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 offers internship opportunities with the Geological Survey of Alabama and local planning agencies. The department also offers certificate programs in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and in regional and urban planning. Additional information is available in the Department of Geography 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	Map & Air Photo Interpretation	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 Seast Us	3
GY 405	Dir Res Physical Geog	1-3
GY 409	Forest History and 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 Dynamics	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 265	Water Energy Food	3
GY 267	Political Ecology	3
GY 317	Natural Hazards	3
GY 339	Natural Resource Envirmn Plang	3
GY 341	Geography Of Us And Canada	3
GY 344	Geography Of Africa	3
GY 346	Geography of Europe	3
GY 351		3
GY 365	Industrial Develop & Location	3

GY 370	Special Topics	3
GY 375	Sports Geography	3
GY 377	Cultural Geography	3
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 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	Costa Rica Field Studies: Tropical Ecology, Conservation, and Development	4
GY 456	Planning Internship	3-9
GY 458	Urban Planning And Analysis	3
GY 462	Land Use Science	4
GY 466	Transport Geography	3
GY 470	Special Topics	3
GY 473	Public Policy Water	3
GY 477	Water Resources Management	3
GY 481	Water Diplomacy	3

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

Code and Title		Hours
GY 330	Computr Mapping Graphics	4
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

Types of Jobs Accepted

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