



Program of Study

Degree Requirements (120 hours)

1. **Carolina Core (32-44 hours)**

- a. **CMW** (6 hours): any approved CC-CMW course –*must be passed with a grade of C or higher*
- b. **ARP** (6-8 hours): any approved CC-ARP course
- c. **SCI** (8 hours)
 - i. Two 4-credit hour CC-SCI laboratory science courses
- d. **GFL** (0-6 hours): Demonstration of proficiency in one foreign language equivalent to the minimal passing grade on the exit examination in the 122 course is required for all baccalaureate degrees. Students can demonstrate this proficiency by successfully completing Phase II of the Proficiency Test or by successfully completing the 122 course, including the exit exam administered as part of that course.
It is strongly recommended that students continuing the study of a foreign language begin college-level study of that language in their first semester and continue in that language until their particular foreign language requirement is completed.
- e. **GHS** (3 hours): any approved CC-GHS course
- f. **GSS** (3 hours): any approved CC-GSS course
- g. **AIU** (3 hours): any approved CC-AIU course

Carolina Core Stand Alone or Overlay Eligible Requirements:

Up to two of these requirements may be met in overlay courses. At least one of these requirements must be satisfied by a course not applied elsewhere in general education. (3-9 Hours)

- h. **CMS** (3 hours): any approved overlay or stand-alone CC-CMS course
- i. **INF** (0-3 hours): any approved overlay or stand-alone CC-INF course
- j. **VSR** (0-3 hours): any approved overlay or stand-alone CC-VSR course

Choose at least 1 of the following to fulfill a Carolina Core requirement:

–must be passed with a grade of C or higher

- GEOG 103 (CC-GSS)
- GEOG 104 (CC-SCI)
- GEOG 105 (CC-ARP)
- GEOG 121 (CC-GSS)
- GEOG 201 (CC-SCI)
- GEOG 202 (CC-SCI)
- GEOG 210 (CC-GSS)

2. **College Requirements (15-18 hours)**

- a. **Foreign language course** (0-3 hours) –*only if needed to meet 122-level proficiency*
- b. **History** (3 hours): The College of Arts and Sciences requires one U.S. History and one non-U.S. History course, both of which must be chosen from the approved Carolina Core GHS courses. Whichever is not fulfilled through the Carolina Core GHS requirement must be fulfilled through this college requirement.
- c. **Social Science** (3 hours): choose any from the list of CC-GSS approved courses
- d. **Fine Arts or Humanities** (9 hours)

3. **Program Requirements (34-49 hours)**

a. **Cognate or Minor (12-18 hours)**

Cognate

The cognate is intended to support the course work in the major. The cognate must consist of twelve (12) hours of courses at the advanced level, outside of but related to the major. The cognate may be taken in one or more departments or programs, depending on the interests of the student and the judgment of the advisor.

Courses offered by departments and programs that are acceptable for cognate credit are outlined in the section titled [Courses Acceptable for Cognate Credit in Degree Programs in the College of Arts and Sciences](#).

For cognate course offerings in other colleges, consult the appropriate sections of this bulletin. Some major programs have specific cognate requirements.

It should be emphasized that the cognate is not a second set of elective courses to be chosen at random by the student. The cognate must be approved by the major advisor as being related to the major field of study. Students are urged to consult their major advisors for specific requirements in their major.

Courses applied toward general education requirements cannot be counted toward the cognate.

For Bachelor of Arts degrees, all cognate courses must be passed with a grade of **C** or higher.

Minor

In place of the cognate a student in the College of Arts and Sciences may choose a minor consisting of at least 18 credit hours of prescribed courses. (Some minors in the sciences require a minimum of 16 hours.) The subject area of the minor may be related to the major. Students pursuing interdisciplinary minors who wish to use courses in their major department for minor credit must petition the College Committee on Scholastic Standards and Petitions for permission to do so.

The minor is intended to develop a coherent basic preparation in a second area of study. It differs from the cognate inasmuch as the courses must be concentrated in one area and must follow a structured sequence. Interdisciplinary minors can be designed with the approval of the assistant dean for academic affairs and advising.

Courses applied toward general education requirements cannot be counted toward the minor. No course may satisfy both major and minor requirements. All minor courses must be passed with a grade of C or higher. At least half of the courses in the minor must be completed in residence at the University.

A list of minor programs of study can be found at [Programs A-Z](#).

- b. **Electives (16-37 hours)** (*to reach required hours to graduate*): No courses of a remedial, developmental, skill-acquiring, or vocational nature may apply as credit toward degrees in the College of Arts and Sciences. The College of Arts and Sciences allows the use of the Pass-Fail option on elective courses. Further clarification on inapplicable courses can be obtained from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Note: 4-25 hours of electives will be needed to reach hours to graduate if completing the B.A. with Distinction.

4. **Major Requirements (24 hours)** –*must be passed with a grade of C or higher*

a. **Major Courses (6 hours)**

- i. Select one course from:

1. GEOG 341
2. GEOG 345
3. GEOG 363
4. GEOG 551

- ii. GEOG 495

b. **Major Electives (18 hours)**

- i. Select 5-6 GEOG courses with advisor's approval that are tailored towards a topical, methodological, or geographical focus

Note: Majors may take up to 9 hours of GEOG courses at the 200-level to fulfill major requirements; 6 hours must be at the 500-level. GEOG 595 can be used to fulfill up to 3 hours of geography elective credit, but not the 500-level requirement.

B.A. with Distinction (36 hours)

Available to students majoring in Geography who wish to participate in significant research activities in their major field under the supervision of a faculty mentor.

a. Prerequisite

- i. A minimum GPA of 3.50 in the major, and 3.30 overall, is required to apply for a BA or BS with Distinction in Geography

b. Requirements

- i. Students must submit a written application for the BA with Distinction in Geography at least eight months before completion of the degree.
- ii. Written sponsorship agreement from a Geography faculty mentor on file in the department.
- iii. An established thesis committee consisting of a tenure-track faculty member in Geography and at least one other tenure-track or research faculty member at the University of South Carolina.
- iv. A written thesis demonstrating significant original work and approved by the thesis committee.
- v. A public presentation of the Senior Thesis research.
- vi. General major requirements, plus 12 additional credit hours including:
 1. A minimum of nine credit hours in GEOG 498, or any GEOG 500-level courses (9 hours)
 2. GEOG 499 (3 hours)