Tips for Geography Major Transfer Students
Sacramento State

1. Take GEOG 102, Ideas and Skills in Geography, the first Fall semester you are here. This course is designed for sophomores and juniors who have had one or more lower division geography courses. It introduces you to geography at Sac State and to your cohort of fellow geography majors.

2. Take GEOG 3, Introduction to Maps and Geographical Technologies, the first Spring semester you are here.

3. Take GEOG 109, Geographical Information Systems, as soon as possible (it is offered every semester). If you have little or no experience with GIS, we recommend that you take GEOG 3 first or concurrently with 109.

4. Read the catalog description of the four concentrations available within the major. Pick one, and using the tentative schedule of classes for the next couple of years, plan a semester-by-semester route to completion of your major. You may change your mind along the route, but it’s still helpful to start off right away in a known direction.

5. You will be assigned one of the full-time faculty as your major advisor. Go see her/him once a semester to make sure you are on track. We can help you switch advisers, should you wish to do so.

6. When it is your turn to register for classes and it appears that a geography class you want is full, contact our department secretary in the geography office (550 Amador Hall; 278-6109, geography@csus.edu) to see if further information is available.

7. Internships are highly recommended as part of your Sacramento State geography education. Sources of internship information include the department webpage and the campus Career Center. Your fellow students also are valuable resources in this regard. The Geography Department chair frequently sends out e-mails announcing internships and jobs.

8. Interact with the faculty. Visit them in their offices not just to ask about what’s going to be on the exam, but to talk ideas! They are on the 5th floor of Amador (except for Prof. Miles Roberts whose office is near our classrooms on the 3rd floor).

9. Check your Sacramento State e-mail early and often. Important communications from the administration (including the registrar), the department chair, and your professors arrive via this medium.

10. We encourage student participation in the annual meetings of the California Geographical Society and the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, which usually occur in May and September, respectively. Both include student paper and poster competitions. You can learn about these organizations and their opportunities for students at http://www.csun.edu/~calgeosoc/ and http://www.csus.edu/apcg/.

11. Participate in the Geography Club. It is as fun and fantastic as you make it. If you meet the membership criteria, you can also join Gamma Theta Upsilon, the international geographical honor society. Sacramento State is home to the Mu Iota Chapter.