

Geography

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Program Description

The Greek derivation of the word geography is "earth description." Geography studies natural features such as mountain ranges, rivers, valleys, forests, deserts, and grasslands, as well as human-made features such as cities, roads, dams, and bridges. Geography examines how human societies dynamically interact with each other and the environment, including how they are affected by a changing climate. Geography is truly an integrated discipline. Geography is central to an understanding of the international global arena and provides an exciting and challenging way to examine our planet.

Learn more about the program on the [Geography website](#).

Associate Degree for Transfer

This program also offers an Associate Degree for Transfer. Learn more and review the degree requirements on the [Geography AA-T listing](#).

Program Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to interpret spatially distributed data and draw valid conclusions by using maps, graphs, and/or Geographic Information Systems (GIS).
- Students will be able to evaluate core concepts in cultural and physical geography and apply them to contemporary events and issues.

Career Opportunities

Geography serves as an excellent undergraduate major. City, county, and state governments are hiring geographers in the field of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), urban planning, and environmental studies because of their broad training. A geography degree also provides a good foundation for careers in international work with agencies such as the State Department, the United Nations, or international NGOs. The national mapping division of the United States Geological Survey traditionally needs geographers in map making and its related job openings such as photo-interpretation, satellite image analysis, land use, and land cover mapping. In addition, the analytical skills gained through a geography major provide a strong foundation for graduate study in law, urban planning, and architecture. Geographers with advanced degrees are also in demand in colleges and universities around the world. Students should enhance their major with a strong array of courses in the international arena, statistics, physical sciences, computer science, and basic business principles.

Award Type(s)

- AS = Associate in Science Degree

Units Required

- Major: 33

Additional Information

Note: Students having difficulty attaining an associate degree because of timing or availability of

classes should consult with a counselor to submit a petition for course substitution.

Associate Degree Requirements

A minimum of 90 units is required¹ to complete the associate degree, including:

- Core and support courses for the major (33 units total)
- Completion of one of the following general education patterns:
 - Foothill College General Education
 - **Summer Session 2025 only**–CSU General Education Breadth (CSU GE Breadth)²
 - **Summer Session 2025 only**–Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC)²
 - **Beginning Fall Quarter 2025**–California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC)³

¹ Additional elective course work may be necessary to meet the 90-unit minimum requirement for the associate degree.

² Summer Session 2025 is the final term during which CSU GE Breadth and IGETC may be used. Please see a counselor for more information.

³ Cal-GETC begins in Fall Quarter 2025. Please see a counselor for more information.

Note: A grade of "C" (or "P") or better is required for all core and support courses used for the degree. In addition, the student must obtain a minimum GPA of 2.0.

Refer to the **Associate in Arts & Associate in Science Degree Requirements page** for complete information about graduation requirements and catalog rights.

Core and Support Courses

Core Courses		
GEOG 1	PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY	5
GEOG 2	HUMAN GEOGRAPHY	4
GEOG 10	WORLD REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY	4
GEOG 11 or GIST 11	INTRODUCTION TO MAPPING & SPATIAL REASONING	4

Support Courses

Select eight units from the following:

8

ANTH 2A CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY
or **ANTH 2AH** HONORS CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY
or **ANTH 2B** PATTERNS OF CULTURE

ECON 25 THE GLOBAL ECONOMY
or **ECON 25H** HONORS THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

GEOG 12 INTRODUCTION TO GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGY
or **GIST 12** INTRODUCTION TO GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGY

GEOG 20 INTRODUCTION TO EARTH SCIENCE

GLST 1 INTRODUCTION TO GLOBAL STUDIES
or **GLST 1H** HONORS INTRODUCTION TO GLOBAL STUDIES

GLST 2 GLOBAL ISSUES

HIST 4A HISTORY OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION TO 800 CE
or **HIST 4B** HISTORY OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION: 700-1800
or **HIST 4C** HISTORY OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION 1789-PRESENT

POLI 15 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/WORLD POLITICS
or **POLI 15H** HONORS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/WORLD POLITICS

And eight units from the following: ¹

8

ANTH 6 PERSPECTIVES FROM AFRICA

BIOL 9 ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

BIOL 15 CALIFORNIA ECOLOGY/NATURAL HISTORY

GEOG 70R INDEPENDENT STUDY IN GEOGRAPHY

GEOG 71R INDEPENDENT STUDY IN GEOGRAPHY

GEOG 72R INDEPENDENT STUDY IN GEOGRAPHY

GEOG 73R	INDEPENDENT STUDY IN GEOGRAPHY
HIST 8	HISTORY OF LATIN AMERICA
HIST 18	INTRODUCTION TO MIDDLE EASTERN CIVILIZATION
HIST 20	HISTORY OF RUSSIA & THE SOVIET UNION
POLI 2	COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT & POLITICS
or POLI 2H	HONORS COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT & POLITICS
Total Units	33

- ¹ Students may also use courses listed in the first section of support courses to fulfill the requirement for the second section of support courses.