

# **The Status of Geography in Higher Education in the U.S.**

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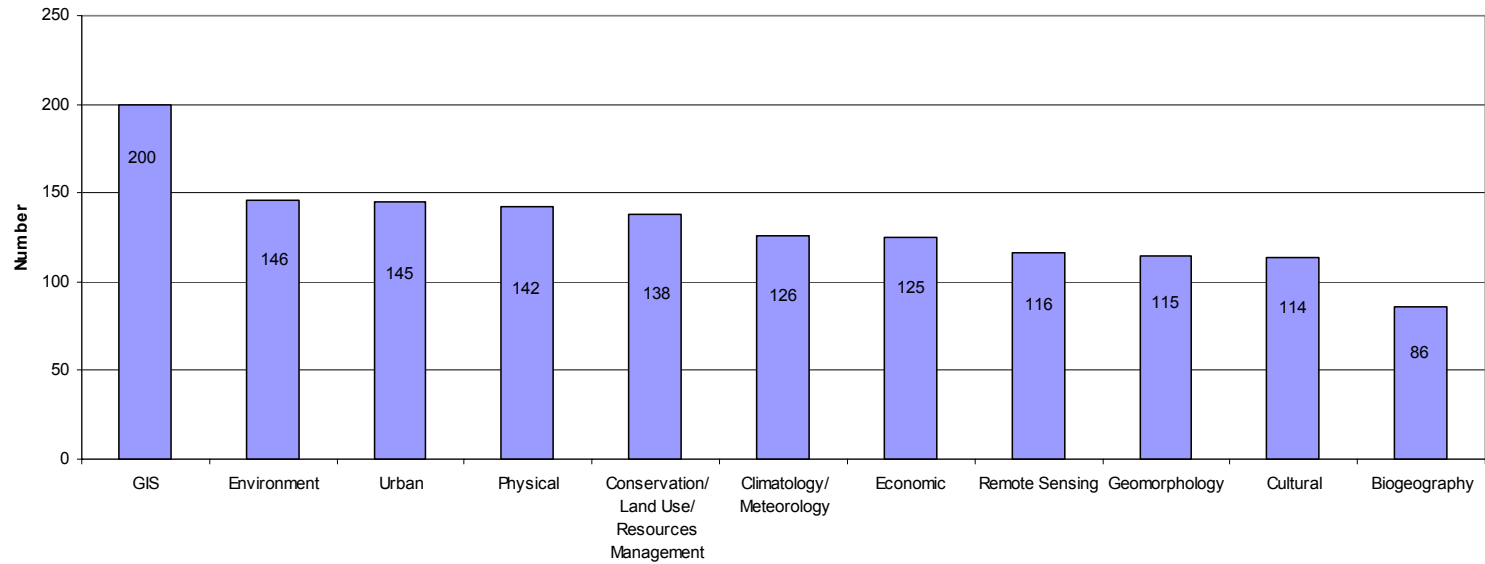
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# **Status of U.S. Geography:**

## **A Quick Overview of Today's Comments**

1. Who's doing what? Teaching and research specializations in U.S. colleges and universities
2. The geography major and minor
3. Geography as general education
4. Recent developments

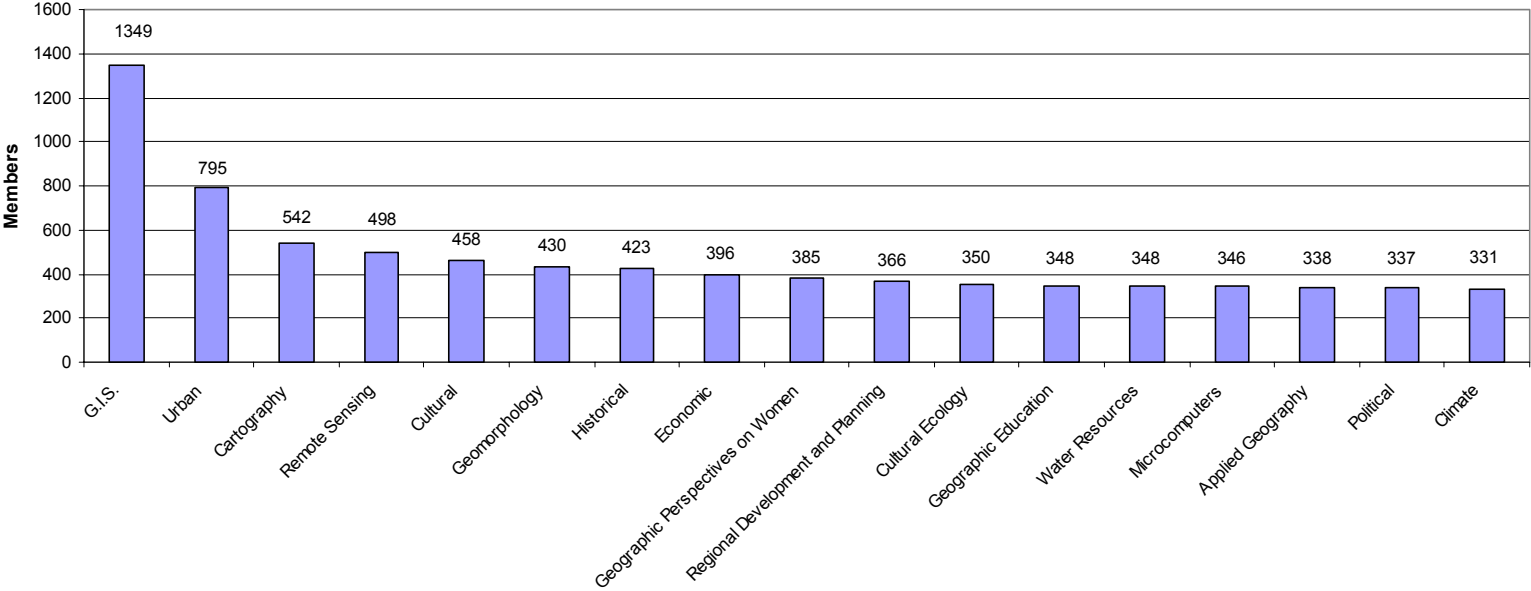
### Most Reported Specializations of Geography Departments in the U.S., 1999



#### U.S. Geography Dept. Specializations

Source: AAG Guide to Programs in Geography in the U.S. and Canada, 1999-2000. (Note: This summary is based on data from the 223 U.S. colleges and universities who submitted reports to AAG [out of 378 programs in the U.S. and Canada])

**Memberships in Largest AAG Specialty Groups, 1999**



**Specialization**

Source: *AAG Guide to Programs in Geography in the U.S. and Canada, 1999-2000* (out of a total of 48 groups)

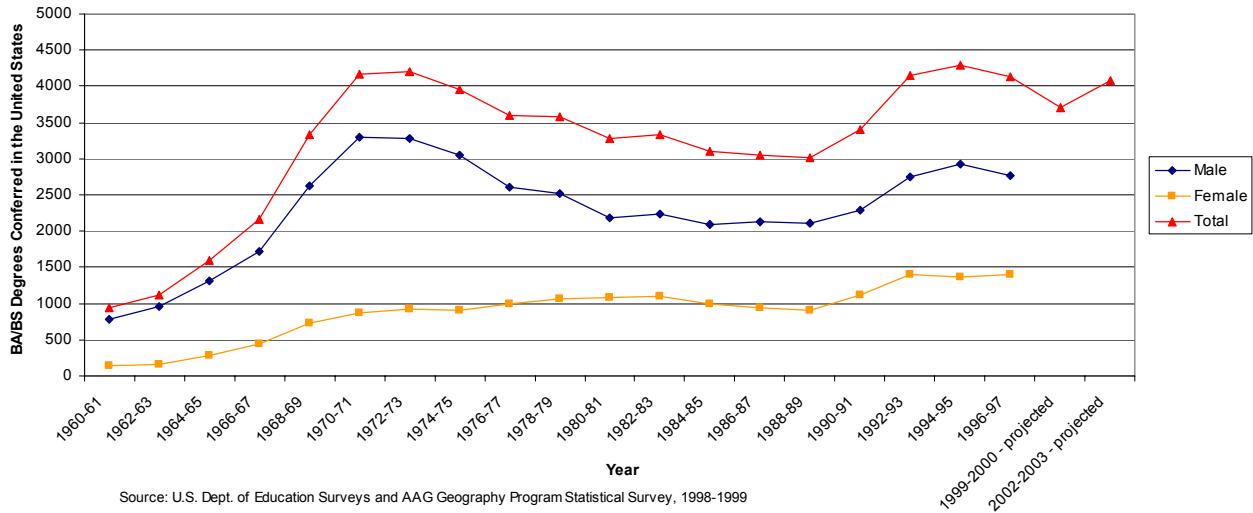
# Requirements for Students 'Majoring' in Geography:

- Math/foreign language requirements vary
- A set of required classes in intro. physical, human, and (occasionally) world regional or envir. geography
- 2-3 techniques courses
- 2-3 courses in physical geography
- 2-3 courses in human geography
- 1-2 regional courses
- Any 2-3 other upper division geography courses as electives

# Specializations within the Geography Major...

- The 'General Geography' Emphasis
- Physical or Environmental Geography
- Human Geography (e.g. Cultural/Historical, Urban/Economic, Regional)
- GIScience (e.g. GIS, Cartography, Remote Sensing)
- Planning (Urban, Rural Development, Environmental Planning)

### Geography BA/BS Degrees Conferred in the United States since 1960



Source: U.S. Dept. of Education Surveys and AAG Geography Program Statistical Survey, 1998-1999

# Geography as ‘General Education’

- Broad-based, synthetic nature of geography makes it is a good fit for fulfilling General Education requirements on many campuses
- Geography classes most often listed as part of Environmental, Multi-Cultural, Social Science, Science, Humanities “Gen. Ed.” menu of choices for undergraduates

# Recent Developments...

- Advanced Placement Human Geography
- Collaborative projects to improve the teaching of geography in higher education
- Preparing future geography teachers

# Creation, Approval, and Dissemination of the AP Course

- Course development and approval process?
- Contents of the course?
- Transferring AP credits to higher education?
- Teachers and students involved in AP geography nationwide, 2000-01?

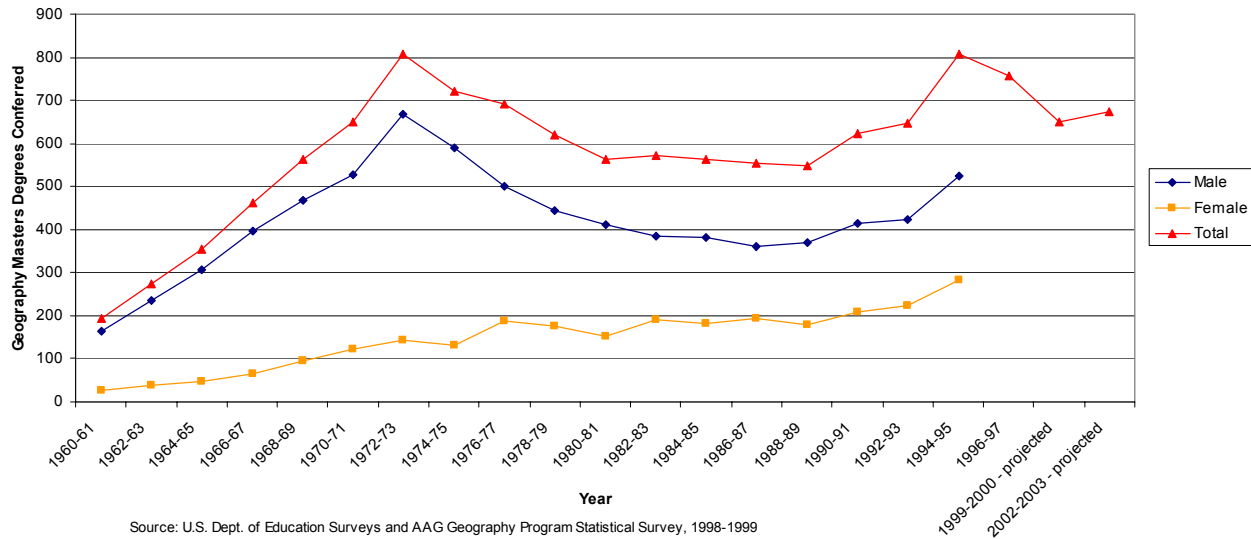
# Improving geography teaching in higher education: A few projects

- *GIGI* (Dave Hill),  
*Global change/active learning modules*  
(Susan Hanson)
- *ARGUS* (Phil Gersmehl)
- *The Virtual Geography Department* (Ken Foote)
- *Online Graduate Coursework* (Michael Solem)
- *ARGWORLD* (Sarah Bednarz)
- Other efforts now underway (*Power of Place* update and Commission on College Geography projects)

# Preparing Future Geography Teachers

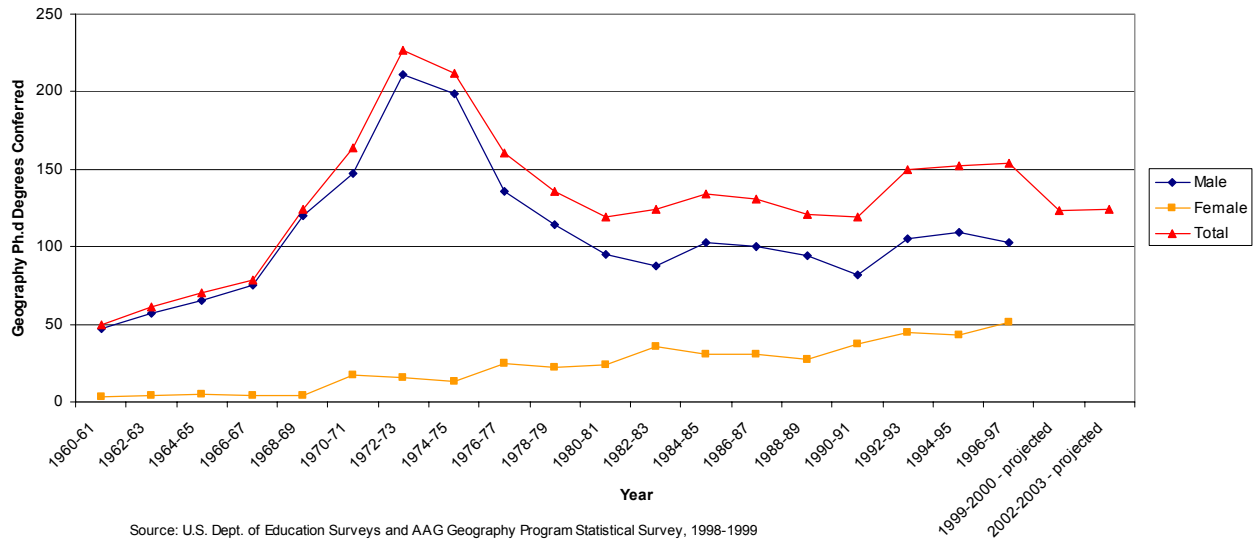
- Wide variety of teacher preparation programs and requirements
- Collaborative work with Geography Departments and Departments of Education
- Benefits of post-graduate education for in-service teachers
- College and university faculty positions – future trends?

### Geography Master's Degrees Conferred In The United States Since 1960



Source: U.S. Dept. of Education Surveys and AAG Geography Program Statistical Survey, 1998-1999

Geography Ph.D Degrees Conferred in the United States since 1960



Source: U.S. Dept. of Education Surveys and AAG Geography Program Statistical Survey, 1998-1999