



Southwestern Michigan College

2025/26

Western Michigan University Geography Curriculum Guide

Introduction

The School of Environment, Geography, and Sustainability offers a liberal arts major that prepares students for a variety of careers in both the public and private sectors. If you decide to major in one of the four geography and tourism majors at WMU, you will have the option to pursue **Environmental Geography, Geographic Information Science, Tourism and Travel, and Urban Regional and Environmental Planning**.

The School of Environment, Geography, and Sustainability offers four majors and two minors in Geography and Tourism:

- ❖ **Environmental Geography** prepares students for a variety of environmental careers. Students take core courses in physical and human geography, environmental analysis and management and elective courses and techniques and applications of environmental analysis.
- ❖ **Urban, Regional and Environmental Planning** prepares students to be professional planners who have strong foundations in theory and practice of urban and regional planning with particular focus on small cities and their regional communities.
- ❖ **Tourism and Travel** is designed for students planning to pursue careers in the tourism industry.
- ❖ **Geographic Information Science** provides students with a strong technical background in quantitative geographic analysis, geographic information systems, remote sensing, global navigational satellite systems, and related mapping technologies. Students who complete the major will be able to acquire, manage, analyze, visualize, and represent geospatial data, or information related to geographical locations

Courses that may be taken at SMC:

WMU courses		SMC courses
GEOG 1050	Physical Geography	GEOG 110
Environmental Geography students may also take:		
STAT 2160	Introductory Statistics	MATH 150
Urban, Regional and Environmental Planning students may also take:		
STAT 2160	Introductory Statistics	MATH 150
Tourism and Travel students may also take:		
STAT 2160	Introductory Statistics	MATH 150

Geographic Information Science students may also take:

STAT 2160

Introductory Statistics

MATH 150

General education requirements:

- Please refer to the [WMU Essential Studies \(WES\) Transfer Guide](#) that lists courses meeting WES requirements at WMU that may be taken at SMC.
- All students graduating from the College of Arts & Sciences must complete the College of Arts and Sciences Essentials (**CASE**). This includes world language proficiency (detailed in next bullet point), ENGL 1050/1060 sequence, and by completing the baccalaureate writing requirement.
- Students will meet the world language proficiency by completing two semesters (6-8 hours) of the same foreign language or American Sign Language or passing WMU's proficiency by exam. Please contact the College of Arts & Sciences Undergraduate Advising Office at (269) 387-4366 with any questions. Neither the MACRAO Agreement nor the MTA satisfy the world language requirement.
 - If the student's first language is not English, then the student is exempt from this requirement. Determination of eligibility for this exemption is based on whether the student was required to take the TOEFL test for admission and can be verified through the WMU departments of Spanish or World Language and Literatures.
- Students receiving the Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA) will have CASE (including world language proficiency), and WMU Essential Studies Level III – Connections to complete.
- For those *not* obtaining the MTA, please refer to WMU Essential Studies Transfer Guide.
- You may email the WMU advisors in the College of Arts and Sciences for further clarification about **WES** or **CASE**.
- The College of Arts & Sciences recommends that you apply to WMU at least nine months prior to your anticipated start date.
- For more specific information about geography, please contact the advisor below.

Contact information:

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For general education advising or world language requirement questions:
wmich.edu/arts-sciences/advising