

Geography GEOG

Degree:

AA-T – Geography for Transfer

Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences

Kasey Gardner, Dean

Rodda Hall North, room 226

916-558-2401



Associate Degree
for Transfer
A Degree with a Guarantee.

Geography

Associate in Arts for Transfer

Program Information

Geography is the science of place and space. Geographers study the relationships among geographic places, natural systems, society and cultural activities and the interdependence of these from the spatial perspective.

There are two main branches of geography: human geography and physical geography. Human geography is concerned with the spatial aspects of the human endeavor. This examination includes the distribution of humans and their correspondent activities, how people use and perceive space, and how humans create and sustain their environments. Physical geography examines the physical elements and spatial processes related to the earth's environmental systems. These include energy, air, water, weather, climate, landforms, soils, animals, plants, etc. In addition, geography is increasingly utilizing spatial technologies, such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Global Positioning Systems (GPS), and remotely-sensed imagery, to study the Earth and its inhabitants.

The discipline of geography specifically examines the linkages between human activity and natural systems. Geographers were, in fact, among the first scientists to sound the alarm that human-induced changes to the environment were beginning to threaten the balance of life itself. Geographers today are active in the examination and planning of our communities and the development of our human landscapes along with the study of global warming, deforestation, pollution, and a variety of other environmental quandaries.

The required and elective coursework for this degree will survey a broad spectrum of physical, human, and geo-spatial inquiry. As a result, the SCC Geography AA-T degree will provide transfer students with a solid foundation in geography as well as the standard prerequisites for upper-division coursework leading to the baccalaureate degree.

Note to Transfer Students:

Even though this transfer degree is designed to make transitioning to a California State University in this major as seamless as possible, it is strongly recommended that you meet with a counselor to construct an educational plan. This process will be imperative if you are planning to transfer to an alternative four-year university or college.

The Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) student completion requirements (as stated in SB1440 law):

- (1) Completion of a minimum of 60 semester units or 90 quarter units that are eligible for transfer to the California State University, including both of the following:
 - (A) The California State University General Education-Breadth Requirements or the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC).
 - (B) A minimum of 18 semester units or 27 quarter units in a major or area of emphasis, as determined by the community college district.
- (2) Obtainment of a minimum grade point average of 2.0.

ADTs also require that students must earn a "C" or better in all courses required for the major or area of emphasis.

Career Opportunities

The career opportunities available to someone earning a degree in geography are as varied as the discipline itself. Some career areas and specific occupations include: Natural Resource Management; Environmental Conservation; International Development; Urban and Regional Planning; Education (K-12 through University); Tourism; Cartography; Climate Science; Park Management; Transportation Planning and Logistics; Real Estate; International Business; Marketing; Land Surveying; Research Science; Remote Sensing; Demography; GIS Analysis; and many more (please contact the department for additional information).

Some career options may require more than two years of college study.

Upon completion of this program, the student will be able to:

- understand the general content and scope of collegiate level geography studies.
- compare and contrast the general biophysical and sociocultural differences and similarities among world regions.
- interpret maps and mapped data utilizing basic map elements, including scales, common coordinate systems, and map symbols.
- utilize geographic information technologies such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Global Positioning Systems (GPS), and remote sensing in understanding environmental and human phenomena.
- evaluate and analyze geographic problems and their solutions.
- communicate geographic information effectively in oral, written, and graphic form.

Required Program	Units
GEOG 300 Physical Geography: Exploring Earth's Environmental Systems	3
GEOG 301 Physical Geography Laboratory	1
GEOG 310 Human Geography: Exploring Earth's Cultural Landscapes	3
A minimum of 6 units from the following:.....	6
GEOG 306 Weather and Climate (3)	
GEOG 320 World Regional Geography (3)	
GEOG 330 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (3)	
GEOG 331 Exploring Maps and Geographic Technologies (3)	
GEOG 391 Field Studies in Geography: Mountain Landscapes (1 – 4)	
GEOG 392 Field Studies in Geography: Coastal Landscapes (1 – 4)	
GEOG 393 Field Studies in Geography: Arid Landscapes (1 – 4)	
GEOG 394 Field Studies in Geography: Volcanic Landscapes (1 – 4)	
A minimum of 6 units from the following:	6 ¹
ANTH 310 Cultural Anthropology (3) or ANTH 481 Honors Cultural Anthropology (3)	
ECON 304 Principles of Microeconomics (3)	
GEOG 302 Environmental Studies & Sustainability (3)	
GEOG 305 Global Climate Change (3)	
GEOG 308 Introduction to Oceanography (3)	
GEOG 334 Introduction to GIS Software Applications (3)	
GEOG 353 Introduction to the Global Positioning System (GPS) (1)	
GEOL 302 Physical Geology (4)	
POLS 310 Introduction to International Relations (3) or POLS 480 Introduction to International Relations – Honors (3)	
Total Units Required	19

¹Students may also substitute courses from the previous list not already counted toward the degree.

Associate in Arts for Transfer Degree

The Associate in Arts in Geography for Transfer (AA-T) degree may be obtained by completion of 60 transferable, semester units with a minimum 2.0 GPA, including (a) the major or area of emphasis described in the Required Program, and (b) either the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or the California State University General Education-Breadth Requirements.

Geography (GEOG)

GEOG 300 Physical Geography: Exploring Earth's Environmental Systems 3 Units

Prerequisite: None.

Advisory: MATH 34 with a grade of "C" or better, ENGRD 310 and ENGWR 101, or ESLR 320 and ESLW 310, with grades of "C" or better.

General Education: AA/AS Area IV; CSU Area B1; IGETC Area 5A

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course is a spatial study of planet Earth's dynamic physical systems and processes. Topics include weather, climate, landforms, natural hazards, water resources, vegetation, and soils. Emphasis is placed on interrelationships among Earth systems and processes and their resulting patterns and distributions. Relevant application of these concepts to today's world is also stressed to help students better understand Earth's physical environment as well as human-environmental interaction. Optional field trips may be included. (C-ID GEOG 110)

GEOG 301 Physical Geography Laboratory 1 Unit

Prerequisite: None.

Corequisite: GEOG 300

Advisory: MATH 34 with a grade of "C" or better; ENGRD 310 and ENGWR 101, or ESLR 320 and ESLW 310, with grades of "C" or better.

General Education: AA/AS Area IV; CSU Area B3; IGETC Area 5A

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 54 hours LAB

This course is a laboratory study of basic principles and concepts relating to our Earth's environmental systems. Labs feature observation, collection, analysis, and display of data related to the study of energy, weather and climate, vegetation, soils, landforms, and environmental hazards. In addition, this course utilizes geographic methods such as map and image interpretation and geographic technologies such as weather instruments, global positioning systems (GPS), and computer applications. Field trips may be required. (C-ID GEOG 111)

GEOG 302 Environmental Studies & Sustainability 3 Units

Prerequisite: None.

Advisory: MATH 34 with a grade of "C" or better; ENGRD 310 and ENGWR 101, or ESLR 320 and ESLW 310, with grades of "C" or better.

General Education: AA/AS Area IV; CSU Area D5; IGETC Area 4E

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This introductory course offers an interdisciplinary perspective on the major environmental problems confronting society and explores solutions directed toward producing a more sustainable future. Course topics include an introduction to environmental issues, Earth system science, natural resources, global climate change, human demography, agricultural systems, and development issues. These topics will be examined with human-environment interaction as the overriding paradigm to examine potential for sustainable systems as our planet and populations progress. A field trip may be required to relate class discussions to the real world.

GEOG 305 Global Climate Change 3 Units

Prerequisite: None.

Advisory: MATH 34 with a grade of "C" or better; ENGRD 310 and ENGWR 101 or ESLR 320 and ESLW 310 with grades of "C" or better.

General Education: AA/AS Area IV; CSU Area B1; IGETC Area 5A

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course explores the history and mechanisms of climate change in Earth's past, as well as the methods that scientists use to investigate climate change. Areas of emphasis will include climate change in Earth's recent history (the past few million years) and the connection between human industrial activity and current climatic shifts. Additionally, this course investigates the effects of climate change in today's world and discusses possible technological and political solutions to this vast and increasingly important problem. Field trips may be required.

GEOG 306 Weather and Climate 3 Units

Prerequisite: None.

Advisory: MATH 34 with a grade of "C" or better, ENGRD 310 and ENGWR 101, or ESLR 320 and ESLW 310, with grades of "C" or better.

General Education: AA/AS Area IV; CSU Area B1; IGETC Area 5A

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course is an introduction to atmospheric processes including energy and moisture exchanges, atmospheric pressure, winds, and global circulation. Severe weather conditions such as hurricanes and tornadoes are also studied. World, regional, and local climates are investigated. Student work will include weather observations and analysis of atmospheric data using charts, weather maps, and radar and satellite imagery from the Internet and other sources. Because this course involves the use of some quantitative concepts, students are encouraged to have fundamental algebraic skills prior to enrolling in this course. (C-ID GEOG 130)

GEOG 308 Introduction to Oceanography 3 Units

Prerequisite: None.

Advisory: MATH 34 with a grade of "C" or better; ENGRD 310 and ENGWR 101, or ESLR 320 and ESLW 310, with grades of "C" or better.

General Education: AA/AS Area IV; CSU Area B1; IGETC Area 5A

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course is an integrated study of water on Earth emphasizing physical oceanography. Topics include ocean and shoreline processes, plate tectonics, sea floor morphology, types and distribution of seafloor sediment, ocean sediment transport, ocean chemistry, ocean currents, marine resources, and environmental concerns. Regional oceanographic features are emphasized.

GEOG 310 Human Geography: Exploring Earth's Cultural Landscapes 3 Units

Prerequisite: None.

Advisory: ENGRD 310 and ENGWR 101, or ESLR 320 and ESLW 310, with grades of "C" or better.

General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); AA/AS Area VI; CSU Area D5; IGETC Area 4E

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course investigates the diverse patterns of human activity on earth in relation to cultural and environmental factors. Major themes include human-environment interaction, globalization, spatial and cultural conflict, and cultural diversity. The following topical areas will be utilized to examine these dynamic concepts: population, migration, language, religion, ethnicity, political and economic systems, development issues, agriculture, urbanization, and resource issues. (C-ID GEOG 120)

GEOG 320 World Regional Geography 3 Units

Prerequisite: None.

Advisory: ENGRD 310 and ENGWR 101, or ESLR 320 and ESLW 310, with grades of "C" or better.

General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D5; IGETC Area 4E

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course is a global survey of the world's major cultural regions. Basic geographic concepts and ideas are used to study and compare people, resources, landscapes, and economies across eight major geographic regions. In addition, interactions between these regions, globalization, cultural diversity, environmental issues, and development dynamics are utilized as themes to examine our ever changing world. (C-ID GEOG 125)

GEOG 330 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems 3 Units

Prerequisite: None.

Advisory: CISC 300 or equivalent with a grade of "C" or better.

General Education: AA/AS Area II(b)

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course provides an introduction to the concepts, functionality, and applications of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Emphasis is placed on the techniques utilized to capture, store, query, analyze, and display spatial data. Specific topics include types of GIS data, GIS applications, basic mapping constructs, coordinate systems, data capture techniques, data management, basic GIS analysis, and creating cartographic documents using GIS. These topics will be studied using a combination of theoretical overview and software examination. (C-ID GEOG 155)

GEOG 331 Exploring Maps and Geographic Technologies 3 Units

Prerequisite: None.

Advisory: CISC 300 or equivalent with a grade of "C" or better

General Education: AA/AS Area IV

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 50 hours LEC; 12 hours LAB

This course introduces students to the exciting world of maps (both hard-copy and digital) and the geographic techniques and technologies that are utilized in the creation of modern cartographic documents. The examination of cartographic constructs, basic statistics, Global Positioning Systems (GPS), Internet mapping, remote sensing, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) will shed light on this interesting and rapidly changing area of spatial inquiry. (C-ID GEOG 150)

GEOG 334 Introduction to GIS Software Applications 3 Units

Prerequisite: None.

Advisory: CISC 300 or equivalent with a grade of "C" or better

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 45 hours LEC; 27 hours LAB

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are computer-based mapping programs that analyze spatial data. This course provides the foundation for using desktop GIS software. A conceptual overview along with hands-on experience will be used to explore basic GIS software functionality. Emphasis will be placed on display characteristics, attribute querying, database exploration and management, spatial analysis, data creation, and cartographic presentation.

GEOG 353 Introduction to the Global Positioning System (GPS) 1 Unit

Prerequisite: None.

Advisory: CISC 300 or equivalent with a grade of "C" or better

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 16 hours LEC; 6 hours LAB

This course introduces the Global Positioning System (GPS). Topics include how this location systems works, hands-on operation of the technology, real-world applications, computer interfaces, GIS, and other mapping software. A field trip may be required which could include a nominal fee.

GEOG 391 Field Studies in Geography: Mountain Landscapes 1-4 Units

Prerequisite: None.

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 244 hours LEC; 144 hours LAB

This course involves the study of geographic principles and processes in mountain environments. The course content will vary by destination but may include topics in physical geography (e.g., plant and animal communities, climate and weather, geology and geomorphology, natural hazards, environmental impacts, etc.), human geography (e.g., cultural landscapes, economic activities, transportation issues, land use patterns, etc.), and introduction to tools and techniques used for geographic field research (e.g., map and compass use, the Global Positioning System (GPS), Geographic Information Systems (GIS), etc.). Field excursions are required. (C-ID GEOG 160)

GEOG 392 Field Studies in Geography: Coastal Landscapes 1-4 Units

Prerequisite: None.

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 24 hours LEC; 144 hours LAB

This course involves the study of geographic principles and processes in coastal environments. The course content will vary by destination but may include topics in physical geography (e.g., plant and animal communities, climate and weather, geology and geomorphology, natural hazards, environmental impacts, etc.), human geography (e.g., cultural landscapes, economic activities, transportation issues, land use patterns, etc.), and introduction to tools and techniques used for geographic field research (e.g., map and compass use, the Global Positioning System (GPS), Geographic Information Systems (GIS), etc.). Field excursions are required. (C-ID GEOG 160)

GEOG 393 Field Studies in Geography: Arid Landscapes 1-4 Units

Prerequisite: None.

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 24 hours LEC; 144 hours LAB

This course involves the study of geographic principles and processes in arid environments. The course content will vary by destination but may include topics in physical geography (e.g., plant and animal communities, climate and weather, geology and geomorphology, natural hazards, environmental impacts, etc.), human geography (e.g., cultural landscapes, economic activities, transportation issues, land use patterns, etc.), and introduction to tools and techniques used for geographic field research (e.g., map and compass use, the Global Positioning System (GPS), Geographic Information Systems (GIS), etc.). Field excursions are required. (C-ID GEOG 160)

GEOG 394 Field Studies in Geography: Volcanic Landscapes 1-4 Units

Prerequisite: None.

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 24 hours LEC; 144 hours LAB

This course involves the study of geographic principles and processes in volcanic environments. The course content will vary by destination but may include topics in physical geography (e.g., plant and animal communities, climate and weather, geology and geomorphology, natural hazards, environmental impacts, etc.), human geography (e.g., cultural landscapes, economic activities, transportation issues, land use patterns, etc.), and introduction to tools and techniques used for geographic field research (e.g., map and compass use, the Global Positioning System (GPS), Geographic Information Systems (GIS), etc.). Field excursions are required. (C-ID GEOG 160)

GEOG 495 Independent Studies in Geography 1-3 Units

Prerequisite: None.

Enrollment Limitation: Student must obtain approval from an instructor to conduct an independent study.

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 162 hours LAB

This course is for students or small groups who wish to develop an in-depth understanding of a geographic topic that is beyond what is offered in our regular courses. Instructor approval is required to enroll in this course. UC transfer credit will be awarded only after the course has been evaluated by the enrolling UC campus. The units completed for this course cannot be counted towards the minimum 60 units required for admissions.

GEOG 499 Experimental Offering in Geography .5-4 Units

Prerequisite: None

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 72 hours LEC

This is an experimental course designed to provide students with courses not normally offered by the Geography Department. Course topics will be structured around emerging issues related to Geographic inquiry. UC transfer credit will be awarded only after the course has been evaluated by the enrolling UC campus. The units completed for this course cannot be counted towards the minimum 60 units required for admissions.