

Department of Geography

STUDENT HANDBOOK

effective 2010 – 2011

Undergraduate and Graduate
Program Information



One University. One World. Yours.

All About Geography

Patterns
Countries
Statistics
Hazards
Climate
Regions
Location
Scale
Cycles
Agriculture
Planning
Maps
Continents

LAND
Water
Society
CULTURE
History
Transportation
Processes
Landforms
EARTH
Remote Sensing
Environment
Places
Economy

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Department of Geography

Address

Saint Mary's University
5932 Inglis Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada B3H 3C3

Department Office

Burke Building, Room 102

Inquiries: e-mail

Anne.Baker@smu.ca

Telephone

(902) 420-5737

Fax

(902) 496-8213

Website

www.smu.ca/academic/arts/geography/

Ver. 2010-03

The skills and knowledge that I accumulated during my years in the Geography department at Saint Mary's have proved invaluable to both my personal and academic development, and prepared me well for my later work as a graduate student in environmental management. The broad knowledge base I accumulated about the world around me has drastically shaped my perceptions of the world and my future career path. The opportunities provided to me within the Geography program (small class sizes, one-on-one interaction with professors, unique research opportunities, training for employment, volunteering and social opportunities) provided me with essential and applicable real world experiences. Since leaving Saint Mary's I have been told many times that the Geography Department is one of the most well respected in the country. I count myself as very lucky to have chosen Saint Mary's as my school and Geography as my field of study.

Tyson Daoust, B.Sc. Honours

The practical and academic experience that I gained from my Geography degree at Saint Mary's has helped me to attain a career researching climate change impacts and coastal issues in Nova Scotia. The program is very interdisciplinary and explores all aspects of geography, from physical to cultural, technical and more, and has truly prepared me for 'real world' situations in the environmental field. Professors were all extremely encouraging and approachable; I never felt uncomfortable seeking their help or advice. The department is small and therefore a sense of community is felt. Fellow students quickly become your support network and just as quickly become your friends.

Elissa Gollan, B.A.

The Geography Department provides an excellent opportunity to learn about this fascinating field within a collegial atmosphere. The Department's size allows for a great deal of interaction with both professors and fellow students. A formal education in geography can assist you in a countless number of pursuits; my experience has certainly helped me in my current study of law.

Derek Schnare, B.Sc. Honours

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Find Your Place in the World	6
Faculty and Staff	7
Undergraduate Programs	
Student Advising	8
Selected Program Notes.....	8
B.A. Major	10
B.A. Honours.....	12
B.Sc. Major	14
B.Sc. Honours.....	16
B.A. and B.Sc. Minor and Concentration.....	18
Undergraduate Courses Offered.....	20
Optional Streams of Courses	22
Some Past Honours Research Projects	24
Student Employment Opportunities	
Teaching Assistants.....	25
Research Assistants	25
Saint Mary's University Geography Society (SMUGS).....	25
Graduate Programs	
M.A. in Atlantic Canada Studies	26
M.Sc. in Applied Science	26
Graduate Courses Offered.....	27
Past Graduate Research Projects	28
Facilities and Equipment.....	29
Careers for Geography Graduates	30

Find Your Place in the World

At Saint Mary's Department of Geography, we want to help you *find your place in the world*. That place might be somewhere you want to visit, or maybe to live. More importantly, we can help you get to where you want to be in your career and in your life. In addition to learning geographical content and skills, we help our students prepare for the workplace or graduate studies by developing strong general academic skills such as critical reading and thinking, proficient writing, and effective research. In addition to your personal reasons for considering to pursue geography, here is a list of goals that our graduates can expect to achieve:

Ten Goals for a Geography Student

1. To understand basic physical systems that affect everyday life (e.g., earth-sun relationships, hydrologic cycle, winds, and ocean currents).
2. To learn the location of places and the physical and cultural characteristics of those places in order to function more effectively in our increasingly interdependent world.
3. To develop a *mental map* of your community, province, country and the world so that you can understand the “where” of places and events.
4. To understand the geography of past times and how geography has played important roles in the evolution of people, their ideas, places and environments.
5. To explain how the processes of human and physical systems have arranged and sometimes changed the surface of the Earth.
6. To understand the spatial organization of society and see order in what often appears to be a random scattering of people and places.
7. To recognize spatial distributions at all scales – local to worldwide – in order to understand the complex connectivity of people and places.
8. To be able to make sensible judgments about matters involving relationships between the physical environment and society.
9. To appreciate Earth as the home of humankind and provide insight for wise management decisions about how the planet's resources should be used.
10. To understand global interdependence and to become a better global citizen.

(List adapted from: www.humboldt.edu/~cga)

Full-Time Faculty and Staff

Cathy Conrad, Associate Professor

(Ph.D., Wilfrid Laurier University)

Environmental geography, hydrology, environmental monitoring,
watershed management, community-based research

Philip Giles, Associate Professor

(Ph.D., University of Calgary)

Geomorphology, remote sensing, applications and
analysis of digital elevation models

Jason Grek-Martin, Lecturer

(Ph.D. pending, Queen's University)

Cultural geography, historical geography, social geography,
history of cartography, geographies of colonialism

Robert McCalla, Professor

(Ph.D., University of Hull)

Economic geography, transportation, shipping, ports,
applied geography

Hugh Millward, Professor

(Ph.D., University of Western Ontario)

Urban development, rural geography, community planning,
Nova Scotia, Japan

Cristian Suteanu, Associate Professor

(Ph.D., Romanian Academy, Bucharest)

Geosystems analysis and modeling, environmental
information management, natural hazards

Danika van Proosdij, Associate Professor

(Ph.D., University of Guelph)

Coastal geomorphology, biogeography, GIS

Dr. Douglas Day, *Professor Emeritus*

Ms. Anne Baker, *Secretary*

Mr. Don Bonner, *Cartographic Technician*

Mr. Greg Baker, *MP_SpARC Technician*

Contact information is available on the department website.

Undergraduate Student Advising

Each new major and Honours student is assigned a faculty advisor with whom regular consultation should be made (at least once per term). Lists of students and their advisors are posted around the department or are available from the department secretary.

Faculty advisors will be able to:

- help ensure that the student is taking a correct selection of courses to meet the requirements of his or her program
- discuss choices that the student has available in his or her program at Saint Mary's, and beyond.

To assist students with planning and assessing progress within their selected program, Course Selection and Advising Forms have been created. These forms are in a checklist format. There are separate forms for B.A. and B.Sc. programs, available on the department website or from the secretary.

Students in the Minor or Concentration programs, and undeclared students who are considering pursuing Geography, should consult with the Department Chairperson.

Selected Program Notes

For a full list of program notes, please see the Geography section of the Undergraduate Academic Calendar.

Policy on Communication in Courses

The Department of Geography 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 geographical 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.

Progression

Our programs are structured to encourage students to follow a progression to upper level courses. In particular, majors and honours students should normally complete GEOG 2316.1(.2) and 2336.1(.2) before the end of their second year or, in the case of part-time students, before proceeding to upper level courses.

Prerequisites

For courses in the Department of Geography (code GEOG), the required grade in a prerequisite course is C or higher. The department will adhere to this standard as a general rule. Students who achieved a grade of C- or D in a course must re-take the course, and achieve a C or higher, for it to be a valid prerequisite.

The Banner system will prevent registration in a course for which a student does not have the prerequisite course with a grade of C or higher. If the pre-requisite for a second-term course is offered in the first term, a student will be able to register in the second-term course in the summer as long as he/she is also registered in the prerequisite course. Failure to achieve a C or higher in the prerequisite course would mean automatic deregistration from the second-term course after the first-term grades are submitted.

Exceptions will be made in the following situations:

- At the discretion of the instructor, a prerequisite override may be approved in some circumstances; the reasons for all overrides will be documented by the instructor and submitted to the Chair.
- For the three courses that have both GEOG 1100.1(.2) and GEOG 1200.1(.2) as prerequisites, a student with C- (but not lower) in one of these courses will be permitted to take GEOG 2316.1(.2) and GEOG 2336.1(.2) as long as a grade of C+ or higher was achieved in the other course.

A manual prerequisite override must be provided by the course instructor before the student can register in the course.

The C- provision for GEOG 1100.1(.2) or GEOG 1200.1(.2) applies only to the specific courses mentioned here (GEOG 2316.1(.2) and GEOG 2336.1(.2)). A grade of C- in GEOG 1100.1(.2) or GEOG 1200.1(.2) is insufficient as a prerequisite for other courses, and the relevant course would have to be re-taken to achieve a higher grade.

Course Re-Numbering

Occasionally we revise our program and replace certain courses. When this occurs, we state clearly the course equivalencies for prerequisite purposes, so students who took the former course can continue in their program without taking the new course. Also note that you would not be permitted to register and acquire credit hours in a new course if you have already completed the equivalent course it replaced.

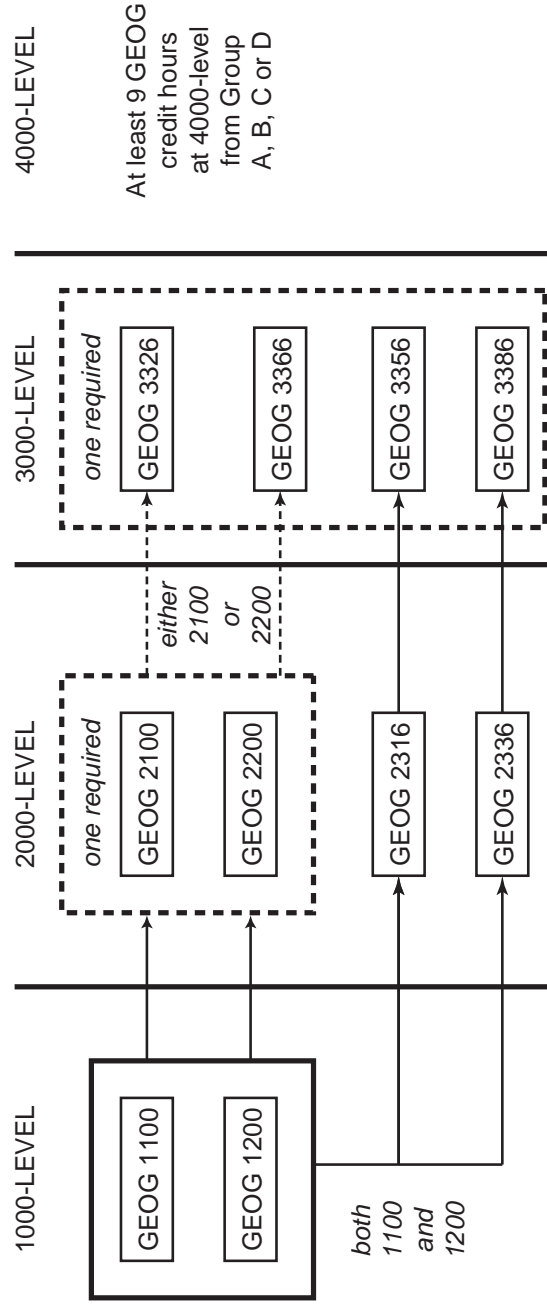
B.A. Major Program

The requirements for a Major in Geography within the B.A. degree are:

- i. GEOG 1100.1(.2), GEOG 1200.1(.2), and either GEOG 2100.1(.2) or GEOG 2200.1(.2);
- ii. GEOG 2316.1(.2), 2336.1(.2) and three (3) credit hours from GEOG 3326.1(.2), 3356.1(.2), 3366.1(.2), or 3386.1(.2);
- iii. Students must attain a grade of C or higher in GEOG 2316.1(.2) and GEOG 2336.1(.2);
- iv. Nine (9) credit hours in GEOG at the 4000-level; and
- v. Twenty-one (21) credit hours in GEOG.

Note: In addition to the eighteen (18) credit hours defined in (i) and (ii), the thirty (30) additional credit hours in GEOG may be taken from any group (A, B, C, D). After the student attains forty-eight (48) credit hours in GEOG, only Group A, C, and D courses count towards the “sixty-six (66) credit hours in Arts subjects at the 2000-level or above” (Faculty of Arts Regulation 1a). Additional Group B courses could be taken as electives.

GEOGRAPHY MAJOR WITH B.A. DEGREE: REQUIRED COURSES



OTHER COURSES: 18 credit hours in GEOG courses, in any group and at any level

1100: Global Perspect. on Land and Life	2100: Fundamentals of Phys. Geog.	3326: Stat. Methods
1200: People, Place, and Environment	2200: Fundamentals of Human Geog.	3366: Field and Res. Tech.
	2316: Map and Air Photo Interp.	3356: Remote Sensing
	2336: Principles of Cartography	3386: Concepts in GIS

B.A. Honours Program

The Honours Program is designed for students who wish to pursue more in-depth study of Geography and to undertake an independent research project (GEOG 4526.0) under the supervision of a faculty member. Those students who seek to continue their studies at the graduate level are strongly advised to complete an Honours degree.

To be admitted to the Honours program, a student must have at least a B standing in geography courses and have obtained satisfactory grades in non-geography courses. Possession of the minimum requirements does not establish the right of an applicant to be admitted, or readmitted, to the program.

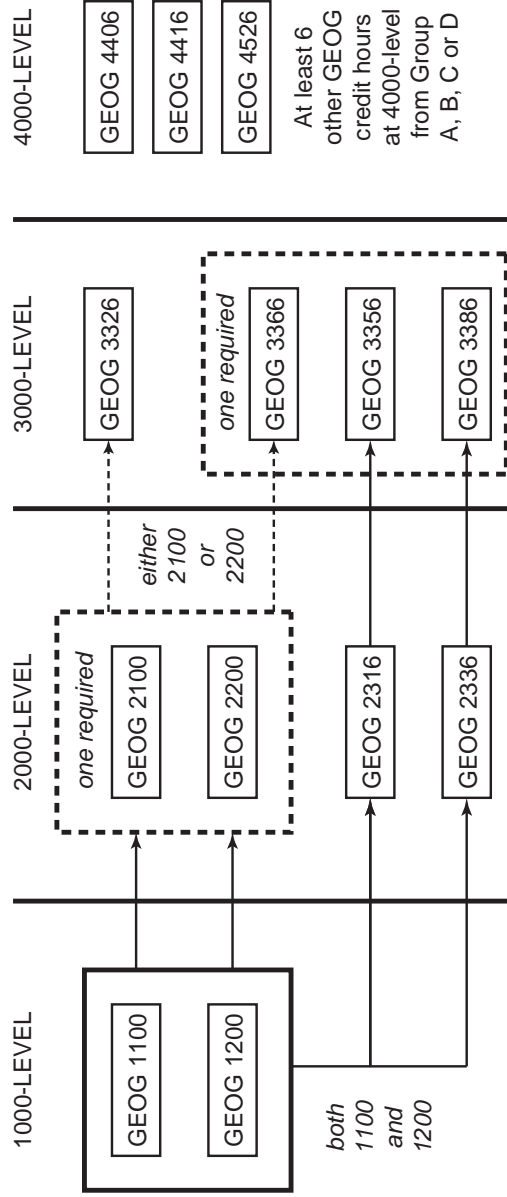
Students admitted to the program are responsible for finding a member of the Department to act as their Honours Research Project supervisor.

Complete details regarding the Honours Research Project are contained in *Regulations for the Honours Research Project (Geography 4526.0)* available from the Departmental secretary.

For a B.A. with Honours in Geography, students must complete 72 credit hours in Geography, as follows:

- i. GEOG 1100.1(.2), GEOG 1200.1(.2), and either GEOG 2100.1(.2) or 2200.1(.2);
- ii. GEOG 2316.1(.2), 2336.1(.2), and 3326.1(.2);
- iii. Students must attain a grade of C or higher in GEOG 2316.1(.2) and GEOG 2336.1(.2);
- iv. One of GEOG 3356.1(.2), 3366.1(.2), or 3386.1(.2);
- v. GEOG 4406.1(.2) and 4416.1(.2);
- vi. GEOG 4526.0; and
- vii. Thirty-nine (39) other GEOG credit hours from any group of which at least six (6) credit hours must be at the 4000-level.

GEOGRAPHY WITH B.A. HONOURS DEGREE: REQUIRED COURSES



OTHER COURSES: 30 credit hours in GEOG courses, in any group and at any level

1100: Global Perspect. on Land & Life	2100: Fundamentals of Phys. Geog.	3326: Stat. Methods	4406: Sem. in Theor. Geog.
1200: People, Place, and Environment	2200: Fundamentals of Human Geog.	3366: Field and Res. Tech.	4416: Sem. in Appl. Geog.
	2316: Map and Air Photo Interp.	3356: Remote Sensing	4526: Hons. Res. Project
	2336: Principles of Cartography	3386: Concepts in GIS	

B.Sc. Major Program

The requirements for a Major in Geography within the B.Sc. degree are:

- i. GEOG 1100.1(.2), 1200.1(.2), and 2100.1(.2);
- ii. GEOG 2316.1(.2), 2336.1(.2) and three (3) credit hours from GEOG 3326.1(.2), 3356.1(.2), 3366.1(.2), or 3386.1(.2);
- iii. At least fifteen (15) other credit hours from Group B courses, of which at least six (6) credit hours must be at the 4000-level; and
- iv. Fifteen (15) credit hours from any group.
- v. A total of nine (9) credit hours in GEOG must be at the 4000-level.

Note: After the student has attained the required forty-eight (48) credit hours in GEOG, any additional GEOG credits would be taken as free electives in the Faculty of Science.

B.Sc. Honours Program

The Honours Program is designed for students who wish to pursue more in-depth study of Geography and to undertake an independent research project (GEOG 4526.0) under the supervision of a faculty member. Those students who seek to continue their studies at the graduate level are strongly advised to complete an Honours degree.

To be admitted to the Honours program, a student must have at least a B standing in geography courses and have obtained satisfactory grades in non-geography courses. Possession of the minimum requirements does not establish the right of an applicant to be admitted, or readmitted, to the program.

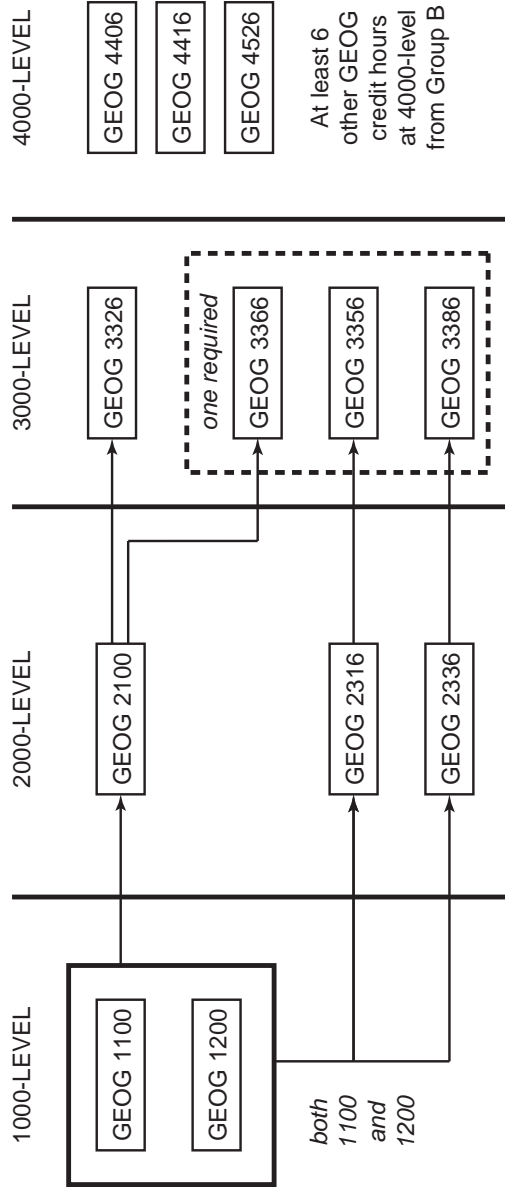
Students admitted to the program are responsible for finding a member of the Department to act as their Honours Research Project supervisor.

Complete details regarding the Honours Research Project are contained in *Regulations for the Honours Research Project (Geography 4526.0)* available from the department secretary.

The Honours program within a B.Sc. degree requires the completion of 72 credit hours, as follows:

- i. GEOG 1100.1(.2), 1200.1(.2), and 2100.1(.2);
- ii. GEOG 2316.1(.2), 2336.1(.2), 3326.1(.2), and one of GEOG 3356.1(.2), 3366.1(.2), or 3386.1(.2);
- iii. At least eighteen (18) other credit hours from Group B courses, of which at least six (6) credit hours must be at the 4000-level;
- iv. GEOG 4406.1(.2) and 4416.1(.2);
- v. GEOG 4526.0; and
- vi. Twenty-one (21) other GEOG credit hours from any group.

GEOGRAPHY WITH B.Sc. HONOURS DEGREE: REQUIRED COURSES



OTHER COURSES: 18 credit hours in GEOG Group B courses (includes the 6 credit hours at 4000-level)
 18 credit hours in GEOG courses from any group and at any level

1100: Global Perspect. on Land & Life	2100: Fundamentals of Phys. Geog.	3326: Stat. Methods	4406: Sem. in Theor. Geog.
1200: People, Place, and Environment	2200: Fundamentals of Human Geog.	3366: Field and Res. Tech.	4416: Sem. in Appl. Geog.
	2316: Map and Air Photo Interp.	3356: Remote Sensing	4526: Hons. Res. Project
	2336: Principles of Cartography	3386: Concepts in GIS	

B.A. Minor or Concentration

The requirements for either a Minor (for students in an Arts or Commerce program) or an Arts Concentration in Geography are 24 credit hours, as follows:

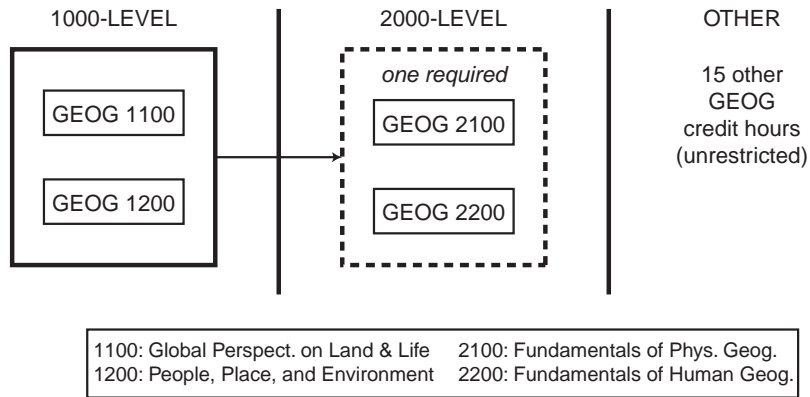
- i. GEOG 1100.1(.2) and 1200.1(.2)
- ii. GEOG 2100.1(.2) or 2200.1(.2)
- iii. Fifteen (15) credit hours in GEOG

B.Sc. Minor or Concentration

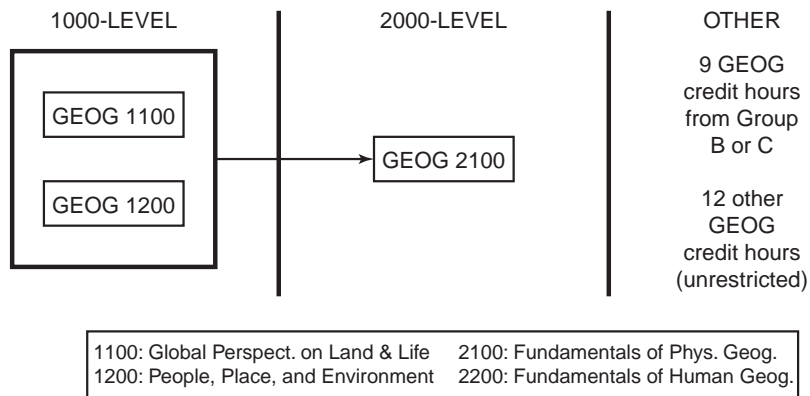
A Minor or Concentration (for Science students) in Geography requires 30 credit hours, as follows:

- i. GEOG 1100.1(.2), 1200.1(.2), and 2100.1(.2)
- ii. Nine (9) credit hours from Group B or C courses
- iii. Twelve (12) credit hours of GEOG that are not restricted

**GEOGRAPHY WITH B.A. DEGREE
MINOR OR CONCENTRATION: REQUIRED COURSES**



**GEOGRAPHY WITH B.Sc. DEGREE
MINOR OR CONCENTRATION: REQUIRED COURSES**



Undergraduate Courses

Group A: Human Geography

- 2200.1(.2) Fundamentals of Human Geography
- 2311.1(.2) Rural Geography
- 2379.1(.2) Irish Material Culture
- 3312.1(.2) Urban Land Use
- 3319.1(.2) Geographic Perspectives on Culture
- 3321.1(.2) Geography of Manufacturing
- 3329.1(.2) Geographic Perspectives on Nature
- 3332.1(.2) Geography of Transportation
- 4394.1(.2) Geography of Maritime Transportation
- 4432.1(.2) Social Geography of the City
- 4439.1(.2) Urban Historical Geography
- 4442.1(.2) Urban Planning
- 4449.1(.2) Tourist Geographies
- 4452.1(.2) Geography of Urban Transportation
- 4459.1(.2) The Power of Maps: A Social Hist. of Cartography

Group B: Physical Geography

- 2100.1(.2) Fundamentals of Physical Geography
- 2315.1(.2) The Oceans
- 2325.1(.2) Sedimentology
- 3313.1(.2) Geomorphology
- 3333.1(.2) Biogeography
- 3343.1(.2) Weather and Climate
- 3353.1(.2) Inquiry and Explanation in Physical Geography.
- 4413.1(.2) Coastal Geomorphology
- 4423.1(.2) Glacial Geomorphology
- 4433.1(.2) Fluvial Geomorphology
- 4443.1(.2) Natural Hazards
- 4465.1(.2) Advanced Sedimentology

Group C: Techniques

- 2316.1(.2) Map and Air Photo Interpretation
- 2336.1(.2) Principles of Cartography
- 3326.1(.2) Statistical Methods for Geographers
- 3356.1(.2) Remote Sensing of the Environment
- 3366.1(.2) Field Techniques and Research Methods
- 3386.1(.2) Concepts in Geog. Information Systems
- 4436.1(.2) Advanced Remote Sensing
- 4496.1(.2) Applications in Geog. Information Systems

Group D: Integrative

- 1100.1(.2) Global Perspectives on Land and Life
- 1200.1(.2) People, Place, and Environment
- 2303.1(.2) Geography of World Affairs
- 2310.1(.2) Geography of Canada: Overview
- 2390.1(.2) Geography of Ireland
- 3100.1(.2) Geography Field School
- 3304.1(.2) Environmental Management
- 3310.1(.2) Geography of Canada: Issues
- 3340.1(.2) Geography of Nova Scotia
- 3360.1(.2) Geography of Japan
- 3380.1(.2) Geography of China
- 3454.1(.2) Bay of Fundy: Environments and Issues
- 4406.1(.2) Seminar in Theoretical Geography
- 4414.1(.2) Integrated Coastal Zone Management
- 4416.1(.2) Seminar in Applied Geography
- 4424.1(.2) Natural Resource Management
- 4434.1(.2) Watershed Management
- 4444.1(.2) Methods of Env. and Nat. Res. Analysis

- 4526.0 Honours Research Project

For full course descriptions and prerequisite requirements, please consult the *Undergraduate Academic Calendar*.

By alternating certain courses, we are able to offer a variety of courses each year; however, we cannot guarantee that a particular course will be offered during a student's program.

Career–Oriented Tracks

For students who have identified a particular career orientation, a number of “tracks” have been identified. Each track consists of the courses that a student is strongly recommended to take to prepare for a career in the given field.

The B.A. and B.Sc. Programs include some basic required courses, but there is considerable latitude for the remaining courses needed to complete the requirements. These tracks are provided to help students follow a theme within their B.A. or B.Sc. program in Geography. Tracks are optional and not recorded by the Registrar, so no official designation will appear on the student’s transcript.

Please note the following:

- Courses within the tracks will fulfill optional requirements within the Major and Honours programs.
- Courses that are basic requirements for Major and Honours programs (see pages 10-17) are not included in the track listings.
- In addition to the courses listed here, students can further develop a theme with courses selected from the Group A, B, C, and D listings on pages 20-21.

By alternating certain courses, we are able to offer a variety of courses each year; however, we cannot guarantee that a particular course will be offered during a student’s program.

Education / Teaching Track

2302.1(.2)	Geography of World Affairs
2310.1(.2)	Geography of Canada: Overview
3313.1(.2)	Geomorphology
3333.1(.2)	Biogeography
3343.1(.2)	Weather and Climate
3340.1(.2)	Geography of Nova Scotia
4406.1(.2)	Seminar in Theoretical Geography

Environmental Management Track

2315.1(.2)	The Oceans
3304.1(.2)	Environmental Management
4414.1(.2)	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
4424.1(.2)	Natural Resource Management
4434.1(.2)	Watershed Management
4443.1(.2)	Natural Hazards
4444.1(.2)	Methods of Env. and Natural Resource Analysis

Urban and Regional Planning Track

2311.1(.2)	Rural Geography
3312.1(.2)	Urban Land Use
3332.1(.2)	Geography of Transportation
3386.1(.2)	Concepts in G.I.S.
4432.1(.2)	Social Geography of the City
4442.1(.2)	Urban Planning
4452.1(.2)	Geography of Urban Transportation

Geoscience Track

3313.1(.2)	Geomorphology
3333.1(.2)	Biogeography
3343.1(.2)	Weather and Climate
3386.1(.2)	Concepts in G.I.S.
4413.1(.2)	Coastal Geomorphology
4423.1(.2)	Glacial Geomorphology
4433.1(.2)	Fluvial Geomorphology

Geomatics Track

3326.1(.2)	Statistical Methods for Geographers
3356.1(.2)	Remote Sensing
3366.1(.2)	Field Techniques and Research Methods
3386.1(.2)	Concepts in G.I.S.
4416.1(.2)	Seminar in Applied Geography
4436.1(.2)	Advanced Remote Sensing
4496.1(.2)	Applications in G.I.S.

Some Past Honours Projects

A complete list of Honours projects, and abstracts, is available on the department website. Bound copies of final reports are held in the department and also in the Saint Mary's library.

Woods, Oliver. 2007. *An Integrative Approach to Prioritizing Aquatic Habitat Restoration Sites in the Wooden's River Watershed, Nova Scotia*. (Advisor: C. Conrad)

Bowman, Sarah. 2006. *An Analysis of the Dynamic Fingerprint of Seismicity in the North Atlantic Ocean in Space and Time: Implications for Tsunamigenic Processes*. (Advisor: C. Suteanu)

Graham, Jennifer. 2005. *Analysis of Surface Cover Classification Using IKONOS Digital Imagery in a Complex Habitat: Pointe de l'Est, Magdalen Islands*. (Advisor: P. Giles)

May, Jason. 2005. *Inland Distribution Terminal: A Locational Search*. (Advisor: R. McCalla)

Yule, Ian. 2004. *Residential Revival in Old Dartmouth—1986 to 2000*. (Advisor: H. Millward)

Croft, Stephen. 2003. *A Geographical Analysis of Tourism in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia*. (Advisor: H. Millward)

Townsend, Sarah. 2002. *Spatial Analysis of Spartina Alterniflora Colonization on the Avon River Mudflats, Bay of Fundy, Following Causeway Construction*. (Advisor: D. van Proosdij)

Lipton, Jeff. 2001. *A Base Study of the Fluvial Geomorphology and Spatial Characteristics of Suspended Solid Concentrations in the Little Sackville River, Nova Scotia*. (Advisor: C. Conrad)

King, Martin. 2000. *Examples of Prograded Coastal Dune Ridge Systems in the Maritime Provinces Region*. (Advisor: P. Giles)

Student Employment

There are regular employment opportunities for in-program undergraduate students, as teaching assistants and research assistants. Both types of work provide valuable experience, e.g., for prospective teachers and students planning to apply to graduate programs.

Teaching Assistants

Senior students are hired annually to serve as markers and/or lab demonstrators for certain lower level courses. Preference is given to students who have completed the particular course, with a high grade.

Assignments to specific courses are normally done at the beginning of the Fall term, but students who wish to express an interest in being a teaching assistant should contact the department secretary in the latter part of the preceding Winter term. Rates of pay are determined by University regulations.

Research Assistants

Faculty members may have the resources to hire full-time or part-time assistants for both summer and fall/winter research activity. Interested students should inquire with individual faculty members to see what opportunities may be upcoming, or look out for notices posted around the department advertising positions.

Preference is given to students registered in the Honours program. The research activity may be co-ordinated to allow the student to develop an Honours research project from the work.

SMUGS

SMUGS is the Saint Mary's University Geography Society. This student group typically organizes a range of academic and social activities throughout the year.

Contact information for SMUGS representatives can be found on the department website. For information on current activities, look for notices posted around the second floor of the Burke Building or contact the SMUGS executive.

Graduate Programs

The Department of Geography has, for most of its existence, been focused primarily on undergraduate teaching but recently there has been a shift within the University, with new emphasis on research-based graduate programs. There is no specific graduate program in geography, but students may enter an interdisciplinary program with research interests and a supervisor in geography. Graduate students are normally provided with teaching assistant positions as part of their overall funding scheme.

M.A. in Atlantic Canada Studies

Introduced in 1983, this program allows students to study the Atlantic Canada region from a variety of perspectives: socio-scientific, ecological, and cultural-historical. The program is heavily research oriented and permits students to develop interdisciplinary approaches to three areas of specialization: the culture of the region, its political economy, and resource development.

M.Sc. in Applied Science

This program is a thesis-oriented, multidisciplinary degree program. The objectives of the program are to provide graduate students with the opportunity to conduct research in a single or a multidisciplinary field of study with practical application; to produce graduates with valuable skills in research and communication, preparing them for careers in related fields of research and development in industry or government; and to prepare students for further graduate studies at the doctoral level.

Broad research interests of department faculty members are shown on page 7 of this handbook. Certain faculty members are also adjunct members, and can supervise students in graduate programs, at institutions other than Saint Mary's.

More information on these programs, along with application materials, can be obtained from the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research.

Graduate Courses

5000-level courses are taken concurrently with undergraduate students, except a graduate student completes additional work and is evaluated at a higher academic level.

- 5614.1(.2) Integrated Coastal Zone Management
- 5623.1(.2) Glacial Geomorphology
- 5632.1(.2) Social Geography of the City
- 5633.1(.2) Fluvial Geomorphology
- 5636.1(.2) Advanced Remote Sensing
- 5639.1(.2) Urban Historical Geography
- 5642.1(.2) Urban Planning
- 5643.1(.2) Natural Hazards
- 5652.1(.2) The Geography of Urban Transportation
- 5653.1(.2) Coastal Geomorphology
- 5686.1(.2) Concepts in GIS
- 5696.1(.2) Applications in GIS

6000-level courses are structured by agreement between a faculty member and the student, and are usually oriented toward some aspect of the student's research interests.

- 6602.0 Directed Studies in Urban/Regional Geography
- 6603.0 Directed Studies in Environmental Geography
- 6604.0 Directed Studies in Marine Geography
- 6605.0 Directed Studies (General)
- 6612.1(.2) Directed Studies in Urban/Regional Geography
- 6613.1(.2) Directed Studies in Environmental Geography
- 6615.1(.2) Directed Studies (General)
- 6624.1(.2) Directed Studies in Marine Geography

For further information, see the *Graduate Academic Calendar*.

Recent Graduate Projects

A small number of students have completed an interdisciplinary graduate program with a focus in geography to date, but given our faculty expertise and facilities/equipment, there are opportunities for this list to grow.

Mazzocca, Anthony. 2008. M.Sc. In Applied Science.
Significance of Vegetation Diversity and Management Intensity for Soil Conservation in a Pasture Ecosystem.
(Supervisor: C. Conrad)

Xue, Guang. 2005. M.Sc. in Applied Science.
Exploring measures of urban form: a GIS-enabled case study in Halifax, Nova Scotia. (Supervisor: H. Millward)

Fisher, Victor. 1996. M.A. in Atlantic Canada Studies.
Conservation, recreation, access, and elitism: McNabs Island as a case study. (Supervisor: H. Millward)

Equipment and Facilities

- National depository map library
- 19-seat dedicated computer lab
- Specialized geographic computer software: ArcGIS, PCI Geomatica, and others
- Physical geography lab
- Field survey equipment
- Access to a wide range of full-text geography journals and Novanet consortium library materials

Maritime Provinces Spatial Analysis Research Centre (MP_SpARC) (fgsr.smu.ca/windows/inst3.html)

MP_SpARC is a cross-discipline unit dedicated to spatial analysis, housed in the Department of Geography. The facility has a range of hardware equipment for collecting spatial data, and an array of computer software programs for analyzing data. There is a full-time Research Instrument Technician to support operations and users of the Centre.

Community-Based Environmental Monitoring Network (www.envnetwork.smu.ca/welcome.html)

CBEMN, also housed in the Department of Geography, is designed to support public participation in local environmental management activities. It serves as a location that members of the community can contact when they have a question about:

- How to monitor and measure the environmental quality of the ecosystems in their community
- How to access social and scientific data related to the environment
- How to use these data and utilize technology as a tool to further their understanding of their communities

Careers for Geography Grads

Completing a geography degree requires students to develop skills and knowledge that enable them to pursue a wide range of possible careers. Consider the following skills:

- Collecting, analyzing, and synthesizing information
- Research, thinking, and organizational skills
- Communicating ideas and information
- Problem solving and decision making
- Ability to effectively use maps, satellite imagery, and databases

These skills are an asset in many job situations and are highly sought after by employers, regardless of the specific discipline. You may choose a career that is directly related to geography or to apply your skills and knowledge in a more generalist career. Many geography students, with the integrated knowledge they have acquired, go on to become educators. To view a lengthy and varied list of specific job titles involving geography in some capacity, see:

www.salisbury.edu/careerservices/Students/ChoosingMajorsPage/Geography.html

Remember... there are many jobs and careers that require a geographer's skills and knowledge, but do not include "geographer" specifically in the job title. Starting with an awareness of your own interests, and then doing a bit of research, will lead you to information about your choices for applying a degree in Geography.

Saint Mary's University has a Career Services office located in the student centre to help students with questions about career choices, and you can discuss ideas with Geography faculty members too. There are also a number of excellent resources on the Internet for investigating job and career opportunities for a Geography student. Two of the best places to start are:

- American Association of Geographers
www.aag.org/Careers/
- Canadian Association of Geographers
www.cag-acg.ca/en/student_opportunities.html

Initially, place names and landscapes were all I thought geography was about. Now, after completing my degree, I have learned that geography is a field of study that can be applied to many different aspects of work and learning. I have learned how to combine knowledge from various subjects and enhance my ability to analyze things more effectively.

James Domenie, B.A.

In my experience, a Geography degree from Saint Mary's University will clear the path in any direction you care to travel. My studies at Saint Mary's allowed me to cultivate my interest in management approaches to human/environmental interactions, and then to apply this knowledge at the graduate level in a policy-based study of resource development and environmental management in the Yukon Territory. Currently, I have extended my passion for environmental management into the study of law, where I am using my geographic background to improve my understanding of legal frameworks and their impacts on populations. Without question, an education in geography is of value to all of life's endeavours.

Jason May, B.A. Honours.

I am working as a regional planning officer for the Parks and Wildlife Service within the state government of Tasmania in the northwest region of the state. My job is to write conservation management plans, produce maps using GIS for bushfire crews on the ground during bushfire season, assess flora, fauna, geo-conservation, and cultural values in response to proposed development and uses in World Heritage areas and Ramsar (wetlands) sites, as well as nationally and state significant reserves. My undergraduate degree in geography from Saint Mary's has led me to this career in a field where I am actually doing something about environmental sustainability, conservation and using my skills in environmental management, GIS, and remote sensing. I'm so glad that I chose a degree that gave me practical skills as well as the good theoretical and research base that geography at Saint Mary's did.

Shannon (Ashe) Fox, B.A.

Geography

ˌjē-'ä-grə-fē\

The most familiar sheet of water,
viewed from a new hilltop, yields
a novel and unexpected pleasure.

Henry David Thoreau

If some countries have too much **history**,
we have too much **geography**. Mackenzie King

Geography:

Why

What is

Where

an **integrative** discipline that brings together the
physical and *human-made* dimensions of the world
in the study of people, places, and environments

My purposes are the geography
that marks out my line of travel
toward the person I want to be.

Alice Koeller

Everything has to do with geography.

Judy Martz

**WITHOUT GEOGRAPHY,
WHERE WOULD YOU BE?**