



Bachelor of Arts in Geography

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Why should I major in geography at Cal State Fullerton?

The study of geography provides a key to global understanding and environmental awareness. In a world of shrinking distances and expanded contacts, it offers a deep appreciation for diversity of the world's peoples and environments. It also leads to exciting careers in a variety of fields dealing with the kinds of issues where an understanding of "place" and "location" really matters.

Who becomes a geography major?

Geography is the field for you if you enjoy working with maps and like to take a broad approach to understanding the world around you. In physical geography, you will study the climates, landforms and vegetation of the world, while in human geography you will look at culture, economic activity, cities and societies. In environmental geography, you will focus on the detailed links between people and the earth, while in regional geography you will consider the big picture by integrating information about the physical and human environments of areas like Latin America, Asia, Europe, Africa and North America. Many of our undergraduate majors are attracted to the high-tech aspects of geography, with its advanced information technologies such as geographic information systems.

What sets Cal State Fullerton's program apart?

CSUF geography course offerings are the most extensive of any university or college in Orange County. In fact, among Orange County's colleges and universities, only Cal State Fullerton offers a comprehensive Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography. The program offers an up-to-date curriculum, professional and dedicated faculty members and a strong commitment to student-focused education. Classes are generally small-to-moderate in size, providing ample opportunity for student and faculty interaction. Partly as a result of this unique situation, we are able to maintain close ties to the government agencies, businesses and schools of the region through our well-placed alumni.

Another advantage of studying geography at Cal State Fullerton is our flexible scheduling and wide range of courses. We recognize that many of our students are working full- or part-time, and we try to offer a full complement of courses



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at convenient times. We also accept up to 18 units of work in geography taken at community colleges and have a flexible policy regarding geography taken at other institutions.

What are some special features and programs available?

The department operates a well-equipped GIS-Cartography lab with 24 workstations and several servers, printers, scanners and digitizers. The department's map collection, which includes over 30,000 maps and aerial photos, is available for student, faculty, campus and community use. The Geography Internship Program provides a means for you to gain job experience and to explore career options while earning academic credit. Many of those positions are with government agencies and private environmental firms and may involve working with maps and GIS.

What types of career opportunities are available?

After graduation, you can look forward to challenging and rewarding careers in such fields as urban and environmental analysis and planning, business, government agencies and education. In many of these fields, the ability to solve complex problems using maps, GIS and other analytical tools will be your key to an exciting career using advanced mapping and information technologies.

What are the requirements for degree?

The Bachelor of Arts degree requires a total of 39 units. Eighteen of the units may be taken at the lower-division level. Units may be transferred in at the upper-division level as long as university residency requirements are satisfied. Two paths lead to a bachelor's degree. One path is the Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography and is designed for students who have broad interests in the field of geography or for students who would like to tailor their program in geography to suit their own interests. The second path is the Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography with an emphasis in Environmental Analysis. This degree path is designed for those students choosing to emphasize environmental aspects of geography in their education and who may be seeking employment in that particular branch of the field.

Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography

Lower-Division Core Courses (15 units)

Geography 100 Global Geography (3 units)

Geography 110 Physical Geography (3 units)

Geography 160 Human Geography (3 units)

Geography 281 Map Making with GIS (3 units)

Geography 283 Introduction to Geographic Information (3 units)

Environmental Geography (3 units)

Geography 329 Cities and Nature

OR Geography 350 Nature and Society

Human Geography (3 units)

Geography 357 Spatial Behavior

OR Geography 360 Geography of the World's Economies

OR Geography 370 Cities and Suburbs

Physical Geography (3 units)

Geography 312 Geomorphology

OR Geography 323 Weather and Climate

OR Geography 325 Natural Vegetation

Regional Geography (3 units)

Choose three units from geography courses numbered 330-349.

Advanced Geography (6 units)

Choose two courses from the list below. At least one course must be marked with an asterisk, as those are capstone courses.

Geography 422 Regional Climatology (3 units)*

Geography 425 Tropical Rainforests (3 units)*

Geography 426 The Coastal Environment (3 units)*

Geography 450 Human Response to Environmental Hazards (3 units)*

Geography 452 Ecotourism (3 units)*

Geography 475 Interpretation of Urban Landscapes (3 units)*

Geography 478 Urban Planning Principles (3 units)*

Geography 481 Geographic Information Systems: Introduction (3 units)

Geography 482 Environmental Impact Assessment (3 units)

Geography 484 Urban Planning Methods (3 units)

Geography 485 Geographic Information Systems: Principles
and Applications (3 units)

Geography 486 Environmental Remote Sensing (3 units)

Geography 488 Land Use Analysis (3 units)*

Geography Elective (3 units)

Three units lower- or upper-division geography course not used to satisfy any other requirement.

Upper-Division Writing Requirement (3 units)

English 301 Advanced College Writing

OR English 360 Scientific and Technical Writing

Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography with an emphasis in Environmental Analysis

Students complete the same lower-division core courses (15 units) and upper-division writing requirement that are required for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography.

Environmental Geography (3 units)

Geography 350 Nature and Society (3 units)

Physical Geography (6 units)

Choose two courses from the list below.

Geography 312 Geomorphology (3 units)

Geography 323 Weather and Climate (3 units)

Geography 325 Natural Vegetation (3 units)

Geography 329 Cities and Nature (3 units)

Human geography requirements are the same as for Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography.

Regional geography requirements are the same as for Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography.

Advanced Courses

Choose two courses from the list below. At least one course must be marked with an asterisk, as those are capstone courses.

Geography 422 Regional Climatology* (3 units)

Geography 425 Tropical Rainforests* (3 units)

Geography 426 The Coastal Environment* (3 units)

Geography 450 Human Response to Environmental Hazards (3 units) *

Geography 452 Ecotourism (3 units)*

Geography 482 Environmental Impact Assessment (3 units)

Geography 488 Land Use Analysis* (3 units)

Is a minor available?

The department does offer a very flexible minor, which requires students to complete 21 units of geography including: Geography 100; one of the following courses: Geography 110, 120, 160, 281 or 283; and a minimum of 12 upper-division units. The three remaining units may be lower- or upper-division geography courses. For more information, please consult the university catalog.

What student activities can I join?

The Geography Club, a student-driven organization, arranges social activities, hiking and camping trips, informative city walks and lecture series. The club also organizes “Geography Awareness Week” and “All Points of the Compass,” the annual student-faculty research conference.

Who advises me?

The undergraduate adviser, Dr. Wayne Engstrom, provides advising. For additional information, please call, write or e-mail him at Dr. Wayne Engstrom, Department of Geography, California State University, Fullerton P.O. Box 6846, Fullerton, CA 92834-6846 or call (714) 278-3384, or fax (714) 278-5223, or e-mail: wengstrom@fullerton.edu

How can I learn more?

Visit us at our website, <http://geography.fullerton.edu>, make an appointment with the adviser, or you can simply stop in our department office, Humanities 420A, to visit our staff and facilities. Welcome to Cal State Fullerton, and we hope to assist you with your career objectives.