

GEOGRAPHY, BA

Geography students are typically interested in protecting natural resources, planning the best possible use of land, teaching about interactions among people and places, developing and applying advanced new technologies, and solving environmental problems. Geographers can make a difference – from teaching to planning, from working for sustainable development to working with geospatial technologies and more.

Admission into the Major

Students are expected to formally declare a major no later than the fourth semester of full-time enrollment (or at 61 semester hours for transfer students). Students can declare a major by completing the Change of Major/Minor Application online under the Student tab of myBama.

Special Opportunities

The Department of Geography and the Environment offers internship opportunities with a variety of organizations including the Geological Survey of Alabama and many local planning agencies. Additional information is available in the department’s main office.

Students earning the bachelor of arts (BA) degree with a major in geography must complete all University, College and departmental degree requirements. These include the general education requirements, the following major requirements, all requirements for an approved minor and other sufficient credits to total a minimum of 120 applicable semester hours.

Code and Title	Hours
Major Courses	
GY 101 Atmospheric Proc & Patterns	4
GY 102 Earth Surface Processes	4
GY 105 World Regional Geography	3
GY 110 People, Places, & Environment	3
GY 204 Maps and Spatial Reasoning	4
Credit Hours Subtotal:	18
Concentration	
Select a GY concentration from the list below	12
Credit Hours Subtotal:	12
Electives	
Select six hours of GY electives	6
Credit Hours Subtotal:	6
Total Hours	36

Grade Point Average

A 2.0 grade point average in the major is required for completion of the degree. Please see the Grades and Grade Points section of this catalog for an explanation on grade point average calculations.

Upper-level Residency

A minimum of 12 hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the major must be earned on this campus.

Required Minor

The geography major requires completion of a minor.

Additional Major Requirements

A maximum of 3 hours of internship or practicum credit can be applied to the major. Each geography course applied to the 36-hour requirement must be completed with a grade of C- or higher. Students are responsible for ensuring that they have met all requirements. However, each student must meet with an adviser in the major department for academic planning and to be approved for registration each semester. College advisers are also available for additional assistance with minor, College and University requirements.

Concentrations

Students must earn a minimum of 12 hours from one of the following three concentrations. With approval, topic appropriate GY 470 Special Topics may be substituted in each concentration.

Concentration I: Earth System Science (minimum of 12 hours)

Code and Title	Hours
GY 202 The Water Planet	4
GY 302 Climatology	3
GY 363 Geomorphology	3
GY 404 Physical Geography SE US	3
GY 405 Dir Res Physical Geog	1-3
GY 409 Forest Ecosystem Restoration	4
GY 412 Hydroclimatology	3
GY 413 Applied Climatology	3
GY 414 Climate Change and Health	3
GY 416 Geostatistics Using R	3
GY 451 Global Environmental Change	3
GY 462 Land Use Science	4
GY 470 Special Topics	3
GY 472 Soil Science	4
GY 485 River Hydrology	3
GY 486 Watershed Science and Managmnt	3
GY 489 Forest Ecology Veg Analy	4
GY 491 Fluvial Geomorphology	3
GY 492 Eastern Forest Communities	4
GY 494 Forest Measurement & Methods	4
GY 496 Forest Ecosystems	4

Concentration II: Regional, Urban and Environmental Planning (minimum of 12 hours)

Code and Title	Hours
GY 317 Natural Hazards	3
GY 339 Natural Resource Envirnm Plang	3
GY 341 Geography Of Us And Canada	3
GY 344 Geography Of Africa	3
GY 346 Geography of Europe	3
GY 370 Special Topics	3
GY 375 Sports Geography	3
GY 377 Cultural Geography	3

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GY 385	Watershed Management Plan Development (Watershed Management Plan)	3
GY 406	Dir Res Human Geography	1-3
GY 410	National Parks	3
GY 415	The Geography of Extinctions and Endangered Species	3
GY 417	Extreme Weather and Society	3
GY 418	Spatial and Geostats	3
GY 440	Commun Facil Planning	3
GY 441	Land Use Regulations	3
GY 444	Field Studies In Africa	6
GY 445	Agriculture	3
GY 449	Field Studies: Ireland	6
GY 450	Field Studies in Belize	6
GY 451	Global Environmental Change	3
GY 452	Environ Decision Making	3
GY 453	Environment & Society	3
GY 454	Field Studies in Costa Rica	4
GY 456	Planning Internship	3-9
GY 457	Environmental Entrepreneurship	3
GY 458	Urban Planning And Analysis	3
GY 459	Water Energy and Food	3
GY 461	Political Ecology	3
GY 462	Land Use Science	4
GY 464	Conservation Politics	3
GY 466	Geography of Automobility	3
GY 468	Grant Writing for Nonprofits	3
GY 470	Special Topics	3
GY 473	Public Policy Water	3
GY 477	Water Resources Management	3
GY 481	Water Diplomacy	3

ranger; regional, urban, or environmental planner; remote sensing analyst; scientist; software engineer; agent with the Central Intelligence Agency; and as staff members of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Geological Survey, NASA, and city, county, and regional planning commissions.

Learn more about opportunities in this field at the Career Center

Concentration III: Geographic Information Techniques (minimum of 12 hours)

Code and Title	Hours	
GY 330	Computr Mapping Graphics	4
GY 418	Spatial and Geostats	3
GY 420	Remote Sensing I	4
GY 424	Cartography Practicum	3-9
GY 425	Cartography Internship	3-9
GY 430	Intro Geographic Info Systems	3
GY 430	Intro Geographic Info Systems	1
GY 433	Gis Practicum	3-9
GY 434	Gis Internship	3-9
GY 435	Remote Sensing II	4
GY 436	Adv Geographic Info Syst	4
GY 437	GIS for Transportation	4
GY 439	GIS Programming	4
GY 443	Location Science	3
GY 488	Digital Terrain and Watershed	4

Types of Jobs Accepted

Our graduates accept positions such as environmental consultant; forest technician; Geographic Information Systems analyst; land steward; park