

# GEOGRAPHY - B.A.

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College of Sciences and Humanities  
Department of Geography  
[www.kent.edu/geography](http://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 will gain the skills needed to succeed in a variety of geography-related careers. Read more...

## Contact Information

- **Emariana Widner** | [ewidner@kent.edu](mailto: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

- 4.7% about as fast as the average
- 15,800 number of jobs
- \$65,040 potential earnings

### Engineering technologists and technicians, except drafters, all other

- 1.5% slower than the average
- 67,300 number of jobs
- \$77,390 potential earnings

### Geographers

- -3.1% decline
- 1,500 number of jobs
- \$97,200 potential earnings

### Geography teachers, postsecondary

- 3.3% about as fast as the average
- 4,000 number of jobs
- \$86,730 potential earnings

### Surveying and mapping technicians

- 4.5% about as fast as the average
- 59,400 number of jobs
- \$51,940 potential earnings

### Cartographers and photogrammetrists

- 6.4% faster than the average
- 13,400 number of jobs
- \$78,380 potential earnings

### Urban and regional planners

- 3.4% about as fast as the average
- 44,700 number of jobs
- \$83,720 potential earnings

### Social scientists and related workers, all other

- -1.7% decline
- 40,800 number of jobs
- \$100,340 potential earnings

### Social science research assistants

- 4.4% about as fast as the average
- 40,600 number of jobs
- \$58,040 potential earnings

### Social and community service managers

- 6.4% faster than the average
- 219,800 number of jobs
- \$78,240 potential earnings

### Natural sciences managers

- 3.7% about as fast as the average
- 104,300 number of jobs
- \$161,180 potential earnings

### Forest and conservation technicians

- -3.2% decline
- 33,800 number of jobs
- \$54,310 potential earnings

### Forest and conservation workers

- -4.7% decline
- 10,800 number of jobs
- \$43,680 potential earnings

### Environmental scientists and specialists, including health

- 4.4% about as fast as the average
- 90,300 number of jobs
- \$80,060 potential earnings

### Geoscientists, except hydrologists and geographers

- 3.2% about as fast as the average
- 25,100 number of jobs
- \$99,240 potential earnings

## Community and social service specialists, all other

- 4.6% about as fast as the average
- 119,200 number of jobs
- \$54,940 potential earnings

## Area, ethnic, and cultural studies teachers, postsecondary

- 2.4% slower than the average
- 14,500 number of jobs
- \$84,290 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.

**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 proficiency of the English language (unless they meet specific exceptions) through the submission of an English language proficiency test score or by completing English language classes at Kent State's English as a Second Language Center before entering their program. For more information, visit the admissions website for international students.

**Former Students:** Former Kent State students who have not attended another institution since Kent State and were not academically dismissed will complete the re-enrollment process through the Financial, Billing and Enrollment Center. Former students who attended another college or university since leaving Kent State must apply for admissions as a transfer or post-undergraduate student.

**Transfer Students:** Students who attended an educational institution after graduating from high school or earning their GED must apply as transfer students. For more information, visit the admissions website for transfer students.

Admission policies for undergraduate students may be found in the University Catalog's Academic Policies.

Students may be required to meet certain criteria to progress in their program. Any progression requirements will be listed on the program's Coursework tab

## Program Requirements

### Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Major Requirements (courses count in major GPA)</b>		
ENVS 22070	NATURE AND SOCIETY (KSS)	3
GEOG 17063	WORLD GEOGRAPHY (KSS)	3
or GEOG 17064	GEOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA (KSS)	
GEOG 21062	PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY (KBS)	3
GEOG 21063	PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY LABORATORY (KBS) (KLAB)	1
GEOG 22061	HUMAN GEOGRAPHY (KSS)	3
GEOG 39002	STATISTICAL METHODS IN GEOGRAPHY	3
or GEOG 40285	FIELD EXPERIENCE IN GEOGRAPHY	
GEOG 39070	MAPPING, SPACE AND POWER	3
GEOG 40191	SEMINAR IN GEOGRAPHY (ELR) (WIC) <sup>1</sup>	3
or GEOG 40199	CAPSTONE IN APPLIED GEOGRAPHY (ELR) (WIC)	
GEOG 49070	GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE	4
Geography (GEOG) Upper-Division Electives (30000 or 40000 level)		18
<b>Additional Requirements (courses do not count in major GPA)</b>		
UC 10001	FLASHES 101	1
Foreign Language (see Foreign Language College Requirement below)		10-16
American Civic Literacy Requirement <sup>2</sup>		3
Kent Core Composition		6
Kent Core Mathematics and Critical Reasoning		3
Kent Core Humanities and Fine Arts (minimum one course from each) <sup>2</sup>		6-9
Kent Core Basic Sciences		2-3
Kent Core Additional <sup>2</sup>		0-3
General Electives (total credit hours depends on earning 120 credit hours, including 39 upper-division credit hours)		41
<b>Minimum Total Credit Hours:</b>		<b>120</b>

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

<sup>2</sup> If students complete the American Civic Literacy requirement by taking HIST 12061, the course will apply to the Kent Core Humanities category. If they complete it with POL 10101, the course will apply to the Kent Core Additional category.

## 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 Sciences and Humanities must complete the following:

1. Elementary I and II of any language (or equivalent) **and**
2. One of the following options:
  - a. Intermediate I and II of the same language
  - b. Elementary I and II of a second language
  - c. Any combination of two courses from the following list:

- i. Intermediate I of the same language
- ii. One to two college-level course(s) completed outside the United States
- iii. Courses: ARAB 21401, ASL 19401, CHIN 25421, MCLS 10001, MCLS 20001, MCLS 20091, MCLS 21417, MCLS 21420, MCLS 22217, MCLS 28403, MCLS 28404

\*The Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Studies is exempt from the foreign language requirement until fall 2028 due to its previous longstanding academic placement in the College of Communication and Information, which does not have a foreign language requirement.

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 courses. This may be accomplished in one of three ways:

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
3. Demonstrating language proficiency comparable to Elementary II of a foreign language

Certain programs 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 a particular language proficiency.

## Roadmap

This roadmap is a recommended semester-by-semester plan of study for this program. Students will work with their advisor to develop a sequence based on their academic goals and history. Courses designated as critical (!) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation.

Semester One		Credits
GEOG 17063	WORLD GEOGRAPHY (KSS)	3
or	or GEOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED STATES AND	
GEOG 17064	CANADA (KSS)	
UC 10001	FLASHES 101	1
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>16</b>
Semester Two		
GEOG 21062	PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY (KBS)	3
GEOG 21063	PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY LABORATORY (KBS) (KLAB)	1
GEOG 22061	HUMAN GEOGRAPHY (KSS)	3
American Civic Literacy Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>16</b>
Semester Three		
ENVS 22070	NATURE AND SOCIETY (KSS)	3
GEOG 39070	MAPPING, SPACE AND POWER	3
Foreign Language		4
Kent Core Requirement		3

General Elective		3
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>16</b>
Semester Four		
GEOG 49070	GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE	4
Foreign Language		4
General Electives		6
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>14</b>
Semester Five		
GEOG 39002	STATISTICAL METHODS IN GEOGRAPHY or or FIELD EXPERIENCE IN GEOGRAPHY GEOG 40285	3
Geography (GEOG) Upper-Division Elective (30000 or 40000 level)		3
Foreign Language and/or General Elective		3
General Electives		6
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>15</b>
Semester Six		
Geography (GEOG) Upper-Division Elective (30000 or 40000 level)		3
Foreign Language and/or General Elective		3
General Electives		9
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>15</b>
Semester Seven		
Geography (GEOG) Upper-Division Electives (30000 or 40000 level)		9
General Electives		6
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>15</b>
Semester Eight		
GEOG 40191	SEMINAR IN GEOGRAPHY (ELR) (WIC) or or CAPSTONE IN APPLIED GEOGRAPHY (ELR) GEOG 40199 (WIC)	3
Geography (GEOG) Upper-Division Elective (30000 or 40000 level)		3
General Electives		7
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>13</b>
<b>Minimum Total Credit Hours:</b>		<b>120</b>

## 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.	
American Civic Literacy	3 credit hours
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
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## 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
<b>Total Credit Hours:</b>	<b>36-37</b>

## Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Describe spatial patterns of human and environmental features at multiple scales.
2. Use geographic research tools, including geographic information systems, to analyze spatial patterns and identify processes that create these patterns.
3. Explain linkages and interactions between social and environmental processes.
4. Communicate these patterns, processes and interconnections through writing, speaking and map making.
5. Apply a geographic perspective and geospatial skills to contemporary social and environmental issues, informing policy and practice.

## Program Policies

### Foreign Language Requirements

In general, students may elect any foreign language taught through the Department of Modern and Classical Language Studies. However, certain majors, concentrations and minors require specific languages or limit the languages from which students may choose. In addition, students who plan to pursue graduate study may need particular languages for that study. In such cases, students should seek the advice of the appropriate department before selecting a language.

### Progress Toward Fulfillment

College of Sciences and Humanities students are encouraged to begin meeting the foreign language requirement as early as possible in their program to ensure timely degree completion.

### Mandatory Outcomes Assessment

In addition to the other General Requirements of the college, candidates for an undergraduate degree in the College of Sciences and Humanities are required, as a condition of graduation, to participate in an outcomes assessment. These outcomes assessments are conducted by each undergraduate degree program in the College of Sciences and Humanities.

## 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. Geographers find work in the environmental sciences, GIS and mapping and working with people in planning and other government and non-profit agencies.

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.