

GEOGRAPHY

Department Website: <https://www.smu.ca/geography> (<https://www.smu.ca/geography/>)

Department Email: geography@smu.ca

Geography is the study of the Earth's surface, and of the spatial distribution and patterns of its physical and human characteristics. Geographers study how nature and culture work to create distinct spaces, places, landscapes, and regions. Geography is a subject with theoretical interest and has practical importance with applications in a wide range of fields.

It is possible to obtain a Major, Honours, or Concentration in Geography in either a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree program. A Minor in Geography may be obtained in a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Environmental Studies, or Bachelor of Commerce degree program.

Requirements for the Combined Geology/Geography (Major and Honours) programs are described in the Geology (<https://smu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/undergraduate/programs/geology/>) section of the Academic Calendar.

Department Policies

- The Department regards 1000-level courses as both service courses for the University in general and basic introductory courses for students in Geography programs.
- Geography courses are divided into four groups:
 - Group A - Human geography
 - Group B - Physical geography
 - Group C - Techniques and methods
 - Group D - Integrative, which may combine aspects of human geography, physical geography, and techniques and methods.
 Group designations are included after the course number and title in the listings of Geography courses (<https://smu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/undergraduate/courses-az/geog/>) in the Academic Calendar.
- Students in Geography programs are recommended to complete Geospatial Concepts (Group C) (GEOG 2306) before proceeding to upper-level courses.
- The Department recognizes the importance of developing students' communication skills in preparation for participating in the work force and/or continuing their education at an advanced level. Therefore, in addition to addressing geographic content, the Department is committed to improving the written and oral communication skills of students in Geography courses by including evaluation of these communication skills in course work. The Department, in collaboration with the Writing Centre, has created a *Style Guide* that is available from the Writing Centre.

Arts Programs

The Bachelor of Arts (BA) is a well-established, foundational degree and requires the requirements listed below alongside general graduation requirements (<https://smu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/undergraduate/faculties/faculty-arts/bachelor-arts/>).

Major in Bachelor of Arts Degree

Code	Title	Credit Hours
GEOG 1100	Global Perspectives on Land and Life (Group D)	3
GEOG 1200	People, Place and Environment (Group D)	3
GEOG 2306	Geospatial Concepts (Group C)	3
GEOG 2386	Introduction to Mapping and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) (Group C)	3
Select three credit hours from the following:		3
GEOG 3326	Statistical Methods in Geography (Group C)	
GEOG 3356	Remote Sensing of the Environment (Group C)	
GEOG 3386	Concepts in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analysis (Group C)	
GEOG 3416	Qualitative Research Methods in Geography (Group C)	
GEOG 4406	Capstone Seminar in Geography (Group D)	3
Select three credit hours in GEOG at the 3000 or 4000 level		3
Select nine other credit hours in GEOG at the 4000 level		9
Select 18 other credit hours in GEOG		18
Total Credit Hours		48

Note: After the student attains 48 credit hours in GEOG, only Group A, C, and D courses count towards the Faculty of Arts regulation for Major and Honours students to complete "66 credit-hours in Arts subjects at the 2000-level or above". Additional Group B courses may be taken as electives.

Major in a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a Minor in Geology

- A Bachelor of Arts degree student may complete a Major in Geography with a Minor in Geology by fulfilling the requirements for the minor as listed in the Geology (<https://smu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/undergraduate/programs/geology/>) section of the Academic Calendar.
- Students accepted into the Geology Minor program may count 24 credit hours in GEOL courses towards their Arts degree requirements.

Honours in a Bachelor of Arts Degree

Code	Title	Credit Hours
GEOG 1100	Global Perspectives on Land and Life (Group D)	3
GEOG 1200	People, Place and Environment (Group D)	3
GEOG 2306	Geospatial Concepts (Group C)	3
GEOG 2386	Introduction to Mapping and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) (Group C)	3
Select six credit hours from the following:		6
GEOG 3326	Statistical Methods in Geography (Group C)	
GEOG 3356	Remote Sensing of the Environment (Group C)	
GEOG 3386	Concepts in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analysis (Group C)	
GEOG 3416	Qualitative Research Methods in Geography (Group C)	
GEOG 4406	Capstone Seminar in Geography (Group D)	3
GEOG 4526	Honours Thesis (Group D)	6
Select nine credit hours in GEOG at the 4000 level		9

Select 24 other credit hours in GEOG	24
Total Credit Hours	60

Notes:

1. Faculty of Arts regulations apply to admission, continuance, and graduation from the Honours program in a Bachelor of Arts degree.
2. To be admitted to the Honours program, a student must have at least 3.0 GPA in Geography courses and an agreement-in-principle with a faculty member to supervise the thesis research project. Possession of the minimum requirements does not establish the right of an applicant to be admitted or readmitted to the program.
3. Complete details regarding the Honours Thesis are contained in *Regulations for the Honours Thesis* (GEOG 4526) which may be obtained from the Geography Honours Program Coordinator.

Minor in a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Commerce Degree

Code	Title	Credit Hours
GEOG 1100	Global Perspectives on Land and Life (Group D)	3
GEOG 1200	People, Place and Environment (Group D)	3
GEOG 2306	Geospatial Concepts (Group C)	3
GEOG 2386	Introduction to Mapping and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) (Group C)	3
or GEOG 3416	Qualitative Research Methods in Geography (Group C)	
Select 12 other credit hours in GEOG		12
Total Credit Hours		24

Minor in Geography in a Bachelor of Environmental Studies Degree

Code	Title	Credit Hours
GEOG 1100	Global Perspectives on Land and Life (Group D)	3
GEOG 1200	People, Place and Environment (Group D)	3
GEOG 2306	Geospatial Concepts (Group C)	3
GEOG 2386	Introduction to Mapping and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) (Group C)	3
GEOG 3356	Remote Sensing of the Environment (Group C)	3
or GEOG 3386	Concepts in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analysis (Group C)	
Select nine other credit hours in GEOG (which may only be counted as approved B.E.S. electives or free electives in fulfillment of the B.E.S. degree requirements)		9
Total Credit Hours		24

Concentration in Bachelor of Arts Degree

Code	Title	Credit Hours
GEOG 1100	Global Perspectives on Land and Life (Group D)	3
GEOG 1200	People, Place and Environment (Group D)	3
GEOG 2306	Geospatial Concepts (Group C)	3
GEOG 2386	Introduction to Mapping and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) (Group C)	3
or GEOG 3416	Qualitative Research Methods in Geography (Group C)	

Select 18 other credit hours in GEOG	18
Total Credit Hours	30

Note: At least 12 credit hours in GEOG must be at the 3000 or 4000 level.

Double Major in Geography and Other Arts Program in a Bachelor of Arts Degree

The requirements apply as listed under the heading Major in Bachelor of Arts degree with these two exceptions:

- Total number of credit hours required is 36 (reduced from 48).
- Select 9 other credit hours in GEOG (reduced from 21).

Honours in Geography and Major in Other Arts Program in a Bachelor of Arts Degree

The requirements apply as listed under the heading Honours in a Bachelor of Arts degree with these two exceptions:

- Total number of credit hours required is 54 (reduced from 60).
- Select 18 other credit hours in GEOG (reduced from 24).

Honours in Other Arts Program and Major in Geography in a Bachelor of Arts Degree

The requirements for a Major in Geography (36 credit hours) apply as listed under the heading Double Major in Geography and Other Arts Program in a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Double Honours in Geography and Other Arts Program in a Bachelor of Arts Degree

The requirements for Honours in Geography (54 credit hours, including thesis) apply as listed under the heading Honours in Geography and Other Arts Program in a Bachelor of Arts degree.

There is no provision to complete Honours Geography in a Double Honours and Other Arts Program in a Bachelor of Arts degree without completing a thesis in Geography.

Science Programs

The Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) is a well-established, foundational degree. Its specific requirements are listed below alongside general graduation requirements (<https://smu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/undergraduate/faculties/faculty-science/bachelor-science/>).

Major in Bachelor of Science Degree

Code	Title	Credit Hours
GEOG 1100	Global Perspectives on Land and Life (Group D)	3
GEOG 1200	People, Place and Environment (Group D)	3
GEOG 2306	Geospatial Concepts (Group C)	3
GEOG 2386	Introduction to Mapping and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) (Group C)	3
Select three credit hours from the following:		3
GEOG 3326	Statistical Methods in Geography (Group C)	
GEOG 3356	Remote Sensing of the Environment (Group C)	
GEOG 3386	Concepts in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analysis (Group C)	
GEOG 3416	Qualitative Research Methods in Geography (Group C)	

GEOG 4406	Capstone Seminar in Geography (Group D)	3
Select three credit hours in GEOG Group B at the 3000 or 4000 level		3
Select 15 credit hours in GEOG Group B		15
Select 12 other credit hours in GEOG		12
Total Credit Hours		48

Notes:

1. In addition to Capstone Seminar in Geography (Group D) (GEOG 4406), students must complete six of the 48 credit hours at the 4000-level in GEOG Group B, C, or D.
2. After the student has attained the required 48 credit hours in Geography, any additional GEOG courses count as free electives in the Faculty of Science.

Honours in a Bachelor of Science Degree

Code	Title	Credit Hours
GEOG 1100	Global Perspectives on Land and Life (Group D)	3
GEOG 1200	People, Place and Environment (Group D)	3
GEOG 2306	Geospatial Concepts (Group C)	3
GEOG 2386	Introduction to Mapping and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) (Group C)	3
Select six credit hours from the following:		6
GEOG 3326	Statistical Methods in Geography (Group C)	
GEOG 3356	Remote Sensing of the Environment (Group C)	
GEOG 3386	Concepts in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analysis (Group C)	
GEOG 3416	Qualitative Research Methods in Geography (Group C)	
GEOG 4406	Capstone Seminar in Geography (Group D)	3
GEOG 4526	Honours Thesis (Group D)	6
Select three credit hours in GEOG Group B at the 4000 level		3
Select 15 credit hours in GEOG Group B		15
Select three credit hours in GEOG at the 4000 level		3
Select 12 other credit hours in GEOG		12
Total Credit Hours		60

Notes:

1. Faculty of Science regulations apply to admission, continuance, and graduation from the Honours program in a Bachelor of Science degree.
2. To be admitted to the Honours program, a student must have at least 3.0 GPA in Geography courses and an agreement-in-principle with a faculty member to supervise the thesis research project. Possession of the minimum requirements does not establish the right of an applicant to be admitted or readmitted to the program.
3. Complete details regarding the Honours Thesis are contained in *Regulations for the Honours Thesis* (GEOG 4526) which may be obtained from the Geography Honours Program Coordinator.

Minor in a Bachelor of Science Degree

Code	Title	Credit Hours
GEOG 1100	Global Perspectives on Land and Life (Group D)	3
GEOG 1200	People, Place and Environment (Group D)	3

GEOG 2306	Geospatial Concepts (Group C)	3
GEOG 2386	Introduction to Mapping and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) (Group C)	3
or GEOG 3416	Qualitative Research Methods in Geography (Group C)	
Select three credit hours from the following:		3
GEOG 2313	Geomorphology (Group B)	
GEOG 2333	Biogeography (Group B)	
GEOG 2343	Weather and Climate (Group B)	
Select nine credit hours in GEOG Group B or Group C		9
Select six other credit hours in GEOG		6
Total Credit Hours		30

Geology/Geography (Major and Honours) Combined Programs

Requirements for the Geology/Geography (Major and Honours) Combined programs are described in the Geology (<https://smu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/undergraduate/programs/geology/>) section of the Academic Calendar.

Double Major in Geography and a Science Program (other than Geology) in a Bachelor of Science Degree

Code	Title	Credit Hours
GEOG 1100	Global Perspectives on Land and Life (Group D)	3
GEOG 1200	People, Place and Environment (Group D)	3
GEOG 2306	Geospatial Concepts (Group C)	3
GEOG 2386	Introduction to Mapping and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) (Group C)	3
Select three credit hours from the following:		3
GEOG 3326	Statistical Methods in Geography (Group C)	
GEOG 3356	Remote Sensing of the Environment (Group C)	
GEOG 3386	Concepts in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analysis (Group C)	
GEOG 3416	Qualitative Research Methods in Geography (Group C)	
Select three credit hours in GEOG Group B at the 3000 or 4000 level		3
Select nine credit hours in GEOG Group B		9
Select three credit hours at the 4000 level in GEOG Group B or C		3
Select three credit hours in GEOG Group B, C, or D at the 4000 level		3
Select three other credit hours in GEOG Group B, C, or D		3
Total Credit Hours		36

Note: After the student has attained the required 36 credit hours in Geography, any additional GEOG courses count as free electives in the Faculty of Science.

Concentration in Bachelor of Science Degree

Code	Title	Credit Hours
GEOG 1100	Global Perspectives on Land and Life (Group D)	3
GEOG 1200	People, Place and Environment (Group D)	3
GEOG 2306	Geospatial Concepts (Group C)	3
GEOG 2386	Introduction to Mapping and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) (Group C)	3
or GEOG 3416	Qualitative Research Methods in Geography (Group C)	

Select three credit hours from the following:	3
GEOG 2313 Geomorphology (Group B)	
GEOG 2333 Biogeography (Group B)	
GEOG 2343 Weather and Climate (Group B)	
Select nine credit hours in GEOG Group B or Group C	9
Select six other credit hours in GEOG	6
Total Credit Hours	30

Note: At least 12 credit hours in GEOG must be at 3000 or 4000 level

Honours in Geography and Major in Other Science Program in a Bachelor of Science Degree

The requirements apply as listed in this Academic Calendar under the heading Honours in a Bachelor of Science degree with these two exceptions:

- Total number of credit hours required is 54 (reduced from 60).
- Select 6 other credit hours in GEOG (reduced from 12).

Honours in Other Science Program and Major in Geography in a Bachelor of Science Degree

The requirements for a Major in Geography (36 credit hours) apply as listed under the heading Double Major in Geography and a Science Program (other than Geology) in a Bachelor of Science degree.

Double Honours in Geography and Other Science Program in a Bachelor of Science Degree

The requirements for Honours in Geography (54 credit hours, including thesis) apply as listed under the heading Honours in Geography and Other Science Program in a Bachelor of Science degree.

There is no provision to complete Honours Geography in a Double Honours and Other Science Program in a Bachelor of Science degree without completing a thesis in Geography.