

Departmental Honors for Geography

The departmental honors program is part of Commonwealth College where students complete in-depth course work within their major and pursue a research thesis.

Students who are not already in the Commonwealth College are eligible if they have completed one full-time semester of 12 or more graded credits at UMass Amherst and earned an overall and most recent semester GPA of 3.400 or higher at UMass Amherst. <https://www.honors.umass.edu/admissions/apply-current-students>

Requirements:

- I) Two 1-credit honors courses within the major.

The following colloquia are 1-credit add-ons to courses that provide more in depth study for enrolled students. Any student can enroll in these colloquia. Please check with course instructors for information about honors colloquia which may have been added since the last update of this handout.

GEOG 450HH	Indigenous Peoples and Conservation	Stevens
GEOG 354HH	Climatology	Rawlins
GEOSCI 510HH	Natural Hazards	Cooke

Students can also satisfy this requirement by taking any courses at the 600 level or higher. Some 500 level courses might satisfy the requirement upon approval by instructor and CHC. Exemplary courses are:

GEOG 668	GIS and Spatial Analysis	Yu
GEOG 626	Remote Sensing and Image Interpretation	Yu
GEOG 597WG	Water Geographies	Vogel
GEOG 670	Urban Environmental History	Gaubatz
GEOG 697V	Political Geog. of Natural Resources & Justice	Vogel
GEOG 692PA	Indigenous Peoples & Protected Areas	Stevens

This requirement sometime can also be fulfilled by taking an Honors Independent Study with a geography faculty member. Please discuss this with HPD.

- II) 6 credit thesis project

The thesis advisor and student prepare a contract and a research proposal that are submitted to Comm Coll for review. This proposal should present a sound research plan as well as clear mentorship and assessment criteria. The thesis is typically enrolled as 499Y in the Fall and 499T in the Spring. The emphasis is on data collection/analysis in the Fall and writing in the Spring.

These 6 credits count as elective credits for the Geography BA or BS degree.

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