

BA IN GEOGRAPHY (PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY)



SACRAMENTO STATE

In Workflow

1. GEOG Chair (schmidmc@csus.edu)
2. NSM College Committee Chair (mikkel.jensen@csus.edu)
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Approval Path

1. 2026-03-02T20:00:04Z
Matt Schmidtlein (schmidmc): Approved for GEOG Chair
2. 2026-03-04T23:44:19Z
Mikkel Jensen (mikkel.jensen): Approved for NSM College Committee Chair
3. 2026-03-05T00:03:20Z
Chris Taylor (ctaylor): Approved for NSM Dean

History

1. May 1, 2018 by clmig-jwehrheim
2. Aug 13, 2018 by 212408496
3. Aug 13, 2018 by 212408496
4. Oct 2, 2018 by 212408496
5. Jan 17, 2020 by Thomas Krabacher (tsk)
6. Apr 28, 2020 by 220267334
7. Apr 20, 2021 by 220267334
8. May 17, 2022 by Janett Torset (torsetj)
9. Aug 8, 2022 by 302822325
10. Oct 14, 2024 by James Wanket (jwanket)

Date Submitted: 2026-02-19T18:55:03Z

Viewing: BA in Geography (Physical Geography)

Last approved: Mon, 14 Oct 2024 18:34:59 GMT

Last edit: 2026-03-02T17:01:21Z

Changes proposed by: Matt Schmidtlein (211414750)

Academic Group: (College)

Natural Sciences & Mathematics

Academic Organization: (Department)

Geography

Catalog Year Effective:

2026-2027 Catalog

Individual(s) primarily responsible for drafting the proposed degree major program:

Name (First Last)	Email	Phone 999-999-9999
Matt Schmidlein	schmidmc@csus.edu	916-278-7581

Type of Program:

Major

Program Change Type:

Non-Substantive

Delivery Format:

Fully Face to Face

Title of the Program:

BA in Geography (Physical Geography)

Designation: (degree terminology)

Bachelor of Arts

Briefly describe the program proposal (new or change) and provide a justification:

This proposal includes adjustments to the concentration to bring it into alignment with changes in department curriculum reflecting faculty hiring and retirements. This includes adding courses (Geog 4 to the lower division core, others to the upper division electives) as well as removing the Geog 129 series of courses from the Regional Geography concentration elective because we are no longer offering them regularly.

University Learning Goals

Undergraduate Learning Goals:

Competence in the disciplines
Knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world
Intellectual and practical skills
Personal and social responsibility
Integrative learning

Program Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcome
Describe foundational concepts and patterns in physical and human geography.
Describe the history of Geography as an academic discipline, and give examples of its contemporary models, approaches, and theories.
Communicate geographic concepts in written documents, including the results of one's own analyses, to professional and lay audiences.
Communicate geographic concepts using a variety of oral modes, including in discussions and presentations, to professional and lay audiences.
Analyze and evaluate scholarly writing within Geography.
Apply geographic data collection, display, and analytical techniques in the evaluation of spatial information.
Analyze spatial datasets using maps and graphs.
Act with professional integrity and employ the ethical standards within Geography in interactions with other professionals.
Synthesize geographic models, data, and methodologies in research design.

Learning Outcomes Display

Course Code	PLO 1	PLO 2	PLO 3	PLO 4	PLO 5	PLO 6	PLO 7	PLO 8	PLO 9
Warning! Unable to parse program body. Data Invalid: Area header row cannot be followed by indented row.									

Will this program be required as part of a teaching credential program, a single subject, or multiple subject waiver program (e.g., Liberal Studies, Biology) or other school personnel preparation program (e.g., School of Nursing)?

No

Do these changes impact the degree roadmap?

No

Catalog Description:

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.

As defined by policy <http://www.csus.edu/umannual/acadaff/fsm00010.htm>, a change in units constitutes a substantive change to the program. If your changes constitute a substantive change, please refer back to the "Program Change Type" field above to ensure that "Substantive" is selected.

Program Requirements: (If new courses are being created as part of a new program, it will be useful to propose courses first.)

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Units
Lower Division Core (10 Units)		
GEOG 1	Atmosphere, Landscapes & Life: Intro to Physical Geography ¹	3
<i>Cultural Geography Elective</i>		3
Complete one of the following		
GEOG 2	Cultural Geography ¹	
GEOG 4	Global Urbanism: Cities and World Regions ¹	
GEOG 3	Introduction to Maps and Geographic Technologies	3
GEOG 11	Laboratory in Physical Geography ¹	1
Upper Division Core (15 Units)		
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  ¹	3
<i>Regional Geography Core Elective</i>		3
Complete one of the following		
GEOG 121	United States and Canada	
GEOG 127	Geography of Africa South of the Sahara ¹	
GEOG 128	Geography Of Europe	
GEOG 131	California	
GEOG 133	Geography of the Middle East and North Africa ¹	
Physical Geography Concentration (21 Units) ²		
<i>Physical Geography Electives</i>		15
Complete five of the following		
GEOG 111	Elements Of Meteorology ¹	
GEOG 113	Climate ¹	
GEOG 115	Biogeography ¹	
GEOG 116	Global Climate Change ¹	
GEOG 117	Landforms	
GEOG 160	Course GEOG 160 Not Found ¹	
GEOG 165	California Burning: Wildfires, Climate, and Biodiversity ¹	
GEOG 193C	Field Geography: Physical	
<i>Human Geography Elective</i>		3
Complete one of the following		
GEOG 141	Geography of Economic Activity	
GEOG 142	Feminist Geography	

GEOG 143	Environmental Hazards and Society ¹	
GEOG 144	Transforming the City	
GEOG 145	Population Geography ¹	
GEOG 148	Urban and Regional Planning	
GEOG 149	Transportation Geography	
GEOG 164	Political Ecology, Nature, and Justice	
<i>Techniques Elective</i>		3
Complete one of the following		
GEOG 105	Cartography	
GEOG 107	Remote Sensing	
GEOG 110	Spatial Analysis in GIS	
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	
Total Units		46

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

² 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 ¹

Code	Title	Units
Area 1: English Communication (9 Units)		
1A - English Composition		3
1B - Critical Thinking		3
1C - Oral Communication		3
Area 2: Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning (3 Units)		
Area 2 Course - Lower Division		3
Area 3: The Arts and Humanities (6 Units)		
3A - Arts		3
3B - Humanities ²		3
Area 4: Social and Behavioral Sciences (6 Units)		
Area 4 Course -Lower Division ²		3
Area 4 Course - Lower Division		3
Area 5: Physical and Biological Sciences (7 Units)		
5A - Physical Science ²		3
5B - Biological Science		3
5C - Laboratory ²		1
Area 6: Ethnic Studies (3 Units)		
Area 6 Course		3
Upper Division Courses: (9 Units)		
Area 3 Course - Upper Division ²		3
Area 4 Course - Upper Division ²		3
Area 2 OR Area 5 Course - Upper Division ²		3
Total Units		43

¹ 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).

² General Education Requirement may be satisfied by major requirement or elective.

Graduation Requirements ¹

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

¹ 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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² Required in Major; also satisfies Graduation Requirement.

³ 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>)

Fiscal Impact to Change an Existing Program

Indicate programmatic or fiscal impact which this change will have on other academic units' programs, and describe the consultation that has occurred with affected units:

The proposed changes do not have any anticipated impact on other programs, as they simply reflect updates of in-department program electives.

Provide a fiscal analysis of the proposed changes:

No anticipated impacts.

How will the above changes be accommodated within the department/College existing fiscal resources?

The listed courses are already approved and offered; the proposed changes simply bring the program electives in alignment with recent practice.

Will the proposed changes require additional resources?

No

What additional space, equipment, operating expenses, library, computer, or media resources, clerical/technical support, or other resources will be needed?

None anticipated

Key: 313