

# BA IN GEOGRAPHY (PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY)

Units required for Major: 46

Total units required for BA: 120

## Program Description

The Bachelor of Arts in Geography with a concentration in Physical Geography focuses on earth systems and human impacts on them, including global climate change. Students interested in natural science and environmental management study weather and climate, plant and animal communities, landforms, and water resources, emphasizing the growing human role in influencing and managing these complex interrelated systems.

## Program Requirements

Code	Title	Units
<b>Lower Division Core (10 Units)</b>		
GEOG 1	Physical Geography: The Distribution of Natural Phenomena <sup>1</sup>	3
GEOG 2	Cultural Geography <sup>1</sup>	3
GEOG 3	Introduction to Maps and Geographic Technologies	3
GEOG 11	Laboratory in Physical Geography <sup>1</sup>	1
<b>Upper Division Core (36 Units)</b>		
GEOG 102	Ideas and Skills in Geography	3
GEOG 109	Geographic Information Systems	3
GEOG 118	Earth Transformed	3
GEOG 190	Senior Research Seminar in Geography <sup>1</sup>	3
<b>Regional Geography Core Elective</b> 3		
Complete one of the following		
GEOG 121	United States and Canada	
GEOG 127	Geography Of Africa	
GEOG 128	Geography Of Europe	
GEOG 129A	Special Topics in Regional Geography A	
GEOG 129B	Special Topics in Regional Geography B	
GEOG 129C	Special Topics in Regional Geography C	
GEOG 131	California	
GEOG 133	Geography of the Middle East	
<b>Physical Geography Concentration<sup>2</sup></b>		
<b>Physical Geography Electives</b> 15		
Complete five of the following		
GEOG 111	Elements Of Meteorology <sup>1</sup>	
GEOG 113	Climate <sup>1</sup>	
GEOG 115	Biogeography <sup>1</sup>	
GEOG 116	Global Climate Change <sup>1</sup>	
GEOG 117	Landforms	
GEOG 161	California's Water Resources	
GEOG 193C	Field Geography: Physical	
<b>Human Geography Elective</b> 3		
Complete one of the following		
GEOG 141	Geography of Economic Activity	

GEOG 142	Feminist Geography	
GEOG 143	Environmental Hazards and Society	
GEOG 144	Transforming the City	
GEOG 145	Population Geography <sup>1</sup>	
GEOG 147	Urban Geography	
GEOG 148	Urban and Regional Planning	
GEOG 149	Transportation Geography	
<b>Techniques Elective</b>		3
Complete one of the following		
GEOG 105	Cartography	
GEOG 107	Remote Sensing	
GEOG 110	Advanced Geographic Information Systems	
GEOG 150	Programming for GIS	
GEOG 151	Programming for GIS II	
GEOG 155	GIS Data Acquisition and Management	
GEOG 163	Applied GIS	
GEOG 181	Quantitative Methods in Geography	
GEOG 182	Qualitative Methods in Geography	
GEOG 193A	Field Geography: Urban-Metropolitan	
GEOG 193B	Field Geography: Suburban-Rural	
<b>Total Units</b>		<b>46</b>

<sup>1</sup> Course also satisfies General Education (GE)/Graduation Requirement.

<sup>2</sup> Sections of GEOG 195A or GEOG 199 with sufficient units and focused on relevant content may be substituted for a concentration course requirement with the consent of the major advisor and department chair.

## General Education Requirements<sup>1</sup>

Code	Title	Units
<b>Area A: Basic Subjects (9 Units)</b>		
A1	Oral Communication	3
A2	Written Communication	3
A3	Critical Thinking	3
<b>Area B: Physical Universe and Its Life Forms (6-9 Units)</b>		
B1	Physical Science <sup>2</sup>	0
B2	Life Forms	3
B3	Lab (Note: Lab experience to be taken with one of the following: B1, B2 or B5) <sup>2</sup>	0
B4	Math Concepts	3
B5	Additional Course (Any B to reach 12 units) - Take upper-division course to complete Area & upper division requirements. <sup>3</sup>	0-3
<b>Area C: Arts and Humanities (12 Units)</b>		
C1	Arts	3
C2	Humanities	3
C1/C2	Area C Course	3
C1/C2	Area C Course - Take upper-division course to complete Area & upper division requirements.	3
<b>Area D: The Individual and Society (6 Units)</b>		
Area D Course		3
Area D Course <sup>2</sup>		0
Area D Course - Take upper-division course to complete Area & upper division requirements. <sup>4</sup>		3

<b>Area E: Understanding Personal Development (3 Units)</b>	
Area E Course	3
<b>Area F: Ethnic Studies (3 Units)</b>	
Area F Course	3
<b>Total Units</b>	<b>39-42</b>

<sup>1</sup> To help you complete your degree in a timely manner and not take more units than absolutely necessary, there are ways to use single courses to meet more than one requirement (overlap). For further information, please visit the General Education page (<https://catalog.csus.edu/colleges/academic-affairs/general-education/>).

**Note:** There is no way to list all possible overlaps so please consult with a professional advisor. The Academic Advising Center can be visited online (<http://www.csus.edu/acad/>), by phone (916) 278-1000, or email ([advising@csus.edu](mailto:advising@csus.edu)).

<sup>2</sup> Required in Major; also satisfies GE.

<sup>3</sup> Students can complete Area B5 by taking GEOG 111, GEOG 113, GEOG 115, or GEOG 116 in their Physical Geography Electives.

<sup>4</sup> Students can complete Area D by taking GEOG 145 in their Human Geography Electives.

## Graduation Requirements <sup>1</sup>

Code	Title	Units
<b>Graduation Requirements (required by CSU) (6 Units)</b>		
American Institutions: U.S. History		3
American Institutions: U.S. Constitution & CA Government		3
Writing Intensive (WI) <sup>2</sup>		0
<b>Graduation Requirements (required by Sacramento State) (12 Units)</b>		
English Composition II		3
Race and Ethnicity in American Society (RE)		3
Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement <sup>3</sup>		6

<sup>1</sup> To help you complete your degree in a timely manner and not take more units than absolutely necessary, there are ways to use single courses to meet more than one requirement (overlap). For further information, please visit the General Education page (<https://catalog.csus.edu/colleges/academic-affairs/general-education/>).

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<sup>2</sup> Required in Major; also satisfies Graduation Requirement.


<sup>3</sup> If not satisfied before entering Sacramento State, it may be satisfied in General Education Area C2 (Humanities). "C- or better required." The alternative methods for satisfying the Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement are described here: <https://www.csus.edu/college/arts-letters/world-languages-literatures/foreign-language-requirement.html> (<https://www.csus.edu/college/arts-letters/world-languages-literatures/foreign-language-requirement.html>)

The following roadmaps are sample planning resources. Please consult your academic advisor and Academic Catalog for graduation requirements as you develop your individualized academic plan.


## Geography (Physical Geography), BA: 4-Year Roadmap

Course	Title	Units
<b>Year 1</b>		
<b>First Semester</b>		
GEOG 1	Atmosphere, Landscapes & Life: Intro to Physical Geography	3
GEOG 11	Laboratory in Physical Geography	1
GEOG 3	Introduction to Maps and Geographic Technologies	3
GE Area 1C - Oral Communication <sup>2</sup>		3
GE Area 3A - Arts <sup>2</sup>		3
Elective of Choice		3
<b>Units</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Second Semester</b>		
GEOG 2	Cultural Geography	3
GE Area 1A - English Composition <sup>2</sup>		3
GE Area 1B - Critical Thinking <sup>2</sup>		3
GE Area 2 - Mathematical Concepts & Quantitative Reasoning <sup>2</sup>		3
Elective of Choice		3
<b>Units</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Year 2</b>		
<b>First Semester</b>		
ENGL 20	College Composition II	3
GE Area 3B - Humanities <sup>2</sup>		3
GE Area 5B - Biological Science <sup>2</sup>		3
GR American Institutions (GOVT) <sup>2</sup>		3
Elective of Choice		3
<b>Units</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Second Semester</b>		
GE Area 6 - Ethnic Studies <sup>2</sup>		3
GR American Institutions (US History) <sup>2</sup>		3
Elective of Choice		3
Elective of Choice		3
Elective of Choice		3
<b>Units</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Year 3</b>		
<b>First Semester</b>		
GEOG 102	Ideas and Skills in Geography	3
GEOG 109	Geographic Information Systems	3
Regional Geography Elective <sup>3</sup>		3
Physical Geography Elective <sup>3</sup>		3
Foreign Language Semester 1 <sup>2</sup>		4
<b>Units</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Second Semester</b>		
Physical Geography Elective <sup>3</sup>		3
Physical Geography Elective <sup>3</sup>		3
Human Geography Elective <sup>3</sup>		3
Upper Division GE Area 4 - Social & Behavioral Sciences <sup>2</sup>		3
Foreign Language Semester 2 <sup>2</sup>		3
<b>Units</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Year 4</b>		
<b>First Semester</b>		
GEOG 118	Earth Transformed	3
Physical Geography Elective <sup>3</sup>		3
GEOG Techniques Elective <sup>3</sup>		3
Upper Division GE Area 3 - Arts or Humanities <sup>2</sup>		3
Elective of Choice		3
<b>Units</b>		<b>15</b>

**Second Semester**

GEOG 190	Senior Research Seminar in Geography 	3
Physical Geography Elective <sup>3</sup>		3
Upper Division GE Area 5 or 2 - Science or Mathematical Concepts/Quantitative Reasoning <sup>2</sup>		3
Elective of Choice		3
Elective of Choice		3
<b>Units</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Total Units</b>		<b>122</b>

**Geography (Physical Geography), BA: 2-Year Roadmap**

Course	Title	Units
<b>Year 1</b>		
<b>First Semester</b>		
GEOG 102	Ideas and Skills in Geography	3
GEOG 109	Geographic Information Systems	3
Regional Geography Elective <sup>3</sup>		3
Physical Geography Elective <sup>3</sup>		3
Foreign Language Semester 1 <sup>2</sup>		4
<b>Units</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Second Semester</b>		
Physical Geography Elective <sup>3</sup>		3
Physical Geography Elective <sup>3</sup>		3
Human Geography Elective <sup>3</sup>		3
Upper Division GE Area 4 - Social & Behavioral Sciences <sup>2</sup>		3
Foreign Language Semester 2 <sup>2</sup>		4
<b>Units</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Year 2</b>		
<b>First Semester</b>		
GEOG 118	Earth Transformed	3
Physical Geography Elective <sup>3</sup>		3
GEOG Techniques Elective <sup>3</sup>		3
Upper Division GE Area 3 - Arts or Humanities <sup>2</sup>		3
GR American Institutions (GOVT) <sup>2</sup>		3
<b>Units</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Second Semester</b>		
GEOG 190	Senior Research Seminar in Geography 	3
Physical Geography Elective <sup>3</sup>		3
Upper Division GE Area 5 or 2 - Science or Mathematical Concepts/Quantitative Reasoning <sup>2</sup>		3
GR American Institutions (US History) <sup>2</sup>		3
Elective of Choice		3
<b>Units</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Total Units</b>		<b>62</b>

1. Any course not completed in the first semester should be taken in the second or a later semester.
2. Please see General Education/Graduation Requirement **course options** ([https://www.csus.edu/academic-affairs/curriculum-%20workflow/\\_internal/\\_documents/program-road-maps/als\\_2yr/art\\_transfer-%20roadmap-2024-25.pdf](https://www.csus.edu/academic-affairs/curriculum-%20workflow/_internal/_documents/program-road-maps/als_2yr/art_transfer-%20roadmap-2024-25.pdf)).
3. Please see an academic advisor for elective options.