No	Yes	State Core General Education Mathematics	3
	XXX XXXX	Foreign Language Exit	No	No		4
Total Semester Credit Hours:						13

Spring 2						
!	Current Course Prefix and Number	Course Type	State Mandated Common Prerequisite	Enhanced General Education Requirement	General Education Course Type	Total
	XXX XXXX		No	No	Enhanced General Education Creative Thinking	3
	XXX XXXX	Foreign Language Exit	No	No		4
!	GIS 3006	Major Core	No	Yes	Enhanced General Education Information and Digital Literacy	3
		General/Unrestricted Elective	No	No		3
Total Semester Credit Hours:						13

Summer 2						
!	Current Course Prefix and Number	Course Type	State Mandated Common Prerequisite	Enhanced General Education Requirement	General Education Course Type	Total
	XXX XXXX	General/Unrestricted Elective	No	No		3
	XXX XXXX	General/Unrestricted Elective	No	No		3
Total Term Credit Hours:						6

Fall 3						
!	Current Course Prefix and Number	Course Type	State Mandated Common Prerequisite	Enhanced General Education Requirement	General Education Course Type	Total
!	GIS 4043C	Major Core	No	No		3
	XXX XXXX	Upper-Level Elective	No	No		3
	XXX XXXX	Concentration Core	No	No		3
	XXX XXXX	Upper-Level Elective	No	No		3
Total Semester Credit Hours:						12

Spring 3						
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!	Current Course Prefix and Number	Course Type	State Mandated Common Prerequisite	Enhanced General Education Requirement	General Education Course Type	Total
	GEO 4340	Major Core	No	No		3
	XXX XXXX	Concentration Core	No	No		3
	XXX XXXX	Upper-Level Elective	No	No		3
	XXX XXXX	General/Unrestricted Elective				2
	XXX XXXX	Concentration Core	No	No		3
Total Semester Credit Hours:						15

Summer 3						
!	Current Course Prefix and Number	Course Type	State Mandated Common Prerequisite	Enhanced General Education Requirement	General Education Course Type	Total
	XXX XXXX	Upper-Level Elective	No	No		3
	XXX XXXX	Upper-Level Elective	No	No		3
Total Term Credit Hours:						6

Fall 4						
!	Current Course Prefix and Number	Course Type	State Mandated Common Prerequisite	Enhanced General Education Requirement	General Education Course Type	Total
	XXX XXXX	Upper-Level Elective	No	No		3
	XXX XXXX	Concentration Elective	No	No		3
	XXX XXXX	Concentration Elective	No	No		3
	XXX XXXX	Upper-Level Elective	No	No		3
Total Semester Credit Hours:						12

Spring 4						
!	Current Course Prefix and Number	Course Type	State Mandated Common Prerequisite	Enhanced General Education Requirement	General Education Course Type	Total
	XXX XXXX		No	Yes	Enhanced General Education Ethical Reasoning and Civic Engagement Community Engaged Learning	3
	XXX XXXX		No	Yes	Enhanced General Education High Impact Practice Internship	3
	XXX XXXX	Concentration Elective	No	No		3
	EVR 4910	Major Core	No	No		3
	GEO 4933	Major Core	No	No		1
Total Semester Credit Hours:						13

Total Degree Program Credit Hours:						120
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D4b. 4-Semester Plan for FCS AA Transfer Students

Fall 1						
!	Current Course Prefix and Number	Course Type	State Mandated Common Prerequisite	Enhanced General Education Requirement	Intentionally Left Blank	Total
	GEO 2200	Major Core	No	No		3
!	GIS 3006	Major Core	No	No		3
	XXX XXXX	Upper-Level Elective	No	No		3
	XXX XXXX	Concentration Core	No	No		3
	XXX XXXX	Upper-Level Elective	No	No		2
Total Semester Credit Hours:						14

Spring 1						
!	Current Course Prefix and Number	Course Type	State Mandated Common Prerequisite	Enhanced General Education Requirement	Intentionally Left Blank	Total
!	GIS 4043C	Major Core	No	No		3
	GEO 2400	Major Core	No	No		3
	XXX XXXX	Concentration Core	No	No		3
	XXX XXXX	Upper-Level Elective	No	No		4
Total Semester Credit Hours:						13

Summer 1						
!	Current Course Prefix and Number	Course Type	State Mandated Common Prerequisite	Enhanced General Education Requirement	Intentionally Left Blank	Total
	XXX XXXX	Foreign Language Exit	No	No		4
	XXX XXXX	Upper-Level Elective	No	No		3
Total Term Credit Hours:						7

Fall 2						
!	Current Course Prefix and Number	Course Type	State Mandated Common Prerequisite	Enhanced General Education Requirement	Intentionally Left Blank	Total
	GEO 4340	Major Core	No	No		3
	XXX XXXX	Concentration Core	No	No		3
	XXX XXXX	Foreign Language Exit	No	No		4
	XXX XXXX	Concentration Elective	No	No		3
Total Semester Credit Hours:						13

Spring 2						
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!	Current Course Prefix and Number	Course Type	State Mandated Common Prerequisite	Enhanced General Education Requirement	Intentionally Left Blank	Total
	XXX XXXX	Concentration Elective	No	No		3
	XXX XXXX	Upper-Level Elective	No	No		3
	XXX XXXX	Upper-Level Elective	No	No		3
	EVR 4910	Major Core	No	No		3
	GEO 4933	Major Core	No	No		1
Total Semester Credit Hours:						13

Total Credit Hours:						60
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ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Unless stated otherwise, a grade of C- is the minimum acceptable grade in prerequisite courses.
- Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 major GPA in order to graduate.

NOTES:

- Discontinuing current General Geography, Human Geography, Physical Geography, Society and Environment, and Geospatial Sciences concentrations.
- No changes in the State Mandated Common Prerequisite courses.
- Do not anticipate any significant increase in students and the student to faculty ratio post consolidation is expected to be stable.