Geography GEOG

Degree:
AA-T – Geography for Transfer

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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.
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 ENGW 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 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 155 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems
Prerequisite: None.
Advisory: CISC 300 or equivalent with a grade of “C” or better.
General Education: AA/AS Area II(b)
Course Transferable to UCCSU
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 334 Introduction to GIS Software Applications
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 335 Introduction to the Global Positioning System (GPS)
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.
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Prerequisite</th>
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<td>Field Studies in Geography: Mountain Landscapes</td>
<td>1-4</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td>244 LEC, 144 LAB</td>
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