

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 will gain the skills needed to succeed in a variety of geography-related careers. Read more...

Contact Information

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- 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) 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, 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's Academic Policies.

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 program's 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 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) ¹	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
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		2-3
Kent Core Additional		3
General Electives (total credit hours depends on earning 120 credit hours, including 39 upper-division credit hours)		37
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		120

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

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:

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:

- 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		Credits
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		Credits
ENVS 22070	NATURE AND SOCIETY (KSS)	3
GEOG 39070	MAPPING, SPACE AND POWER	3
Foreign Language		4
Kent Core Requirement		3
General Elective		3
Credit Hours		16

Semester Four		Credits
GEOG 49070	GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE	4
Foreign Language		4
General Electives		6
Credit Hours		14

Semester Five		Credits
GEOG 39002	STATISTICAL METHODS IN GEOGRAPHY	3
or	or FIELD EXPERIENCE IN GEOGRAPHY	
GEOG 40285		
Geography (GEOG) Upper-Division Elective (30000 or 40000 level)		3
Foreign Language		3
General Electives		6
Credit Hours		15

Semester Six		Credits
Geography (GEOG) Upper-Division Elective (30000 or 40000 level)		3
Foreign Language		3
General Electives		9
Credit Hours		15

Semester Seven		Credits
Geography (GEOG) Upper-Division Electives (30000 or 40000 level)		9
General Electives		6
Credit Hours		15

Semester Eight		Credits
GEOG 40191	SEMINAR IN GEOGRAPHY (ELR) (WIC)	3
or	or CAPSTONE IN APPLIED GEOGRAPHY (ELR)	
GEOG 40199	(WIC)	
Geography (GEOG) Upper-Division Elective (30000 or 40000 level)		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

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.

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.