HUMAN GEOGRAPHY, CERTIFICATE

Requirements for an undergraduate certificate may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the certificate.

Program Description

Human geography, the study of human interactions across space, is vital to helping students understand the world by locating their lives within and across space and place. This 12-credit certificate will engage students with contemporary national and global issues as they locate patterns and processes of human-created change in local, regional, and global environments. Through courses for the certificate in human geography, students will understand and be able to articulate: why location matters to agricultural land use, industrial development, and urban design; the reasons for population growth and international migration; the consequences of economic development; the impacts of technological innovation, communication and industrialization; and other aspects of human life such as struggles over political power and control of territory that amplifies the inequalities between developed and developing economies.

Learning objectives: describe, analyze, and locate human relations and movements across and through space and place; recognize and discuss the geographical dimensions of varying social, cultural, political, historical, and economic conditions; and identify and analyze human use and/or human change of their environments locally, regionally, and globally.

What is Human Geography?

Human Geography is one of four key sub-disciplines within geography (along with physical geography, environment-society geography, and geographic information science). Human geographers explore questions about our human worlds, including political, economic, cultural, and urban dimensions of society, space, and place. Human geographers use qualitative and quantitative analytical techniques to understand patterns and processes of land use, industrial and economic development, urbanization, population and migration, territorial control, political power, and social identities that constitute and influence our increasingly globalized world.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You want to understand and be able to articulate why location matters to people everywhere, every day.
- You are interested in investigating agricultural land use, industrial development, and urban design.
- You are curious about the reasons for population growth and international migration.
- You want to learn about the consequences of economic development.
- You would like to study how struggles over political power and control of territory that amplifies the inequalities between developed and developing economies.

Program Requirements

To earn an undergraduate certificate in Human Geography, a minimum of 12 credits is required.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GEOG220</td>
<td>Perspectives on Human Geography</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOG320</td>
<td>Urban Geography: A Global Perspective</td>
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<td>GEOG324</td>
<td>Place, Space and Culture</td>
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<td>GEOG326</td>
<td>Geographic Perspectives on Economic Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOG328</td>
<td>War, Peace, and Diplomacy: Understanding Contemporary Geopolitics</td>
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<td>GEOG421</td>
<td>Population Geography</td>
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<td>GEOG423</td>
<td>Historical Geography of North America</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOG424</td>
<td>Geography of the Global Economy</td>
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<td>GEOG424W</td>
<td>Geography of the Global Economy</td>
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<td>GEOG425</td>
<td>Geography of Race, Class, and Poverty in America</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOG426Y</td>
<td>Gender Geographies</td>
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<td>GEOG427</td>
<td>Urban Historical Geography</td>
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<td>GEOG428</td>
<td>Political Geography</td>
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<td>GEOG428Y</td>
<td>Political Geography</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOG429</td>
<td>Geographic Perspectives on Global Urbanization</td>
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Non-Course Requirements

Per University policy, all credit courses for a certificate require a grade of ‘C’ or higher, and at least two-thirds (2/3) of the credits used to complete a certificate must be earned at Penn State. If student is completing multiple certificates in Geography, no more than one (1) course may double-count for each.

Academic Advising

The objectives of the university’s academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and-out of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee’s unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy)

University Park
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Career Paths

Students earning the Human Geography certificate learn a wide range of critical thinking, research, and analytical skills that are highly valued by employers. Students with backgrounds in human geography find jobs in all levels of government, nonprofit organizations, and in industry. This is one of several geography-related certificates that students can use.
to tailor their educational experience in preparation for the job market. In addition to Human Geography, the geography department offers certificates in Environment and Society Geography; Geospatial Big Data Analytics; Geographic Information Systems; Justice, Ethics and Diversity in Space; Landscape Ecology; and Physical Geography.

**Careers**

Students earning the certificate in Human Geography are well positioned to find employment with diverse organizations spanning business, government, and nonprofit sectors. Such organizations may include (but are not limited to): American Red Cross; Amnesty International; U.S. Census Bureau; Heifer International; National Geographic Society; National Park Service; Teach for America; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. State Department; World Bank; local, regional, and state planning agencies; environmental and engineering consulting firms; policy research institutes; private corporations; and humanitarian organizations.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES WITH A CERTIFICATE IN HUMAN GEOGRAPHY (http://www.geog.psu.edu)

**Opportunities for Graduate Studies**

A certificate in Human Geography is useful for students who are interested in pursuing graduate degrees in the social sciences and humanities. Alumni enter graduate and professional studies in a variety of programs, including (but not limited to) geography, planning, international development, urban studies, sustainability, public policy, emergency management, education, and law. They sometimes begin graduate or professional programs directly after finishing undergraduate studies, but often get several years’ work experience before returning to school, either full or part-time.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES (http://www.geog.psu.edu)

**Professional Resources**

- American Association of Geographers (AAG) (http://www.aag.org)
- American Geographic Society (AGS) (http://americangeo.org)
- National Geographic Society (NGS) (https://www.nationalgeographic.com)
- International Geographic Union (IGU) (https://igu-online.org)
- Society of Woman Geographers (SWG) (http://www.iswg.org)
- National Council for Geographic Education (http://www.ncge.org)
- American Planning Association (https://www.planning.org)

**Contact**

**University Park**

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

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