

# GEOGRAPHY - 5-YEAR BACHELOR OF SCIENCE AND MASTER OF SCIENCE IN GEOGRAPHY

This 5-year program combines our bachelor of science in Geography with our thesis-based master of science in Geography, providing a fast track to an advanced degree. Intended for the highly motivated, exceptional students with an interest in research, this accelerated program prepares students in human geography, physical geography, and human-environment interactions, while also providing a foundation in the geospatial skills to succeed in private industry, the public sector, education, and many of the other opportunities available to geographers. With the thesis-based master of science degree, students are also ideally prepared for careers in research, including doctoral programs in geography and many other related disciplines.

## Application and Eligibility

- Applications to the combined program will be submitted by June 15 after the completion of the student’s junior year, once 90 hours of coursework are completed. Applications submitted after that time will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- Students must identify a faculty member from Geography who is willing to serve as the advisor and chair of the thesis committee.
- The bachelor’s and master’s degrees will be conferred concurrently after completion of 150 hours, and satisfying their master’s requirements which include successfully defending their thesis.
- Students not admitted to or wishing to discontinue the graduate portion of the 5-year program will earn their bachelor of science degree in Geography after successfully completing 120 hours of coursework.

## Program Requirements

### First Year

Fall		Semester Credit Hours
GEOG 201	Introduction to Human Geography	3
GEOG 215	Geospatial Cornerstone	1
Life and physical sciences <sup>1</sup>		4
Select one of the following:		
OCNG 251 & OCNG 252	The Blue Planet - Our Oceans and The Blue Planet - Our Oceans Laboratory	
GEOL 101 & GEOL 102	Principles of Geology and Principles of Geology Laboratory	
BIOL 111	Introductory Biology I	
CHEM 119	Fundamentals of Chemistry I	
PHYS 201	College Physics	
American history ( <a href="http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#american-history">http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#american-history</a> )		3

Communication (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#communication>) 3

Human geography elective<sup>2</sup> 3

**Semester Credit Hours 17**

### Spring

GEOG 203 Planet Earth 3

GEOG 213 Planet Earth Lab 1

MATH 140 Mathematics for Business and Social Sciences 3

Life and physical sciences<sup>1</sup> 4

Select one of the following:

ATMO 201 & ATMO 202 Weather and Climate and Weather and Climate Laboratory

GEOL 106 Historical Geology

BIOL 112 Introductory Biology II

CHEM 120 Fundamentals of Chemistry II

PHYS 202 College Physics

Human geography elective<sup>2</sup> 3

General elective<sup>4</sup> 3

**Semester Credit Hours 17**

### Second Year

#### Fall

GEOG 232 Cartography and Visualization 3

MATH 142 Business Calculus 3

POLS 206 American National Government 3

STAT 303 Statistical Methods 3

General elective<sup>4</sup> 4

**Semester Credit Hours 16**

#### Spring

GEOG 390 Principles of Geographic Information Systems 4

POLS 207 State and Local Government 3

Creative arts (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#creative-arts>) 3

Physical geography elective<sup>3</sup> 6

**Semester Credit Hours 16**

### Third Year

#### Fall

American history (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#american-history>) 3

Language, philosophy and culture (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#language-philosophy-culture>) 3

Geography elective<sup>5</sup> 9

General elective<sup>4</sup> 3

**Semester Credit Hours 18**

#### Spring

Communication (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#communication>) 3

General elective <sup>4</sup>		13
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Fourth Year</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
GEOG 450	Field Geography	3
GEOG 610	Geographical Methods and Theory	3
Graduate elective <sup>6</sup>		3
General elective <sup>4</sup>		6
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
GEOG 440	History and Nature of Geography	3
GEOG 611	Geographical Research Design	3
GEOG 691	Research	2
Graduate elective <sup>6</sup>		3
General elective <sup>4</sup>		6
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>17</b>
<b>Fifth Year</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
Graduate elective <sup>6</sup>		9
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
GEOG 691	Research	6
Graduate elective <sup>6</sup>		3
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Total Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>150</b>

The program includes a total of 152 hours, which up to 2 hours may be applied toward both the Bachelor of Science in Geography and the Master of Science in Geography (thesis option).

<sup>1</sup> 8 hours required. Department requires that you take two in the same discipline to meet this requirement.

<sup>2</sup> Select from GEOG 301, GEOG 304, GEOG 305, GEOG 306, GEOG 309, GEOG 311, GEOG 320, GEOG 323, GEOG 325, GEOG 327, GEOG 330, GEOG 401, GEOG 406, GEOG 420, GEOG 430.

<sup>3</sup> Select from GEOG 324, GEOG 331, GEOG 335, GEOG 360, GEOG 370/ MARS 370, GEOG 400, GEOG 434, GEOG 435, GEOG 442/GEOL 442.

<sup>4</sup> Courses to be selected in consultation with advisor. Select any courses from 100-499 not used elsewhere. (Except AERS 100-499 (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/aers/>); ASCC 100-499 (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/ascc/>); ENGL 103; KINE 198, KINE 199; MATH 102-104, 131, 141-142, 150-151, 166, 171 (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/math/>); MLSC 100-499 (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/mlsc/>); NVSC 100-499 (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/nvsc/>); SOMS 100-499 (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/soms/>); STAT 211, STAT 302, STAT 303).

<sup>5</sup> Choose from any 300 or 400-level geography course.

<sup>6</sup> Select from any 600-level geography course except GEOG 660 or GEOG 691. Up to 2 hours of graduate electives may be used towards the undergraduate degree's general elective

Two courses in the bachelor of science degree plan must be Writing Intensive courses designated by the department in the schedule of classes. Also, International and Cultural Diversity elective (3 hours) and Cultural Discourse (3 hours) must be incorporated into the degree.