

# 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
<b>Major Courses</b>	
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
<b>Concentration</b>	
Select a GY concentration from the list below	12
Credit Hours Subtotal:	12
<b>Electives</b>	
Select six hours of GY electives	6
Credit Hours Subtotal:	6
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>36</b>

## 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 Soils	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 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
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	Geography of Automobility	3
GY 470	Special Topics	3
GY 473	Public Policy Water	3
GY 477	Water Resources Management	3
GY 481	Water Diplomacy	3

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
GY 418	Spatial and Geostats
GY 420	Remote Sensing I
GY 424	Cartography Practicum
GY 425	Cartography Internship
GY 430	Intro Geographic Info Systems
GY 430	Intro Geographic Info Systems
GY 433	Gis Practicum
GY 434	Gis Internship
GY 435	Remote Sensing II
GY 436	Adv Geographic Info Syst
GY 437	GIS for Transportation
GY 439	GIS Programming
GY 443	Location Science
GY 488	Digital Terrain and Watershed

#### 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,