

Archived: August 11, 2020

Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Programs

Geography Honours (BA)

Program Length:

4 Years

The Program

The main advantage of the Honours degree in Geography is that it will help students to see themselves as professionals in the discipline, and so will better prepare them for graduate or professional programs. The research project provides an opportunity for putting the required communication, research, and analysis courses into holistic practice; and is becoming a standard expectation for entrance into most graduate programs. VIU is already well established as an institution that provides a breadth of experience suitable for post-program success. The Honours program establishes these standards as a way to strengthen the transition to graduate and professional situations.

Program Outline

Students must fulfill all the Institutional B.A. degree requirements, including Degree English Requirements and courses listed under Year 1-4:

Honours BC Geography (General Stream)*

Years 3 and 4	Credits
GEOG 322 - (Geographic Communication)	3
GEOG 328 - (Geographic Information Systems)	3
GEOG 324 - (Research Methods in Geography)	3
GEOG 467 - (Field Studies in Geography I)	3
GEOG 491 - (Research Project)	6
<i>Eight</i> upper-level GEOG electives	24
Total Credits	42

**Students doing a BA Major in Geography with a specialized stream have more specific upper-level requirements (listed below), thus reducing the 8 upper-level GEOG electives to just two GEOG electives.*

Upper-level Requirements specific to the Sustainable Resource Management stream	Credits
GEOG 326 - (Remote Sensing)	3
GEOG 350 - (Natural Resource Management)	3
GEOG 352 - (Managing Natural and Social Capital) <i>or</i> , GEOG 356 - (Policy, Resources, and Sustainability)	3
GEOG 372 - (Climatology) <i>or</i> , GEOG 373 - (Biogeography)	3
GEOG 374 - (Hydrology) <i>or</i> , GEOG 376 - (Geomorphology)	3
GEOG 452 - (Applications in Natural Resource Management)	3

Upper-level Requirements specific to the Urban and Social Sustainability stream	Credits
GEOG 330 - (Cultural Geography)	3
GEOG 340 - (Urban Systems)	3
GEOG 342 - (Urban and Regional Planning)	3
GEOG 344 - (Urban Social Geography)	3
GEOG 352 - (Managing Natural and Social Capital) <i>or</i> , GEOG 356 - (Policy, Resources, and Sustainability)	3
GEOG 446 - (Applications in Urban and Regional Management)	

Recommended Electives

Global Studies, Earth Science, Resource Management, Forestry, Anthropology, Biology, History, Political Studies, Tourism and Recreation, Liberal Studies, Philosophy, Sociology, Economics, Studies in Women and Gender, Psychology, Criminology, Chemistry, Physics, Math.

Further Studies

Students will be qualified to enter Master's Programs in Geography, including two VIU Master's programs (Master of GIS Applications and Master of Community Planning). They may also proceed to other professional training in a range of fields: environmental policy, natural resource management, education, urban planning, geospatial technologies, etc.

Completion Requirements

BA Honours Geography students need an average GPA of 3.67 (A-) on all 3rd and 4th year courses taken within the discipline in order to graduate from an Honours program.

Admission Requirements

The requirement for admission is a GPA of at least a 3.67 (A-) on the most recent 45 credits of study. There is limited space in the Honours program and not all students who meet the requirement will be admitted to the Honours program in Geography.

Students can obtain a Geography Department Honours Application form from the

Department Chair. In addition to completing this form, students will also need to complete a Research Project Request Form for submission to the Chair. The Chair will contact the Degree Advisor with confirmation of acceptance, or to obtain confirmation of the appropriate GPA and course planning requirements.

Start Date and Application Deadline

Students may apply any time after completion of 45 credits, and prior to March 31st in the year preceding their final year of study. Successful students will be connected with a senior project advisor.

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