

**UC Berkeley Department of Geography**

**Undergraduate Handbook**

**2017-2018**

**DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY**

The Geography Department provides a broad-ranging perspective on humans as inhabitants and transformers of the face of the earth. The search for this kind of understanding involves thorough study of (a) the interlocking systems of the natural environment (climate, landforms, oceans, biota) and the evaluation of natural resources; (b) those diverse historical, cultural, social, economic, and political structures and processes which affect the location and spatial organization of population groups and their activities; and (c) significant geographical units, whether described as cities, regions, nations, states or landscapes, where integrated interpretation can be attempted, and a variety of problems thereby better understood.

**THE GEOGRAPHY MAJOR**

The undergraduate major in geography therefore includes the study of various aspects of cultural, human, physical, and regional geography as well as cartography, quantitative methods, and fieldwork. Backgrounds in the natural and social sciences, history, and statistical methods will be found useful to the geography major, the emphasis depending on the student's particular interests. It allows specialization in the area of the student's chief interest, and assumes that the student has previously achieved some breadth in the basics of geography through completion of the lower division requirements. A late-declaring major (determined as a Senior) who has not completed one of the lower division requirements will be required to complete an upper division equivalent to be chosen in consultation with a Student Academic Advisor (SAA).

It is not necessary to declare an option formally, but it is necessary to complete one for graduation. In some cases there are course options within the major options. Occasionally, due to the unavailability of a course listed in the option, substitution of another course is necessary. Any such substitutions, once approved by an advisor, must be in writing and placed in your file.

Most courses are offered only once a year; therefore careful scheduling is important to avoid course "jam-up" or situations in which some courses cannot be taken due to the necessity of completing a left-over Letters and Science or Departmental requirement. It is best to complete requirements as rapidly as possible to allow maximum flexibility during your last semesters when your interests are better defined.

**Major Requirements**

***Lower Division -*** All majors complete three lower division courses, one from each group:

* **Basic Physical Geography -**
* **GEOG 40** (Intro to Earth System Science)
* or equivalent

* **World Geography -**
* **GEOG 10** (World Regions, Peoples, & States)
* **GEOG 20** (Globalization)
* **GEOG 31** (Justice, Nature, and the Geography of Identity)
* **GEOG 35** (Global Ecology and Development)
* or equivalent
* **Regional Geographies -**
* **GEOG 50AC** (California)
* **GEOG C32** (Intro to Development)
* **GEOG 51** (Political Econ of Development in East Asia)
* **GEOG 70AC** (The Urban Experience)
* or equivalent.

***Upper Division -*** Select from one of the following plans:

**5-2-1 Plan**

Majors must take eight or more upper div courses. Five of these must be in one [specialty group](http://geography.berkeley.edu/ProgramCourses/Major/undergrad.html#specialty%20group) and two from the other. One course from the [methodology group](http://geography.berkeley.edu/ProgramCourses/Major/undergrad.html#Methodology) must be completed. Everyone choosing the Earth System Science option must take **Geography 140A.** Everyone choosing the Economy, Culture & Society option must take **Geography C110** -OR- **Geography 130**.

**4-2-2 Plan**

Majors must take eight or more upper division courses. Four of these must be in one [specialty group](http://geography.berkeley.edu/ProgramCourses/Major/undergrad.html#specialty%20group) and two from the other. Two courses from the [methodology group](http://geography.berkeley.edu/ProgramCourses/Major/undergrad.html#Methodology) must be completed. Everyone choosing the Earth System Science option must take **Geography 140A.** Everyone choosing the Economy, Culture & Society option must take **Geography C110** -OR- **Geography 130**.

***Specialty Groups****: (note: course substitutions may be made with permission of the SAA and UG Faculty Advisor)*

**Earth System Science**

109. Prehistoric Agriculture

C135. Water Resources and the Environment

C136. Terrestrial Hydrology

137. Top Ten Global Environmental Problems

C139. Atmospheric Physics & Dynamics

**140A. Physical Landscapes: Process & Form**

140B. Physiography & Geomorph. Extremes

142. Climate Dynamics

143. Global Change and Biogeochemistry

144. Principles of Meteorology

C145. Geological Oceanography

C146. Communicating Ocean Science

148. Biogeography

171. Special Topics in Physical Geography

173B. Cross-listed Topics in Physical

Geography

175. Undergraduate Seminar

##### Economy, Culture & Society

109. Prehistoric Agriculture

**C110. Econ Geog of the Industrial World**

C112. History of Dev/Underdevelopment

123. Postcolonial Geographies

125. The American City

**130. Food and Environment**

137. Top Ten Global Environmental Problems

138. Political Ecology of the Third World

150. California

C152. Multi-Cultural Europe

153. Soc & Econ Dev in East Asia

C155. Race, Space and Inequality

157. The Politics of the Anthropocene

C157. Central American Peoples &

Cultures

159AC The Southern Border

C160A American Cultural Landscapes,

1600-1900

C160B American Cultural Landscapes,

1900-present

164. Geog. of Economic Development in

China

170. Selected Topics

172. Topics in Social Geography

173A**.** Cross-listed Topics in Human

Geography. (1-4).

175. Undergraduate Seminar\*

##### Methodology

80. Digital Worlds

180. Field Method for Phys Geography

181. Urban Field Study

182 Field Study of Buildings and Cities

183. Cartographic Representation

185. Earth System Remote Sensing

187. Geographic Information Analysis

C188 Geographic Information Systems

\* Based on relevance of topic

**Honors Program**

**Departmental Honors**

Students with an overall grade point average of 3.5 or higher on all work completed at the University, and an average of 3.5 in courses taken in the Geography Department, may apply for the Honors Program, with the consent of a departmental advisor. The application should be made at the beginning of the senior year. A senior in the Honors Program must complete Geography H195A and/or H195B consecutively, in which a thesis is required (usually over two semesters). Any faculty member in the Department may administer an honors course. It is suggested that you approach faculty members from whom you’ve taken classes about being your mentor. After deciding on the number of units (1-4 units) you wish to undertake, see a Student Academic Advisor for a course control number (CCN) and the departmental application. Upon successful completion of the program and graduation, the designation of "with Honors", "with High Honors", or "with Highest Honors” will be noted on your transcript and diploma*.*

**College Honors**

The College of Letters and Science’s awarding of "Distinction", "High Distinction", and “Highest Distinction” is based solely on the grade-point average established for the year in which the student graduates. The required minimum grade-point averages for this award may vary from year to year. This notation will appear on the student’s diploma, on the List of Certificates, Degrees and Distinction, and on their Berkeley record when they graduate.

**Academic Performance Requirement**

Students in the major must maintain an overall grade point average of a C or better in upper division courses used to fulfill the requirements for the major. All courses required for the Geography major must be taken for a letter grade. Geography H195A-B,197, 198, and 199 cannot be used to satisfy a major or minor program requirement.

*Note about maintaining minimum grades:* According to an Academic Senate rule, if a student fails to get at least a 2.0 in any unit undertaken in the major, the department can dismiss him/her from the major, and send the student back to the College to select another major at which he/she will be more successful. The Geography Department would be reluctant to do that, but the faculty advisors may review a student’s file it if at any time his/her grade points *in any course taken in the major* dips below a 2.0. Thus a student cannot accumulate a number of D's and F's in Geography, while managing to pass a number of other courses with a C or better, and expect to be allowed to complete the major. If at any time you need help, don't fail to take action. Make an appointment to talk to a Student Academic Advisor, one of the undergraduate faculty advisors, or your instructors.

**Code of Ethics and Climate Standards of the Undergraduate Geography Program**

The Department of Geography at the University of California, Berkeley offers one of the finest undergraduate degrees in the world. The department prides itself in having a harmonious and respectful space where every person in our community receives respect and civility from one another.

As a declared major, this department can create opportunities that are currently unavailable to most of you. Each of you must uphold high ethical standards to protect these opportunities. Any student who does not uphold these standards should not expect to declare or continue to major in the Geography Department.

**Code of Ethics of the Undergraduate Geography Program**

Neither this department, nor its students, will condone cheating, lying, or any other misrepresentations. Moreover, anyone who willingly conceals these activities will be considered accomplices and equally culpable.

All undergraduate students are expected to comply with the code of ethics of the Undergraduate Program as stated above. In doing so, we commit ourselves to upholding the standards of honesty, integrity and personal responsibility.

Violations of the code of ethics will be referred to the University of California, Berkeley's [Center for Student Conduct and Community Standards](http://students.berkeley.edu/osl/sja.asp" \t "_blank) and can be grounds for dismissal from the major.

**Climate Standards of the Undergraduate Geography Program**

As part of our educational community the undergraduate student is required to adhere to certain responsibilities. We expect of our students the highest ethical behavior and they are responsible for contributing to an environment that is free from discrimination and harassment on the basis of categories including race, color, national origin, gender, age and sexual orientation/identity. This department depends on the personal integrity of each of us. Your grades and your degree will mean little without a firm foundation upon which to base these credentials.

Violations of the climate standards will be referred to the University of California, Berkeley's [Center for Student Conduct and Community Standards](http://students.berkeley.edu/osl/sja.asp" \t "_blank) and can be grounds for dismissal from the major.

**MINOR PROGRAM IN GEOGRAPHY**

The requirements for the minor program are as follows, effective Fall 1997:

A minimum of **five upper division** **courses** taken for a letter grade. Students must maintain an overall grade point average of 2.0 for all courses taken for the minor. A minimum of three courses must be taken on the Berkeley campus. Students must take at least one course in the physical area and one course in the human area from among the courses listed in the range of 109-173. Students may select courses in the range of 175-188, but if so, there are several that have limited enrollment and require permission of the instructor. (See Page 2 for course breakdown within each option.) Students should contact a Student Academic Advisor (SAA) to obtain a list of the courses being offered each semester, which fall into the two designated areas.

Students interested in the minor should see a SAA to declare the Geography minor. You should plan on meeting with a SAA no later that the semester before your Expected Graduation Term (EGT). You can find your EGT on CalCentral (http://calcentral.berkeley.edu). It is the student’s responsibility to declare a minor by this deadline.

**DEPARTMENTAL ORIENTATION**

The Geography Department is located in 507 McCone Hall (phone number: 642-3903). The Faculty and Graduate Student Instructors' Offices are located in McCone Hall; please see the Departmental website for exact locations.

**Departmental Advising**

The Student Academic Advisors team, Marjorie Ensor and Bobby Ewing, will help you to plan and execute your course work in the major program and answer questions concerning requirements and course substitutions. Professors Jake Kosek and Laurel Larsen are the Designated Undergraduate Faculty Advisors for 2017-2018. They may be consulted on any other questions concerning the major during their office hours or by special appointment. Students are also encouraged to seek substantive advice on academic matters from other faculty who share their interests or with whom they have had classes. Information on general Letters and Science requirements should be obtained from a College advisor in the L&S office in 206 Evans Hall.

**Transfer Students**

The Geography Department does not rule on the acceptability of course work and units earned at other universities towards University requirements; the College of Letters and Science determine this. The Geography Undergraduate Advisors, or the Student Academic Advisor acting on their behalf, will determine whether geography courses taken at other institutions fulfill any of the major requirements. Most courses taken at other campuses in the UC system and other major universities may be applied toward the major program. Most community college courses in cultural, physical and economic geography are accepted as equivalent to the lower division course requirements in the Berkeley Geography Department. Courses in general Geography (e.g., World Regional Geography) are sometimes accepted as fulfilling one of the lower division course requirements.

If you wish to substitute a course taken elsewhere for a departmental requirement, you must provide the course description, syllabus, and/or textbooks used in the courses in question. You should also bring proof of taking such courses (i.e., a copy of your transcript or a copy of your Academic Progress Report [APR] showing the transfer credit. Your APR is accessible via CalCentral (<http://calcentral.berkeley.edu> ). If a substitution is approved, it must be in writing (either by memo or email from Faculty Advisor and or SAA) and placed in your file.

Transfer students should be aware of University requirements pertaining to the number of units to be applied toward graduation that must be taken in residence at Berkeley in consecutive semesters (senior residency) of course work on this campus.

**Declaration of the Major**

Students may declare the Geography major after they have completed 2 of the 3 lower division requirements, completed at least 30 units, have a C (2.0) cumulative grade point average, and no prior infraction of the Undergraduate Code of Ethics and Climate Standard (refer to page 7 of the handbook). Students should declare by the end of their sophomore year at Berkeley, or by the start of their second semester if they are a transfer student. To declare, see the Student Academic Advisor to obtain a “Petition to Declare a Major” and a Departmental Information Sheet. These should be turned in with an unofficial transcript (showing UC Berkeley or community college work completed). A SAA or one of the UG Faculty Advisors can approve this petition.

**Residence in the Major**

All students must complete at least one semester of residence in the major before graduation. At least a C average (2.0) is required on all coursework undertaken at the University, and a C average is required on all coursework required for the major program, as well as a C average on all upper division courses required for the major.

**Class Workload**

A 15-unit class schedule is considered a normal course load; a class schedule totaling at least 13 units per semester (including repeated courses for which unit credit toward graduation may not be allowed) is required; a maximum of 20.5 units per semester is permitted. The major department can approve exceptions to the maximum; please see a SAA. Exceptions to the minimum must be approved through a College Advisor in the College of Letters and Science (L&S).

**Double Major**

Geography may be part of a double major. Regulations regarding the declaration of a double major and application may be found on the L&S Website(<https://ls.berkeley.edu/ls-office-undergraduate-advising>). Applications must be submitted one full semester prior to graduation. Double majors should make it a point to see a Student Academic Advisor in both departments early in order to plan their programs.

**Incompletes**

Students must arrange for the completion of Incompletes with the instructor of the course before the end of the semester. Incompletes will be assigned only if the coursework has been of passing quality but due to circumstances beyond the student's control that work is incomplete. The remaining work to remove the "I" must be completed as follows:

**Fall** - no later than the first day of Fall semester classes the next year.

**Spring** - no later than the first day of Spring semester classes the next year.

**Summer** - no later than the first day of Spring semester classes the

next year.

If the "I" is not made up within the periods indicated, the "I" converts to an "F". Please consult the L&S Website(<https://ls.berkeley.edu/ls-office-undergraduate-advising>) for a complete description of regulations governing "I" grades.

**Berkeley Undergraduate Geographers (BUGs)**

The Berkeley Undergraduate Geographers (BUG’s) is a group organized by undergraduate Geography students in the department. “BUG’s” has an elected Body of Officers and holds frequent meetings during the semester. Field trips, informal lectures, picnics and potlucks, movie nights, lunchtime talks, and T-shirt sales are some past activities organized by BUG’s. BUG’s is open to all students interested in geography.

**GRADUATION PROCEDURE**

The first semester of your senior year you should:

1. Arrange with the Student Academic Advisor to have a degree check on major requirements.

2. In the semester before you file for candidacy for the BA degree, run an Academic Progress Report (APR) to make sure you have satisfied College and University requirements. See L&S if you have any corrections or concerns.

3. Double-check your Expected Graduation Term (EGT) on Cal Central. You can see L&S for any changes to your EGT.

4. Sign up for Commencement. See a SAA for details on how to sign up.