GEOGRAPHY - B.A.

Description

Geography is a growing field that offers a wide range of career options. Geographers study both natural science and social science. Natural science topics include spatial patterns of rocks, soils, animals, plants, climate and weather. Social science topics include spatial patterns of culture, policy, conflict, demographics, economics, resources and waste, with an emphasis on investigating the intersection of human activity and environmental processes. We use a variety of geospatial technologies to map the world in different ways from the global to the local.

Geographers use data (environmental and social statistics, interviews, textual and landscape analysis, and archival documents) to describe the natural and social patterns we see and then we apply our knowledge of human and environmental processes to analyze why these patterns exist. We ask “Where?” and then we ask “Why?” We work at the intersection of multiple disciplines: geology, ecology, climate science, urban planning, economics, sociology, computer science and the humanities, using this knowledge to examine spatial processes. We use GIS software and remote sensing for spatial analysis and cartography. Geography offers a unique way of seeing and understanding the world, combined with the ability to communicate this understanding to others.

As a geography major, you’ll have a vast array of career options available to you. While you will not see many positions advertised for a “geographer,” an understanding of human and environmental processes from a spatial perspective is essential in many careers. We work in environmental, social and GIS fields, where we implement our spatial skill sets to analyze problems and recommend solutions.

The Geography major comprises the following concentrations:

- **Environmental geographers** work as conservation or parks managers, surveyors, remote sensing technicians, ecologists, hydrologists, water resource managers, national park rangers, climatologists, meteorologists, hazards analysts, epidemiologists, and climate change analysts.

- **Social geographers** work as city engineers, urban planners, foreign affairs officers, preservationists, non-profit directors, demographers, cultural resources managers, lobbyists, congressional staffers, emergency management specialists, educators, journalists, community development directors, lawyers, and market analysts.

- **Geographic information scientists** work as analysts for the federal, state, and local government, for businesses and non-profits, and they also serve as GIS developers, remote sensors, instructors, web developers, and cartographers.

FULLY OFFERED AT:

- Kent Campus

Admission Requirements

The university affirmatively strives to provide educational opportunities and access to students with varied backgrounds, those with special talents and adult students who graduated from high school three or more years ago.

**Freshman Students on the Kent Campus:** The freshman admission policy on the Kent Campus is selective. Admission decisions are based upon the following: cumulative grade point average, ACT and/or SAT scores, strength of high school college preparatory curriculum and grade trends. The Admissions Office at the Kent Campus may defer the admission of students who do not meet admissions criteria but who demonstrate areas of promise for successful college study. Deferred applicants may begin their college coursework at one of seven Regional Campuses of Kent State University. For more information on admissions, including additional requirements for some academic programs, visit the admissions website for new freshmen.

**Freshman Students on the Regional Campuses:** Kent State campuses at Ashtabula, East Liverpool, Geauga, Salem, Stark, Trumbull and Tuscarawas, as well as the Regional Academic Center in Twinsburg, have open enrollment admission for students who hold a high school diploma, GED or equivalent.

**English Language Proficiency Requirements for International Students:** All international students must provide proof of English language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions) by earning a minimum 525 TOEFL score (71 on the Internet-based version), minimum 75 MELAB score, minimum 6.0 IELTS score or minimum 48 PTE Academic score, or by completing the ELS level 112 Intensive Program. For more information on international admission, visit the Office of Global Education’s admission website.

**Transfer, Transitioning and Former Students:** For more information about admission criteria for transfer, transitioning and former students, please visit the admissions website.

University Requirements

All students in a bachelor’s degree program at Kent State University must complete the following university requirements for graduation.

**NOTE:** University requirements may be fulfilled in this program by specific course requirements. Please see Program Requirements for details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits/Courses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Destination Kent State: First Year Experience</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course is not required for students with 25 transfer credits, excluding College Credit Plus, or age 21+ at time of admission.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diversity Domestic/Global (DIV/DIVG)</td>
<td>2 courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students must successfully complete one domestic and one global course, of which one must be from the Kent Core.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Experiential Learning Requirement (ELR)</td>
<td>varies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students must successfully complete one course or approved experience.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kent Core (see table below)</td>
<td>36-37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing-Intensive Course (WIC)</td>
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<td>Students must earn a minimum C grade in the course.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upper-Division Requirement</td>
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</table>
Students must successfully complete 39 upper-division (numbered 30000 to 49999) credit hours to graduate. Students in a B.A. and/or B.S. degree in the College of Arts and Sciences must complete 42 upper-division credit hours.

**Total Credit Hour Requirement**

120

Some bachelor’s degrees require students to complete more than 120 credit hours.

### Kent Core Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits/Courses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kent Core Composition (KCMP)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent Core Mathematics and Critical Reasoning (KMCR)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent Core Humanities and Fine Arts (KHUM/KFA) (min one course each)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent Core Social Sciences (KSS) (must be from two disciplines)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent Core Basic Sciences (KBS/KLAB) (must include one laboratory)</td>
<td>6-7</td>
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<td>Kent Core Additional (KADL)</td>
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</table>

**Total Credit Hours:**

36-37

### Program Requirements

#### Major Requirements

**Major Requirements (courses count in major GPA)**

- GEOG 17063 WORLD GEOGRAPHY (DIVG) (KSS) 3
- **or** GEOG 17064 GEOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA (DIVD) (KSS) 3
- GEOG 21062 PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY (KBS) 3
- GEOG 21063 PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY LABORATORY (KBS) (KLAB) 1
- GEOG 22061 HUMAN GEOGRAPHY (DIVG) (KSS) 3
- GEOG 29160 MAPPING OUR WORLD 3
- GEOG 39002 STATISTICAL METHODS IN GEOGRAPHY 3
- GEOG 40191 SEMINAR IN GEOGRAPHY (ELR) (WIC) 1
- GEOG 49070 GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE 4

**Regional Geography Elective, choose from the following:**

- GEOG 37010 GEOGRAPHY OF OHIO 3
- GEOG 37040 GEOGRAPHY OF AFRICA (DIVG) 3
- GEOG 37050 GEOGRAPHY OF RUSSIA AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES (DIVG) 3
- GEOG 37066 GEOGRAPHY OF EUROPE (DIVG) 3
- GEOG 37070 GEOGRAPHY OF EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA (DIVG) 3
- GEOG 37072 GEOGRAPHY OF CHINA 3
- GEOG 37079 GEOGRAPHY OF SOUTH ASIA (DIVG) 3
- GEOG 37084 GEOGRAPHY OF SOUTH AMERICA (DIVG) 3
- GEOG 37085 GEOGRAPHY OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (DIVG) 3
- GEOG 37095 SPECIAL TOPICS IN REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY 3

**Additional Requirements (courses do not count in major GPA)**

- UC 10097 DESTINATION KENT STATE: FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE 1
- Foreign Language (see Foreign Language College Requirement below) 14-16
- College General Requirement (must be from Kent Core Basic Sciences) 2 3
- College General Requirement (must be from Kent Core Social Sciences) 3

### Concentrations

- **Kent Core Composition** 6
- **Kent Core Mathematics and Critical Reasoning** 3
- **Kent Core Humanities and Fine Arts** (minimum one course from each) 9
- **Kent Core Social Sciences** (must be from two disciplines) 3
- **Kent Core Basic Sciences** 2-3
- **Kent Core Additional** 3
- **General Electives** (total credit hours depends on earning 120 credit hours, including 42 upper-division credit hours) 28

### Minimum Total Credit Hours:

120

1. A minimum C grade must be earned to fulfill the writing-intensive requirement.
2. One additional course taken from the Kent Core Basic Science courses in the following Arts and Sciences disciplines: Anthropology (ANTH), Biological Sciences (BSCI), Chemistry (CHEM), Geography (GEOG), Geology (GEOG) or Physics (PHY). The course may not be from the student's major.
3. One additional course taken from the Kent Core Social Sciences courses in the following Arts and Sciences disciplines: Anthropology (ANTH), Applied Conflict Management (CACM), Geography (GEOG), Criminology and Justice Studies (CRIM), Political Science (POL), Psychology (PSYC) or Sociology (SOC). The course may not be from the student's major.

### Graduation Requirements

**Minimum Major GPA**

2.000

**Minimum Overall GPA**

2.000

### Foreign Language College Requirement

Students pursuing the Bachelor of Arts degree in the College of Arts and Sciences must complete 14-16 credit hours of foreign language.

To complete the requirement, students have the equivalent of Elementary I and II in any language, plus one of the following options:

1. Intermediate I and II of the same language
2. Elementary I and II of a second language
3. Any combination of two courses from the following list:
   - MCLS 10001 INTRODUCTION TO STRUCTURAL CONCEPTS FOR LANGUAGE STUDENTS
   - MCLS 20000 GLOBAL LITERACY AND CULTURAL AWARENESS
   - MCLS 20091 VARIABLE CONTENT SEMINAR IN GLOBAL LITERACY: CASE STUDIES
   - MCLS 21417 MULTICULTURALISM IN TODAY'S GERMANY (DIVG)
   - MCLS 22217 DIVERSITY IN TODAY'S RUSSIA (DIVG)
   - MCLS 23217 THE FRANCOPHONE EXPERIENCE (DIVG)
   - MCLS 28404 THE LATIN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE (DIVG)
   - MCLS 28405 THE SPANISH EXPERIENCE (DIVG)
Environmental Geography Concentration

[AS-BA-GEOG-ENVG]

Concentration Requirements (courses count in major GPA)

Environmental Geography Electives, choose from the following: 12

- GEOG 31062 FUNDAMENTALS OF METEOROLOGY
- GEOG 31064 PRINCIPLES OF CLIMATOLOGY
- GEOG 31080 GEOGRAPHY OF WINE
- GEOG 41051 NATURAL DISASTERS AND SOCIETY
- GEOG 41052 GLACIERS AND GLACIATION
- GEOG 41065 APPLIED CLIMATOLOGY
- GEOG 41066 CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACT
- GEOG 41073 CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
- GEOG 41074 RESOURCE GEOGRAPHY
- GEOG 41082 GEOGRAPHY OF SOILS
- GEOG 41195 SPECIAL TOPICS IN ENVIRONMENTAL GEOGRAPHY

Geographic Information Elective, choose from the following: 3

- GEOG 44070 SPATIAL ANALYSIS AND LOCATION THEORY
- GEOG 49072 GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE AND HEALTH
- GEOG 49075 GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE: URBAN AND ECONOMIC APPLICATIONS
- GEOG 49076 SPATIAL PROGRAMMING
- GEOG 49078 GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS
- GEOG 49080 ADVANCED GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE
- GEOG 49085 WEB AND MOBILE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE
- GEOG 49162 CARTOGRAPHY AND GEOVISUALIZATION
- GEOG 49163 CARTOGRAPHY AND GEOVISUALIZATION LABORATORY
- GEOG 49195 SPECIAL TOPICS IN GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE
- GEOG 49230 REMOTE SENSING

Social Geography Elective, choose from the following: 3

- GEOG 31070 POPULATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT
- GEOG 32080 POLITICS AND PLACE (DIVG)
- GEOG 34070 ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY
- GEOG 35065 GEOGRAPHY OF TRANSPORTATION AND SPATIAL INTERACTION

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 18

Geographic Information Concentration

[AS-BA-GEOG-GINF]

Concentration Requirements (courses count in major GPA)

Environmental Geography Elective, choose from the following: 3

- GEOG 31062 FUNDAMENTALS OF METEOROLOGY
- GEOG 31064 PRINCIPLES OF CLIMATOLOGY
- GEOG 31080 GEOGRAPHY OF WINE
- GEOG 41051 NATURAL DISASTERS AND SOCIETY
- GEOG 41052 GLACIERS AND GLACIATION
- GEOG 41065 APPLIED CLIMATOLOGY
- GEOG 41066 CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACT
- GEOG 41073 CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
- GEOG 41074 RESOURCE GEOGRAPHY
- GEOG 41082 GEOGRAPHY OF SOILS
- GEOG 41195 SPECIAL TOPICS IN ENVIRONMENTAL GEOGRAPHY

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- GEOG 44070 SPATIAL ANALYSIS AND LOCATION THEORY
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- GEOG 49078 GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS
- GEOG 49080 ADVANCED GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE
- GEOG 49085 WEB AND MOBILE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE
- GEOG 49162 CARTOGRAPHY AND GEOVISUALIZATION
- GEOG 49163 CARTOGRAPHY AND GEOVISUALIZATION LABORATORY
- GEOG 49195 SPECIAL TOPICS IN GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE
- GEOG 49230 REMOTE SENSING

Social Geography Elective, choose from the following: 3

- GEOG 31070 POPULATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT
- GEOG 32080 POLITICS AND PLACE (DIVG)
- GEOG 34070 ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY
- GEOG 35065 GEOGRAPHY OF TRANSPORTATION AND SPATIAL INTERACTION

GEOG 36065 CITIES AND URBANIZATION (DIVG)
GEOG 42040 TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND RECREATIONAL TRAVEL
GEOG 42052 MEDICAL GEOGRAPHY
GEOG 42053 GEOGRAPHIES OF MEMORY AND HERITAGE
GEOG 42064 HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA
GEOG 42070 SEMINAR IN ETHNIC LIFESTYLE AND NATIONAL COMMUNITIES
GEOG 42195 SPECIAL TOPICS IN SOCIAL GEOGRAPHY
GEOG 44010 GEOGRAPHY OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY (WIC)
GEOG 45085 URBAN TRANSPORTATION
GEOG 46070 URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING
GEOG 46080 URBAN SUSTAINABILITY
GEOG 46081 SEMINAR IN URBAN GEOGRAPHY

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 18
Social Geography Concentration
[AS-BA-GEOG-SSEG]

Concentration Requirements (courses count in major GPA)

Environmental Geography Elective, choose from the following: 3
- GEOG 31062 FUNDAMENTALS OF METEOROLOGY
- GEOG 31064 PRINCIPLES OF CLIMATOLOGY
- GEOG 31080 GEOGRAPHY OF WINE
- GEOG 41051 NATURAL DISASTERS AND SOCIETY
- GEOG 41052 GLACIERS AND GLACIATION
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Social Geography Electives, choose from the following: 12
- GEOG 31070 POPULATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT
- GEOG 32080 POLITICS AND PLACE (DIVG)
- GEOG 34070 ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY
- GEOG 35065 GEOGRAPHY OF TRANSPORTATION AND SPATIAL INTERACTION

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 18
**Roadmap**

This roadmap is a recommended semester-by-semester plan of study for this major. However, courses designated as critical (!) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<td><strong>Semester One</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOG 17063</td>
<td>WORLD GEOGRAPHY (DIVG) (KSS)</td>
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<td>or GEOG 17064</td>
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<td>UC 10097</td>
<td>DESTINATION KENT STATE: FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE</td>
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<td>GEOG 29160</td>
<td>MAPPING OUR WORLD</td>
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**Semester Eight**

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Minimum Total Credit Hours: 120