

GEOGRAPHY - B.A.

College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Geography
www.kent.edu/geography

About This Program

The Geography B.A. program offers a comprehensive education in the field of geography, including the physical, social and cultural aspects of the world. With experienced faculty and real-world opportunities, you'll gain the skills needed to succeed in a variety of geography-related careers. [Read More...](#)

Contact Information

- Program Coordinator: **Emariana Widner** | ewidner@kent.edu | 330-672-3226
- Speak with an Advisor
- Chat with an Admissions Counselor

Program Delivery

- **Delivery:**
 - In person
- **Location:**
 - Kent Campus

Example of Possible Careers and Salaries*

Calibration technologists and technicians and engineering technologists and technicians, except drafters, all other

- 2.1% slower than the average
- 91,600 number of jobs
- \$64,190 potential earnings

Geographers

- -1.2% decline
- 1,600 number of jobs
- \$85,430 potential earnings

Geography teachers, postsecondary

- 2.9% slower than the average
- 4,800 number of jobs
- \$82,330 potential earnings

Surveying and mapping technicians

- 0.7% little or no change
- 58,400 number of jobs
- \$46,200 potential earnings

Cartographers and photogrammetrists

- 4.5% about as fast as the average
- 12,000 number of jobs
- \$68,380 potential earnings

Urban and regional planners

- 11.0% much faster than the average
- 39,700 number of jobs
- \$75,950 potential earnings

Social scientists and related workers, all other

- 0.8% little or no change
- 38,800 number of jobs
- \$87,260 potential earnings

Social science research assistants

- 5.8% faster than the average
- 40,100 number of jobs
- \$49,210 potential earnings

Social and community service managers

- 17.0% much faster than the average
- 175,500 number of jobs
- \$69,600 potential earnings

Natural sciences managers

- 4.8% about as fast as the average
- 71,400 number of jobs
- \$137,940 potential earnings

Forest and conservation technicians

- 0.6% little or no change
- 21,200 number of jobs
- \$38,940 potential earnings

Forest and conservation workers

- -0.5% little or no change
- 13,200 number of jobs
- \$30,640 potential earnings

Environmental scientists and specialists, including health

- 7.8% faster than the average
- 90,900 number of jobs
- \$73,230 potential earnings

Geoscientists, except hydrologists and geographers

- 4.9% about as fast as the average
- 31,800 number of jobs
- \$93,580 potential earnings

Community and social service specialists, all other

- 11.7% much faster than the average
- 105,200 number of jobs
- \$46,770 potential earnings

Area, ethnic, and cultural studies teachers, postsecondary

- 4.9% about as fast as the average
- 13,400 number of jobs
- \$78,840 potential earnings

* Source of occupation titles and labor data comes from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook. Data comprises projected percent change in employment over the next 10 years; nation-wide employment numbers; and the yearly median wage at which half of the workers in the occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less.

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.

First-Year Students on the Kent Campus: First-year admission policy on the Kent Campus is selective. Admission decisions are based upon cumulative grade point average, strength of high school college preparatory curriculum and grade trends. Students not admissible to the Kent Campus may be administratively referred to one of the seven regional campuses to begin their college coursework. For more information, visit the admissions website for first-year students.

First-Year Students on the Regional Campuses: First-year admission to Kent State's campuses at Ashtabula, East Liverpool, Geauga, Salem, Stark, Trumbull and Tuscarawas, as well as the Twinsburg Academic Center, is open to anyone with a high school diploma or its equivalent. For more information on admissions, contact the Regional Campuses admissions offices.

International Students: All international students must provide proof of English language proficiency unless they meet specific exceptions. For more information, visit the admissions website for international students.

Transfer Students: Students who have attended any other educational institution after graduating from high school must apply as undergraduate transfer students. For more information, visit the admissions website for transfer students.

Former Students: Former Kent State students or graduates who have not attended another college or university since Kent State may complete the reenrollment or reinstatement form on the University Registrar's website.

Admission policies for undergraduate students may be found in the University Catalog.

Some programs may require that students meet certain requirements before progressing through the program. For programs with progression requirements, the information is shown on the Coursework tab.

Program Requirements
Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Major Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
ENVS 22070	NATURE AND SOCIETY (KSS)	3
GEOG 17063	WORLD GEOGRAPHY (DIVG) (KSS)	3

or GEOG 17064	GEOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA (DIVD) (KSS)	
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	3
GEOG 49070	GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE	4
Additional Requirements (courses do not count in major GPA)		
UC 10001	FLASHES 101	1
Foreign Language (see Foreign Language College Requirement below)		14-16
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 Basic Sciences (must include one laboratory)		2-3
Kent Core Additional		3
General Electives (total credit hours depends on earning 120 credits hour, including 39 upper-division credit hours)		37
Concentrations		
Choose from the following: ²		18
Environmental Geography		
Geographic Information Science		
Social Geography		
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		120

¹ A minimum C grade must be earned to fulfill the writing-intensive requirement.

² Students can only count an individual course towards one concentration.

Environmental Geography Concentration

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
Environmental Geography Electives, choose from the following:		12
GEOG 31062	FUNDAMENTALS OF METEOROLOGY	
GEOG 31064	CLIMATE AND THE ENVIRONMENT	
GEOG 31070	POPULATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT	
GEOG 31080	GEOGRAPHY OF WINE	
GEOG 32023	FOOD AND PLACE (ELR)	
GEOG 37010	GEOGRAPHY OF OHIO	
GEOG 37040	GEOGRAPHY OF AFRICA (DIVG)	
GEOG 37045	GEOGRAPHY OF THE MIDDLE EAST	
GEOG 37066	GEOGRAPHY OF EUROPE (DIVG)	
GEOG 37070	GEOGRAPHY OF EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA (DIVG)	
GEOG 37072	GEOGRAPHY OF CHINA	
GEOG 37085	GEOGRAPHY OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (DIVG)	
GEOG 41051	NATURAL DISASTERS AND SOCIETY	
GEOG 41065	APPLIED CLIMATOLOGY	
GEOG 41066	GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE	
GEOG 41073	CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES	
GEOG 41074	RESOURCE GEOGRAPHY	
GEOG 41077	WATER AND SOCIETY	

GEOG 41082	GEOGRAPHY OF SOILS
GEOG 41195	SPECIAL TOPICS IN ENVIRONMENTAL GEOGRAPHY
GEOG 42064	SETTLING THE NORTH AMERICAN ENVIRONMENT
GEOG 46080	URBAN SUSTAINABILITY
GEOG 49078	GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS
Geographic Information Science Elective, choose from the following:	
GEOG 44070	SPATIAL ANALYSIS AND LOCATION THEORY
GEOG 49072	GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE AND HEALTH
GEOG 49075	GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE: APPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL PROBLEMS
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
GEOG 49195	SPECIAL TOPICS IN GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE
GEOG 49230	REMOTE SENSING
Social Geography Elective, choose from the following:	
GEOG 31070	POPULATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT
GEOG 32023	FOOD AND PLACE (ELR)
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 37010	GEOGRAPHY OF OHIO
GEOG 37040	GEOGRAPHY OF AFRICA (DIVG)
GEOG 37045	GEOGRAPHY OF THE MIDDLE EAST
GEOG 37066	GEOGRAPHY OF EUROPE (DIVG)
GEOG 37070	GEOGRAPHY OF EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA (DIVG)
GEOG 37072	GEOGRAPHY OF CHINA
GEOG 37085	GEOGRAPHY OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (DIVG)
GEOG 41051	NATURAL DISASTERS AND SOCIETY
GEOG 41066	GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE
GEOG 41073	CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
GEOG 41077	WATER AND SOCIETY
GEOG 42040	TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND RECREATIONAL TRAVEL
GEOG 42052	HEALTH GEOGRAPHY
GEOG 42053	GEOGRAPHIES OF MEMORY AND HERITAGE
GEOG 42064	SETTLING THE NORTH AMERICAN ENVIRONMENT
GEOG 42070	SEMINAR IN ETHNIC, LIFESTYLE AND NATIONAL COMMUNITIES
GEOG 42195	SPECIAL TOPICS IN SOCIAL GEOGRAPHY
GEOG 44010	GEOGRAPHIES OF GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT
GEOG 45085	URBAN TRANSPORTATION
GEOG 46070	URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING
GEOG 46080	URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

GEOG 46081	SEMINAR IN URBAN GEOGRAPHY
GEOG 49072	GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE AND HEALTH
GEOG 49075	GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE: APPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL PROBLEMS
Minimum Total Credit Hours:	
18	

Geographic Information Science Concentration

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
Environmental Geography Elective, choose from the following:		3
GEOG 31062	FUNDAMENTALS OF METEOROLOGY	
GEOG 31064	CLIMATE AND THE ENVIRONMENT	
GEOG 31070	POPULATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT	
GEOG 31080	GEOGRAPHY OF WINE	
GEOG 32023	FOOD AND PLACE (ELR)	
GEOG 37010	GEOGRAPHY OF OHIO	
GEOG 37040	GEOGRAPHY OF AFRICA (DIVG)	
GEOG 37045	GEOGRAPHY OF THE MIDDLE EAST	
GEOG 37066	GEOGRAPHY OF EUROPE (DIVG)	
GEOG 37070	GEOGRAPHY OF EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA (DIVG)	
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GEOG 49072	GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE AND HEALTH	
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GEOG 49076	SPATIAL PROGRAMMING	
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GEOG 49085	WEB AND MOBILE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE	
GEOG 49162	CARTOGRAPHY	
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 32023	FOOD AND PLACE (ELR)
GEOG 32080	POLITICS AND PLACE (DIVG)
GEOG 34070	ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY
GEOG 36065	CITIES AND URBANIZATION (DIVG)
GEOG 37010	GEOGRAPHY OF OHIO
GEOG 37040	GEOGRAPHY OF AFRICA (DIVG)
GEOG 37045	GEOGRAPHY OF THE MIDDLE EAST
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Minimum Total Credit Hours: 18

Social Geography Concentration

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Concentration Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
Environmental Geography Elective, choose from the following:		3
GEOG 31062	FUNDAMENTALS OF METEOROLOGY	
GEOG 31064	CLIMATE AND THE ENVIRONMENT	
GEOG 31070	POPULATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT	
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GEOG 32023	FOOD AND PLACE (ELR)	
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GEOG 49075	GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE: APPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL PROBLEMS	
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GEOG 49162	CARTOGRAPHY	
GEOG 49195	SPECIAL TOPICS IN GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE	
GEOG 49230	REMOTE SENSING	

Social Geography Electives, choose from the following: 12

GEOG 31070	POPULATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT
GEOG 32023	FOOD AND PLACE (ELR)
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 37010	GEOGRAPHY OF OHIO
GEOG 37040	GEOGRAPHY OF AFRICA (DIVG)
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GEOG 49072	GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE AND HEALTH	
GEOG 49075	GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE: APPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL PROBLEMS	
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		18

Graduation Requirements

Minimum Major GPA	Minimum Overall GPA
2.000	2.000

Foreign Language College Requirement, B.A.

Students pursuing the Bachelor of Arts degree in the College of Arts and Sciences must complete 14-16 credit hours of foreign language.¹

To complete the requirement, students need the equivalent of Elementary I and II in any language, plus one of the following options²:

- Intermediate I and II of the same language
- Elementary I and II of a second language
- Any combination of two courses from the following list:
 - Intermediate I of the same language
 - ARAB 21401
 - ASL 19401
 - CHIN 25421
 - MCLS 10001
 - MCLS 20001
 - MCLS 20091
 - MCLS 21417
 - MCLS 21420
 - MCLS 22217
 - MCLS 28403
 - MCLS 28404

¹ All students with prior foreign language experience should take the foreign language placement test to determine the appropriate level at which to start. Some students may start beyond the Elementary I level and will complete the requirement with fewer credit hours and fewer courses. This may be accomplished by (1) passing a course beyond Elementary I through Intermediate II level; (2) receiving credit through one of the alternative credit programs offered by Kent State University; or (3) demonstrating language proficiency comparable to Elementary II of a foreign language. When students complete the requirement with fewer than 14 credit hours and four courses, they will complete remaining credit hours with general electives.

² Certain majors, concentrations and minors may require specific languages, limit the languages from which a student may choose or require coursework through Intermediate II. Students who plan to pursue graduate study may need particular language coursework.

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.

Semester One		Credits
GEOG 17063	WORLD GEOGRAPHY (DIVG) (KSS)	3
or	or GEOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED STATES AND	
GEOG 17064	CANADA (DIVD) (KSS)	
UC 10001	FLASHES 101	1
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Credit Hours		16
Semester Two		
GEOG 21062	PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY (KBS)	3
GEOG 21063	PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY LABORATORY (KBS) (KLAB)	1
GEOG 22061	HUMAN GEOGRAPHY (DIVG) (KSS)	3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Credit Hours		16
Semester Three		
ENVS 22070	NATURE AND SOCIETY (KSS)	3
GEOG 29160	MAPPING OUR WORLD	3
Foreign Language		4
Kent Core Requirement		3
General Elective		3
Credit Hours		16
Semester Four		
GEOG 49070	GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE	4
Foreign Language		4
General Electives		6
Credit Hours		14
Semester Five		
GEOG 39002	STATISTICAL METHODS IN GEOGRAPHY	3
Concentration Elective		3
Foreign Language		3
General Electives		6
Credit Hours		15
Semester Six		
Concentration Elective		3
Foreign Language		3
General Electives		9
Credit Hours		15
Semester Seven		
Concentration Electives		9
General Electives		6
Credit Hours		15
Semester Eight		
GEOG 40191	SEMINAR IN GEOGRAPHY (ELR) (WIC)	3
Concentration Elective		3

General Electives	7
Credit Hours	13
Minimum Total Credit Hours:	120

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.

Flashes 101 (UC 10001)	1 credit hour
Course is not required for students with 30+ transfer credits (excluding College Credit Plus) or age 21+ at time of admission.	
Diversity Domestic/Global (DIVD/DIVG)	2 courses
Students must successfully complete one domestic and one global course, of which one must be from the Kent Core.	
Experiential Learning Requirement (ELR)	varies
Students must successfully complete one course or approved experience.	
Kent Core (see table below)	36-37 credit hours
Writing-Intensive Course (WIC)	1 course
Students must earn a minimum C grade in the course.	
Upper-Division Requirement	39 credit hours
Students must successfully complete 39 upper-division (numbered 30000 to 49999) credit hours to graduate.	
Total Credit Hour Requirement	120 credit hours

Kent Core Requirements

Kent Core Composition (KCMP)	6
Kent Core Mathematics and Critical Reasoning (KMCR)	3
Kent Core Humanities and Fine Arts (KHUM/KFA) (min one course each)	9
Kent Core Social Sciences (KSS) (must be from two disciplines)	6
Kent Core Basic Sciences (KBS/KLAB) (must include one laboratory)	6-7
Kent Core Additional (KADL)	6
Total Credit Hours:	36-37

Full Description

The Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography emphasizes 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. Geographers 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 natural and social patterns. They then apply their knowledge of human and environmental processes to analyze why these patterns exist. Geographers 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. Geographers 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.

The Geography major comprises the following concentrations:

- The **Environmental Geography** concentration prepares students to 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.
- The **Geographic Information Science** concentration prepares students to work as analysts for the federal, state and local government, for businesses and non-profits. Geographic Information scientists also serve as GIS developers, remote sensors, instructors, web developers and cartographers.
- The **Social Geography** concentration prepares students to 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.

Geography students may apply early to the M.S. degree in Geography and double count 9 credit hours of graduate courses toward both degree programs. See the Combined Bachelor’s/Master’s Degree Program policy in the University Catalog for more information.