



SEDAAG

2025 Steering Committee Minutes

Sunday, November 23, 2025

8:30AM – 11:00AM

Salon D

(Breakfast will be provided)

Minutes compiled by current SEDAAG Secretary (2024-2026) Caroline McClure

Contact information: cmclure5@gsu.edu

Paper Free Meeting: Reports available at: <https://sedaag.org/meeting-reports/>

Meeting called to order at 8:38AM

- 1) Welcome and Introductions
- 2) Thanks to outgoing officers and representatives
- 3) Update on SEDAAG meetings
 - a) SEDAAG 2025: Lexington, KY
 - i) Registration: As of Nov. 20, Total: 357; Faculty 131, Student: 202 (56%)
 - ii) Membership: 408 (as of October 6, 2025); 233 students (57%)
 - b) General guidelines on meeting pricing discussion (thanks to AAG legal advising team)
 - i) Working with AAG is going well, makes it easy
 - c) Registration and sponsorship payment through AAG site: Any issue/suggestion
 - i) Collected through AAG this year so can use P-card – allows less checks, more direct payments, free of service (no commission)
 - d) Joining/renewing membership through Duke Press: Any issue/suggestion
 - i) Have to go through Duke University Press because it is connected to the journal subscription.
 - ii) No issues or suggestions
 - e) Spousal registration (implemented this year): \$75; any feedback received?
 - f) Complimentary registration for retirees with lifetime achievement award (approved)
 - g) AAG Grants received this year
 - i) Meeting Support Grant: \$1500
 - ii) Meeting Operations Support: \$1,000 (designated for a student-focused networking event)
 - (1) AAG suggested it go specifically to a student-centered event, went to Young Professionals' Afternoon Tea
 - iii) Membership Support Grant (SEDAAG \$500):
 - (1) Outreach to recruit UG students
 - (a) Did not have as much response from HBCUs or community college students as would have liked
 - (2) Building student membership is a goal
 - (a) From Tommy Patterson – can we get funds earlier, so we can advertise earlier – this may make it easier to recruit students from HBCUs and community colleges
 - (b) People that are interested in bringing students from underrepresented student communities should reach out to the executive committee/president for more information
 - (c) Were able to recruit 15 students with help of IDEAL committee, they

- received complimentary registration and membership (\$1500)
- iv) Endowment committee and investments of our funds for the benefit of membership
 - (1) Exploring if there is another way to invest SEDAAG money at a higher interest rate. Goal is to reinvest in students – free registration for students, making it easier recruit more students to the meeting directly
 - (2) Mark suggests we invest in a CD (although does require some tax preparation), as it would increase our revenue quite a bit
 - (3) Suggestion that it only be on a six month basis right after the meeting, to allow it to be liquid when needed for the meeting
 - (4) Question about how other regions invest their money, if there are bylaws, etc.
 - (a) Most others run their money through AAG, SEDAAG handles their money internally.
 - (5) Mark motions for the endowment committee to give a proposal for an investment plan, for the treasurer to move forward with the proposal (with an amount)
 - (a) Heidi seconds, seconds the question
 - (b) Unanimous agreement
 - (6) Mark presents a motion that all profit goes towards investing in student membership and meeting attendance
 - (a) Discussion
 - (b) Motion amended that the endowment consider using the interest from the CD on student registration and membership
 - (c) Unanimous agreement
 - h) Young professionals’ luncheon to Young professional afternoon tea
 - i) Cost was too expensive (food), so moved to an afternoon tea
 - ii) Could bring back in future at Tuscaloosa meeting, will have to investigate cost
 - i) Meet and greet from 7-7:45AM (Monday, November 24, 2025)
 - j) 2026 Meeting Update: Tuscaloosa, AL (Contact: Matt Therrell, UA) (Embassy Suites, downtown Tuscaloosa; \$160.00/per night, comes with complimentary breakfast + complimentary happy hour (including spirit drink and light snacks)
 - i) Original organizing person, Jared Margulies leaving UA, so a new person will be appointed
 - ii) There are some field trip ideas, will work directly with the executive committee, college will maybe offer some support.
 - iii) It is going to be an away game
 - k) 2027 Meeting Update: Nashville, TN (Contact: Cara Robinson and Rafael Harun, Tennessee State University), Sheraton Grand Nashville Downtown, \$189 for Traditional Rooms per night, single and double occupancy plus 16.75% and \$2.50 per night; parking tax: \$62 (valet) and \$55 (self).
 - i) Tennessee State University is an HBCU – first time an HBCU has hosted a meeting
 - ii) This will cost nearly \$278 a night after taxes and fees – this could be cost prohibitive for faculty and students
 - iii) Jerry Mitchell suggests thinking about a different model for conferences – maybe not at a conference hotel, maybe use a university, or a true conference center and allow people to book their own hotels outside of the hotel model
 - iv) Will need to discuss more with 2025-2026 executive committee
 - l) 2028 Meeting update: TBD determined by incoming president
- 4) Finances
- a) Since last year
 - i) Report on current state of finances with income from the conference. See report below.
 - b) This year’s meeting likely profits the same?
 - c) Trends in meeting finances- Food cost approximately \$32K, purchased of AV, additional AV contract cost with encore around 8K
 - d) Sponsorship: \$8300 (pending a few payment)
 - e) Membership prices: remain same until 2026; student \$25, regular membership 50 (Duke

charges tax because of journal)

- f) Meeting Registration: remain the same as last few years, student \$75, regular member \$175
 - g) Transferring SEDAAG AV equipment to Tuscaloosa meeting: who should be responsible for this?
 - h) Received money from AAG for a digital curator (Shelia) last year, but a lot of our documentation is still hidden in various digital spaces – Shelia has been collecting these materials, posting where possible, but work is not completed
 - i) Mark moves that we use our own SEDAAG money (\$1000) to continue that work to keep track digitally of our past and future
 - ii) Clay seconds
 - iii) Discussion:
 - (1) Paul agrees that this is necessary as a way to keep up with what was done in the past, especially as a treasurer, but for all positions
 - (2) Idea is that once it is curated correctly and well, we can maintain on our own
 - (3) It is a bigger function that we're a volunteer org and there's a lot of turnover, but people are wondering if one more year is enough
 - (4) Jerry Mitchell has boxes of SEDAAG documents that goes back to the 1940s, Clay has some, there's some throughout the region
 - (5) Change in previous motion to add additional money and time
 - (6) Rachel Cofield seconds to increase the stipend given the amount of work - \$1000 is not enough
 - (7) Shelia states that given her research, could finish in 6 months, but anything additional would take longer
 - (8) Need to decide the scope of the project first
 - (9) Heidi calls to question if we go with \$1000 or go higher
 - (a) Jerry seconds
 - (b) The question is called, vote to call up or down – for the current curator to continue the work from the previous year and complete the project – vote fails
 - (10) Rachel wants to discuss to increase the amount for the current project - \$2000 – for one additional year
 - (a) Jennifer seconds
 - (b) Discussion: How many hours per month – more than 100 hours over the last year, averaging between \$8-10/hour
 - (c) Selima calls for a vote, unanimous vote is passed.
- 5) Bobby Wilson Award (Action item)
- a) Transferring the award funding from UA to SEDAAG
 - b) IDEAL (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Learning) Committee to evaluate submissions
 - i) Would like to give the proceeds of the endowment to SEDAAG for the award, and then SEDAAG awards the money to a student, the endowment itself would stay at the University of Alabama.
 - ii) Clay states the Endowment committee (as chair) would like to do this, someone from Alabama should be on the Endowment Committee to help make this decision.
- 6) SEDAAG Bylaws and Election – Update and discussion
- 7) Selection of SEDAAG student representative (Action item): 2025-2026
- Hailey Richardson, University of Alabama
 - **Biosketch:**

My name is Hailey Richardson, and I am a Ph.D. student in the Department of Geography at the University of Alabama, where I work in the Laboratory for Location Science under the supervision of Dr. Kevin Curtin. My research focuses on spatial statistics and crime modeling, with broader interests in GIScience, crime geography, network analysis, and public policy applications. Prior to beginning my doctoral studies, I earned a B.S. in Geography with a concentration in GIS and a minor in Homeland Security Studies from Sam Houston State University, graduating summa cum laude. I have presented my research at several regional, national, and international conferences, including SEDAAG, the American Society of

Criminology, and the GIScience Conference. Alongside my academic pursuits, I have experience working with organizations such as the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and North Central Texas Council of Governments, which has contributed to my passion for applying geographic analysis to real-world challenges.

- **Statement of Interest:**

I am enthusiastic about contributing to SEDAAG as the Student Representative and helping to elevate the student experience within the division. As someone deeply committed to fostering academic community and advancing the role of geography in service and research, I believe this position would allow me to support student engagement, represent diverse perspectives, and expand opportunities for scholarly collaboration.

- Additionally, I am uniquely positioned to add value to the SEDAAG committee as the University of Alabama will serve as the host institution for the 2025 annual meeting. In my current role as the Graduate Student Representative for our department and President of the Graduate Association for Geography and Environmental Students (GAGES), I am familiar with our university's infrastructure, student needs, and logistical operations, enabling me to serve as an effective bridge between the local hosting community and SEDAAG leadership.
 - Furthermore, in my previous role at Sam Houston State University, I was a student representative on the Girl Scouts in STEM committee and took the lead in creating and coordinating the Girl Scouts in STEM event through the university. During this initiative, I developed hands-on geography and GIS activities designed to inspire younger students, demonstrating my capacity to plan meaningful engagement programs and build partnerships. This experience taught me how to voice student perspectives, work collaboratively with diverse stakeholders, and create enriching opportunities for others' skills I believe will directly translate to serving effectively on the SEDAAG committee.
- Unanimous agreement that Hailey is the new Student representative.

Break... Resume at 10AM

- 8) World Geography Bowl Report (Dawn Drake)
 - a) See report.
 - b) Need to approve funds for students playing at AAG in San Francisco, how much per student
- 9) State Report Highlights (State Representatives)
 - a) See attached reports
 - b) Georgia- Valdosta State has requested SEDAAG help with advocating for their department, as multiple faculty have retired or left.
- 10) Vice President and Program Chair Report (Paul McDaniel)
 - a) See attached report
 - b) Submissions: 296 (abstracts), in actual program – 306 total presentations (posters, papers, and panelists)
 - c) 131 general paper presentations, 33 undergrad posters, 8 undergrad papers, 28 graduate posters, 17 graduate papers, 41 general posters, five different panels, and 5 special paper sessions
 - d) Submissions are increasing, both student and regular sessions
 - e) Tried to call for an earlier submission deadline but had to extend due to the beginning of semesters for various schools (within 1 week).
 - f) Advertise deadline, CFP, etc in multiple places, not just SEDAAG list-serv.
 - g) Distribute CFP earlier than late May
 - h) Disclaimer about number of submissions – some submitted for every type of presentation – limit number of presentations per person
- 11) Treasurer's Report (Mark Sciuchetti)
 - a) See attached report
- 12) Secretary/Webmaster's Report and Communications (Caroline McClure)
 - a) See attached report
 - b) Add info for Bobby Wilson award to website – work with Matt Therrell and UA for information

- 13) Student Representative Update (Katrina Ward)
- 14) Digital Curator Report (Shelia Jebiwot)
 - a) See attached report
 - b) Add a page (like Past Meeting Reports) for past Meeting Agendas/schedules
- 15) Southeastern Geographer Report (Shrinidhi Ambinakudige and Brian Williams)
 - a) See attached report
- 16) AAG Southeastern Division Regional Councilor Update (Heidi Lannon)
 - a) See attached report
 - b) If anybody wants to be on an AAG committee, speak with Heidi
 - c) Tied up with committee on Justice for Palestine, very complicated
 - d) Bill Mosely has a task force on undergraduate students
 - e) SanFrancisco 2026 should be well attended, 2027 NYC in February, 2028 meeting will not be hybrid, location TBD
 - f) Heidi's term is over in June, looking for a new councilor
 - g) Agreement with Taylor Francis is coming up, discussion on what to do, new Journals, etc.
- 17) IDEAL Committee (Clay Tucker)
 - a) Pronoun stickers are available
 - b) Registration and Membership waivers
 - c) Survey about IDEAL geographies – manuscript created, but haven't finished
 - d) Need a new committee chair
 - i) Wants to discuss what IDEAL committee can do, wants more responsibilities
 - (1) Could interact with the Nominations committee in the future
- 18) Honor Committee (Maegen Rochner)
 - a) See attached report
- 19) Nominations Committee (Joyce Clapp)
 - a) See attached report
- 20) Education Committee (Jennifer Rahn)
 - a) See attached report
- 21) Endowment Committee (John Kupfer)
 - a) See attached report
- 22) New business?
 - a) Richard Milligan – there are certain states that some can't travel to based on their topics and present. Some people are changing the titles of their presentations because of this. Should SEDAAG acknowledge that some are having to change language to comply with state political climates.
 - i) Could be that having the program less accessible to protect students presenting research on controversial topics in certain states.
 - b) Selima – Ballot went to 409 members, but had a very low voting turnout for lectures – only 65 people voted in this year's SEDAAG election
 - i) The issue could be that there was only one nomination for certain positions, so voting didn't necessarily make a difference.

Meeting adjourned at 11:59AM

Alabama SEDAAG Survey Summary: 2025-2026 Academic Year
Summary prepared by Dr. Jennifer Rahn, Samford University

A. Institutional Information

Approximately 11 universities in Alabama offer courses and/or degrees in geography or related fields. Eight of these universities responded to the 2025 SEDAAG Survey. The survey contacts and program information for these programs are summarized in the table below. Three different people at Auburn answered questions, including the Forestry department.

Table 1. Universities Responding to the 2025-2026 SEDAAG Survey

Name of Institution	Department Name	Name of Chair/Department Head	Survey Contact Name	Geography degrees awarded (check all those that apply):
University of South Alabama	Earth Sciences - Geography & GIS	Sytske Kimball	Steve Schultze, schultze@southalabama.edu	Undergraduate degree ;GIS Certificates at the Masters and Undergrad level
Auburn University	Geosciences	Tim Hawthorne	Tim Hawthorne	No geography degree
Auburn University	Department of Geosciences	Dr. Timothy Hawthorne	Brandon Ryan	Masters degree
Auburn University	CFWE: College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment	Janaki Alavalapati	Forestry	Undergraduate degree
University of North Alabama	Geoscience	Dr. Mario Mighty	Dr. Mario Mighty	Undergraduate degree
Jacksonville State University	Chemistry and Geosciences	L Joe Morgan	L. Joe Morgan	Undergraduate degree; Masters degree; Concentration in Geospatial technology
University of Alabama	Geography and Environment	Matthew Therrell	Matthew Therrell	Undergraduate degree; Masters degree; Doctoral degree; Environmental Science
Samford University	Geography and Sociology	Jennifer Speights-Binet	Jennifer Speights-Binet	Undergraduate degree; Graduate level GIS certificate associated with Env Management MS

Email sent but no response at: The University of Alabama in Huntsville, Troy University

B. Trends in Student Enrollment in Geography Courses

Enrollment in **undergraduate** geography courses:

Increasing at University of South Alabama and University of North Alabama and Jacksonville State University

Stable at University of Alabama

Decreasing at Samford University (*)

Enrollment in **graduate** geography courses:

Increasing at University of South Alabama, Auburn University, University of Alabama

Stable at Jacksonville State University and Samford University

Comments:

- Students from outside the department are seeking geography courses in our department.
- We have profoundly more graduate students than undergraduate. There have been efforts to recruit more students into the undergrad major, but much of the success has been in students obtaining a minor.
- We have had successive cohorts of students focused on GIS from China, fueling our growth.

C. Trends in Geography Majors

The number of **undergraduate** geography majors is *increasing*

Increasing at University of South Alabama, University of North Alabama,

Stable at Jacksonville State University, Auburn University

Decreasing at Auburn University, University of Alabama, Samford University

The number of students in **graduate** geography

Increasing at University of South Alabama, University of Alabama, University of North Alabama

Stable at Jacksonville State University, Auburn University

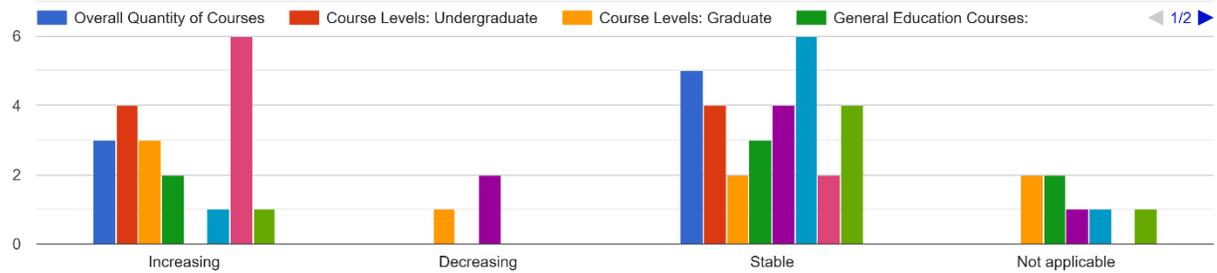
Decreasing at Samford University

Comments:

- Geography undergraduate degree is poorly defined, and as the field of geography has changed and is so different from grade school to university students seem to lack an understanding of what geography can be/is.
- We are slowly growing the graduate population of the geography side of the department. Our department, being geosciences, is split between Geology and Geography. The department has a long-standing focus of primarily being Geology-focused...so there is still work to do to garner more attention to the Geography program. We have a larger contingent of Geographers than in years past, but our undergraduate population remains relatively low/small.
- As before, the student cohorts from China have increased enrollment in our Geography and GIS classes.

D. Trends in Course Offerings

What is the trend in course offerings in geography at your institution?



E. Jobs for Geography Graduates

Jobs in GIS and government were the most prevalent.

- Fed. State, County, City, government. Industry
- GIS graduates tend to go to various jobs in Huntsville or Birmingham, local utility companies and city offices. Geography majors with GIS certificates tend towards the latter and the purely Geography majors do not have any specific areas of placement.
- GIS and Geospatial, mapping, Digital Spatial Analytics
- Most of our geography graduates pursue academia or end up in industry (generally consulting or other GIS-related work)
- Private firms (self-owned included), commercial firms, NGOs, and academia
- GIS entry level positions, Graduate School, Non-profit work, Military/Intelligence, Env Science

F. Personnel

Name of Institution	Number of full time geography faculty.	Number of part time geography faculty	Please list the new geography faculty joining your department and indicate if you will be hiring new faculty in the upcoming academic year.
University of South Alabama	6	4	N/A
Auburn University	26	2	I believe we have a call out for Lecturer/Senior Lecturer positions in Geography and Environmental Studies. Link to posting - https://www.auemployment.com/postings/56711
University of North Alabama	9	5	N/A
Jacksonville State University	6	0	not intending to get more new at this point
University of Alabama	22	1	Daniel West, unknown
Auburn University - CFWE	7	0	N/A

Samford University	4	1	Hired a sociologist but he will teach an intro GIS course
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G. State of Geography

University of South Alabama: GIS increasing on all fronts to the point where we don't have enough seats in our expanded labs. GEO classes mostly holding steady since COVID. Interdisciplinary connections through the roof as our school chased R1 status.

Auburn University: I believe Geography is in a better spot than in previous years at this institution. Being a split department has some challenges, and having such a long-standing Geology side does influence the direction of this department. I believe more effort needs to be put into recruitment, outreach, and communication from our end to promote students joining the department. While there have been efforts, they have fallen short. I think we are headed in the right direction, but there needs to be more consensus as a whole. Moreover, we have a difficult time keeping Geography lecturers and positions. Many people transition out relatively quickly, which is largely not the case for the Geology side of our department. This impacts students' abilities to perform research or even be exposed to new classes. For instance, we had a GIS Programming course which was offered by a lecturer but hasn't been offered since due to their departure. Having this turnover makes it feel as if there is little stability.

University of North Alabama: We are currently budget stable thanks to course fee funding from our general education classes. We have a recent surge in enrollment from international students but we need to diversify to recruit more from our regional base. Of our full time faculty, two teach for an partnership program with China and two are geologists from a department merger a few years ago. We have had challenges finding a unified set of courses and recruiting that gets everyone on board (anticipate this to be a long term matter). There is also the standard academic issue of being unwilling to change to capture students in areas of potential majors such as GIS and business and being flexible with offerings.

Auburn University – CFWE: Generally waning but a greater push toward Geospatial technology.

Geography undergrad majors have been declining, graduate students are increasing, department external funding has increased substantially. Doing well overall.

Jacksonville State University: Generally waning but a greater push toward Geospatial technology.

Auburn University – CFWE: Geography should expand to include more AI techniques; 2) increase its visibility in the public (so we have more majors); 3) emphasize hiring of new GIScience faculty

Samford University: Our general education courses are very popular and consistently fill quickly. Our number of majors is declining at the moment. We graduated our largest class on record last year. We are slowly rebuilding but also struggling to get majors. Our GIS minor/certificate is growing consistently, most students coming from Biology, Env Science, and Marine Science. We are also seeing more Architecture students in our GIS courses. We will be undergoing a long-overdue program review during the 2026-2027 academic year. We are hoping to make some informed programmatic changes based on that process. Our university is also changing the general education curriculum which could also impact our program in a positive OR negative way.

Though we are small, we are an active department. Faculty are very active in college, university, and disciplinary service.

H. State of SEDAAG

Departments generally commended SEDAAG as a strong and active conference. Multiple departments suggested that SEDAAG do more to actively encourage student and faculty involvement with SEDAAG, particularly those at non-R1 institutions. Suggestions included more student grants and travel awards, networking events at the annual meeting tailored specifically to undergraduate students, and individualized communications from SEDAAG to specific faculty encouraging them to join SEDAAG. **Each department's complete response is quoted below:**

University of South Alabama: We would like to be more active. Contact Carol Sawyer for that (csawyer@southalabama.edu)

Auburn University: I truly enjoy SEDAAG and the opportunities it provides for students! The only thing I can think of is in terms of the conference itself. If there is a way to make a more formalized registration/portal for things. Google Forms, personally, are a tad dated, especially as this is a subset of AAG. If there is a way to open submissions through AAG website (or something along those lines) I think it could really help out in terms of organization and professionalism.

University of North Alabama: Not knowledgeable in this area, but everything seems fine. We have had pretty good student involvement from UNA over the last couple of years.

University of Alabama: Seems pretty good generally.

Auburn University – CFWE: 1) seek and provide some travel fund for graduate students traveling to SEDAAG and other meetings; 2) create some awards for junior geographers (not much money, but a recognition)

Samford University: Our department depends on SEDAAG to introduce our students to academic conferences and research posters/presentations. We send at least 1, usually closer to 3 or 4, students each year to present their undergrad research. SEDAAG continues to be a strong, accessible regional conference --much more affordable than any national conference. I would encourage the leadership to keep the conference costs as low as possible, especially student memberships and registration.

Because the conference will be close by next year, we hope to help co-sponsor an event and bring a large showing from Samford.

We are especially proud of Dr. Jennifer Rahn, who received the Outstanding Service Award from SEDAAG last year.

Florida SEDAAG Survey Summary: 2025-2026 Academic Year
 Summary prepared by Dr. David Keellings, University of Florida

A. Institutional Information

Eleven universities and colleges in Florida were identified as offering degrees and/or multiple courses in geography or related fields. Four of these institutions completed the 2025 SEDAAG State of the Field Survey. Another single institution communicated with me personally, but did not fill out the survey (up from a total of 4 responses in 2024). The contacts and degree information for these departments are summarized in the table below (Table 1).

Table 1. Universities Responding to the 2025-2026 SEDAAG Survey

Institution	Department and Survey Contact	Geography Degrees Offered
Jacksonville University	Sustainability, Geography, and Environmental Planning (SGEP) Dr. Ray Oldakowski	B.A./B.S. Sustainability, Geography, and Environmental Planning
Stetson University	Department of Environmental Science and Studies Dr. Ben Tanner	B.A. Environmental Studies B.S. Environmental Science
University of Florida	Department of Geography Dr. Jason Blackburn	B.A in Geography B.S. in Geography M.A. in Geography M.S. in Geography Ph.D. in Geography Certificate in Geospatial Information Analysis Certificate in GeoAI Certificate in Medical Geography Certificate in Meteorology and Climatology
University of Miami	Geography and Sustainable Development Dr. José Maria Cardoso da Silva	B.A. Geography B.S. Geography Undergrad Cert. Sustainability M.A. Geography M.P.S. Urban Sustainability and Resilience Grad Cert. Geospatial Technology
University of North Florida	Department of Economics and Geography Dr. Sharon Cobb	Minor in Geography

B. Personnel

Table 2. Personnel

University	Department Chair	Full-Time Geography Faculty (Difference from 2024)	Part-Time Geography Faculty (Difference from 2024)	New Geography Faculty
Jacksonville University	Dr. Ray Oldakowski	2	3	This year: 0 Next year: 0
Stetson University	Dr. Ben Tanner	0	0	This year: 0 Next year: 0
University of Florida	Dr. Jason Blackburn	20 (-4)	1	This year: 0 Next year: 2
University of Miami	Dr. José Maria Cardoso da Silva	11	2 (+1)	This year: 1 Next year: 1
University of North Florida	Dr. Andres Gallo	2	1 (-2)	This year: 0 Next year: 0

JU: No hires in the foreseeable future, the University is fiscally challenged.

Stetson: While we have a number of faculty members with some geography background, there is really no one with geography as their specialty area right now.

UF: David Beilman will join as a full-time professor of biogeography in fall 2026. We will have a TBD full-time Assistant instructional Professor of GIS at the same time.

Trends in Student Enrollment and Majors

Table 3 gives an overview of trends in student enrollment in geography classes, the number of geography majors, and number of courses offered. The table also lists some of the main areas of employment for geography graduates. The data has been divided into undergraduate (U) and graduate (G) level where applicable.

Numbers are overall stable or growing.

UF: Graduate: Our program is stable at 50+ students, with 95% of those PhD students.

Table 3. Trends in student enrollment

Measure	Level (U/G)	Jacksonville University	Stetson University	University of Florida	University of Miami	University of North Florida
Student enrollment in geography classes	<i>U</i>	Stable	Stable	Growing	Stable	Stable
	<i>G</i>	NA	NA	Stable	Stable	Stable
Geography Majors	<i>U</i>	Stable	Stable	Growing	Growing	Stable
	<i>G</i>	Stable	NA	Stable	Stable	Stable
	<i>U</i>	Stable	Declining	Growing	Stable	Stable

Course offerings	<i>G</i>	NA	NA	Growing	Stable	Stable
	<i>Gen Ed.</i>	Stable	NA	Stable	Stable	NA
	<i>Human Geog.</i>	Stable	NA	Stable	Stable	Stable
	<i>Physical Geog.</i>	Stable	NA	Growing	Stable	Declining
	<i>GIST</i>	Growing	Stable	Growing	Stable	Stable
	<i>Env. Geog.</i>	Stable	Declining	Growing	Stable	Stable
Jobs for Geography Graduates	<i>U</i>	Public/private sector	Public/private sector	Environmental jobs (public/private sector), grad school	Public/private sector	NA
	<i>G</i>			Academia, NGOs, government		

D. State of Geography.

Please provide a few statements summarizing your view on the "State of Geography" in your institution and state, identifying both positive and negative aspects. Feel free to speak to specific a range of specific issues, including but not limited to budget, curriculum, turf wars, technology.

Below are copied statements from the different institutions. Some of the statements have been shortened/edited for clarity.

UM: Geography and Sustainable Development at the University of Miami is thriving. All performance indicators in research and teaching improved, and the Department became an interdisciplinary hub that supports Geography degrees, as well as other interdisciplinary programs, such as Global Health Studies and International Studies. More students are taking geography courses, and the prospects are excellent.

Stetson: With the departure of our sole geography faculty member, we have no one right now who has geography as their specialty (although we have a number of faculty members with geography in their background). We may hire in that direction with a VAP search this year and will see who applies. Therefore, I would say that geography has declined in our institution. I'm really not qualified to speculate on the state of geography in the state.

JU: As it has been for the 35 years I have worked at JU. Stable, not in danger of being closed, But always aggressively seeking majors (we average about 35 at a school with a traditional undergraduate enrollment of about 3500 students). The department has always been in the school of social sciences. I will be retiring in 3-5 years and my colleague Ashley Johnson leans more toward environmental issues, so the department may move to the school of natural sciences. She collaborates frequently with our marine science faculty.

UF: Geography is a growing and supported program with a vibrant research program. We are growing in GeoAI courses and skills, which means we need growth in high performance computing

skills and access to resources. The changing Gen Ed landscape is limiting enrollment in undergrads so we need to retool advertising to grow enrollment.

E. State of SEDAAG

Please provide a few statements summarizing your view on the "State of SEDAAG," providing some feedback on the Division's strengths and weaknesses. What suggestions do you have in improving the Regional Division as it seeks to serve members through the annual meeting, journal, awards program, etc.?

No feedback provided.

Georgia SEDAAG Survey Summary: 2025-2026 Academic Year
 Summary prepared by Dr. Richard Milligan, Georgia State University

A. Institutional Information

Approximately twelve universities in Georgia offer courses and/or degrees in geography or related fields. Eight of these universities responded to the 2025 SEDAAG Survey. The contacts and degree information for the eight departments that responded are summarized in the table below:

Table 1. Universities Responding to the 2025 SEDAAG Survey

Institution	Department and Survey Contact	Geography Degrees Offered	Contact Email
Georgia Tech	School of City & Regional Planning, Clio Andris	none	clio.andris@design.gatech.edu
Georgia Gwinnett College	History and Geography, D. Dorrell	Undergrad degree: Geography Concentration in the set of History degrees	ddorrell@ggc.edu
Valdosta State University	Chemistry and Geosciences, Jia Lu	Undergrad degree	jl@valdosta.edu
Georgia Southern University	School of Earth, Environment, and Sustainability; Kathy Sherman-Morris	Undergrad and grad pathways: BS degree in Geoscience with geography concentration and MS and PhD in Environmental Science. You can take mostly geography classes, but none are specifically geography degrees.	kshermanmorris@georgiasouthern.edu
Kennesaw State University	Geography and Anthropology, Brandon Lundy	Undergrad degree; Geospatial Sciences; Minor; GIS Certificate; Land Surveying Certificate	blundy@kennesaw.edu
University of North Georgia	Institute for Environment and Spatial Analysis, Jeff Turk and Jacob McDonald	none	jeff.turk@ung.edu jacob.batemanmcdonald@ung.edu
Georgia State University	Katherine Hankins	Geography concentrations in BS and MS	khankins@gsu.edu
University of West Georgia	Andy Walter	Earth and Environmental Sciences major with three concentrations/tracks: Professional Geology, GIS, and Environmental Sustainability	awalter@westga.edu

B. Trends in Student Enrollment in Geography Courses

Trends in **undergraduate** geography courses are mixed in Georgia. In the six responding departments for which this is applicable and reported, one is declining (VSU), two are increasing (Georgia State, Georgia Southern), and three are stable (KSU, GGC, UNG). Trends in **graduate** geography courses are also mixed in Georgia. In the five responding departments for which this is applicable and reported, one is declining (VSU), one is increasing (Georgia State), and two are stable (KSU, Georgia Southern).

At **Georgia Southern University** there has been an increase in undergraduate credit hours in geography classes and an increase in the Sustainability Science BS, while graduate enrollment is low, but stable. At

Georgia State University, growth is modest but steady at the undergraduate introductory level; stable at the upper level; and growing modestly at the graduate level. At **Kennesaw State University** enrollment has remained steady due to a high number of Geography courses in general education. At **Georgia Gwinnett College**, the number of sections for each course has been stable, but physical geography courses were recently added to the core curriculum, so they hope to see growth there.

C. Trends in Geography Majors

Undergrad major enrollment is reportedly stable in 5 departments (KSU, UWG, Georgia State, Georgia Southern, UNG), declining in 1 (VSU), and growing in 1 (GGC). **Graduate degree program enrollment** is stable in 3 departments (KSU, Georgia State, and Georgia Southern) while growing in 1 (GGC).

At **Georgia Southern**, growth in majors and grad program enrollment has been mostly through interdisciplinary programs. At the **University of West Georgia**, the Geography and Geology majors have been merged into a single Earth and Environmental Sciences major with three concentrations/tracks: Professional Geology, GIS, and Environmental Sustainability. While MS concentrations in Geography at **Georgia State** is stabilizing over the past year following a period of growth, there has been continuing substantial growth in enrollments for a graduate certificate in Professional GIS.

D. Trends in Course Offerings

Trends in course offerings are varied across reporting institutions in Georgia

KSU has stability in overall quantity of courses at both undergrad and grad levels, in gen ed courses, in subfields of human, physical, and environmental geography, with increasing offerings in GIS and Geospatial techniques.

GGC increases in overall quantity of courses at undergrad level, noting specific increases in subfields of physical geography, with stability in human, GIS, and environmental geography.

VSU has seen decreasing course offerings in all specific areas except for stability in gen ed course offerings.

UNG has seen overall quantity of courses increasing with stability across all specific areas.

Georgia Southern has seen increasing course offerings in gen ed and environmental geography, with stability across all other specific areas.

Georgia State has seen increases in overall quantity of courses at both undergrad and grad levels, in gen ed courses, noting specific increases in subfields of human geography, GIS, and environmental geography, with stability in physical geography offerings.

E. Jobs for Geography Graduates

Geography graduates in Georgia are finding jobs in local, state, and regional governments; environmental management; CRM, and GIS firms; environmental consulting, urban planning, community development, and the like. Many gain entry-level employment by distinguishing themselves with GIS skills. Many find work as GIS and survey technicians. Numerous find work with nonprofits and particularly environmental NGOs.

F. Personnel

There are 68 full-time and 21 part-time geographers among faculty at reporting institutions in Georgia.

Table 2. Personnel

University	Department Head	Full-Time Geography Faculty	Part-Time Geography Faculty	New Geography Faculty
KSU	Brandon D Lundy	16	10	Kyusik Kim; Hiring 2 new faculty (assistant professors) this year (Geomatics; GeoAI)
Georgia Tech	Gulsah Akar	2	0	
GGC	Nathan Orgill, Chair of History and Geography	5	5	just gained Kathleen Carr as a Lecturer. AFAIK, we will not receive a replacement line for a retirement from last year.
VSU	Salami	6	0	
UNG	Jeff Turk	7	2	
Georgia Southern	Kathy Sherman-Morris	8	0	added a visiting geography instructor this year (2-year max appointment)
Georgia State	Katherine Hankins	18	3	Dr. Rachel Arney, UGA '24, joined our department as a full time faculty member in August 2025; Dr. Kevin Ward joined GSU as director of the Urban Studies Institute.
UWG	Andy Walter	6	1	Hired new geographer this year

G. State of Geography

The State of Geography in Georgia is varied across reporting departments and schools. **Each department's complete response is quoted below:**

At **KSU**, Geography majors are in decline, while Geospatial Sciences majors are increasing

Georgia Tech doesn't have a geography dept, or geography degrees, but we have many GIS classes and our urban planning classes teach global development, human geography, and economic geography.

Geography at **GGC** has always required constant effort. We serve the core, so I worked to get physical geography into our core. That took years, but eventually (14 years!) it happened. Turf wars are real Geography is in Liberal Arts at GGC, so our colleagues in science used that to stymie our expansion. That is settled now. The biggest issue now is budgeting. Departments at GGC effectively have no budgets, neither do schools. Almost all budget decisions are at the provost level. Because of this, when we lose a faculty member, we have no guarantee of a replacement line. That is affecting us right now. we would like to expand our course offering, but we simply cannot, since we are unable to hire anyone.

At **VSU**, the geography major has declined, as well as the graduation numbers. We were just put on the at-risk list by our school due to our average graduation is below 10/year. However, we are also identified by the outside consultant as a potential high-growth area. We have graduated many wonderful students, and many of them are in leadership roles in the city and county. We only have 4 full-time faculty and 2 temporary faculty in geosciences after we lost over half of our faculty in the past 3 years due to retirement and resignation. VSU refused to replace them. Requests solidarity and advocacy from SEDAAG to support and sustain geography at VSU. Also requests advice on increasing enrollment.

A little under half of the faculty in **UNG's** Institute for Environmental Spatial Analysis (IESA) are academically trained geographers. The main focus of IESA's degree program (Environmental Spatial Analysis) is to train our majors to be knowledgeable users of GIS and thus the main focus of our required courses deal with GIS. Geography courses are not a large component of our curriculum and serve mostly as core curriculum courses for non-majors. I am not sure if this has changed but UNG (as part of the University System of Georgia) is not allowed to have a Geography degree because it would be in competition with other USG Universities/Colleges.

UWG: The main thing to report from West Georgia is that the Geography and Geology majors have been merged into a single Earth and Environmental Sciences major with three concentrations/tracks: Professional Geology, GIS, and Environmental Sustainability. It's not what anybody wanted; it is an attempt to get out of the crosshairs of bean-counting administrators.

Georgia Southern: We would like to grow our geography concentrations. Our upper level courses tend to be small, which could become a problem if it continues. We have a small budget and will need to replace technology this year. We're a small department in a college of science with some much larger departments/majors. We need to identify some focus areas to help us stand out.

Georgia State: The number of students taking geography courses and interested in the fields that constitute geography is growing. Our institution captures a tremendous number of introductory students through general education students, where our department contributes nine core courses to the curriculum. Of these four are explicitly geography courses (Geog 1112: Weather and Climate; Geog 1113: Landforms; Geog 1101: Human Geography; Geog 2200: Mapping our World) and enrollment remains robust. This excellent exposure has not translated into as many majors as we would anticipate—but we see that as due to the name of our degree: Geosciences. Also, our department now houses the Bachelors of Interdisciplinary Studies in Environmental Science, which is a popular major. At the graduate level, our professional certificate in GIS is growing. Since its online launch in 2022, we've graduated over 60 students in the year-long program. We have managed to flourish despite the sometimes difficult task of being visible to undergraduates and graduate students (given the name of our department and degrees). We are hopeful to broaden out our impact on the institution, as we have a thriving, healthy, and productive department with lots of imagination and determination. Budgets are increasingly tight in the College of Arts and Sciences, and yet in most every metric, our department is punching above our weight and so far we have been able to achieve most of what we set out to accomplish in terms of obtaining support for hiring, creating courses, and making connections across the university.

H. State of SEDAAG

Very positive views of SEDAAG from across the state of Georgia:

KSU: Seems to be a robust regional organization; We always have strong participation in SEDAGG among our KSU faculty

Georgia Tech: We'd like to be included in SEDAAG!

GGC: I don't really know. I love the conference, it's just so collegial. I haven't been able to attend for a few years, but that is due to external issues.

VSU: It is a good group. Please use the collective power to help us recruiting more students, and also advocate for us to the GA board of region to prevent them to cut our program in geosciences. Thanks.

UNG: Our view on the "State of SEDAAG" is very positive. Our faculty try to attend every year and most years, students from UNG have presented at the annual meeting. The one suggestion we have to provide

more opportunities for student travel awards related to the World Geography Bowl so we can bring students that are early in their academic career and are not yet ready to present.

Georgia Southern: I really like SEDAAG. I wish I could always attend the meeting but I can only go every few years. Our department is sending a group of faculty and students. I don't really have any suggestions.

Georgia State: We are excited to bring a large group of students and faculty to the Annual Meeting, which is one of the division's strengths. It would be ideal to see more R1 institutions at the meeting for even greater networking opportunities. I dare say that bringing back a newsletter in some form could be useful to read through the highlights of the programs in the region. And, please, for the love of all that is holy, change the scheduling of the Annual Meeting from the weekend before Thanksgiving.

Kentucky SEDAAG Survey Summary: 2025-2026 Academic Year
 Summary prepared by Dr. Bethan Craig, University of Kentucky

Institutional Information

Approximately 11 universities in Kentucky offer courses and/or degrees in geography or geography related fields. Five of these universities responded to the 2025 SEDAAG state of the field survey. The survey contacts and program details for these 5 programs are summarized below:

Table 1. Universities Responding to the 2023-2024 SEDAAG Survey

Institution	Department and Survey Contact	Geography Degrees Offered
The University of Kentucky	Dr. Matthew Wilson	B.S. in Geography B.A. in Geography Interdisciplinary B.A. in Environmental & Sustainability Studies Minor in Geography Minor in Mapping and GIS Minor in Urban Studies Minor in Environment and Sustainability Studies Graduate Certificate in Digital Mapping Graduate Certificate in Applied Environmental and Sustainability Studies M.A. in Geography M.A. in Applied Environmental and Sustainability Studies M.S. in Digital Mapping Ph.D. in Geography
University of Louisville	Dr. Wei Song	B.S. in Applied Geography Minor in Geography Minor in Environmental Analysis Minor in Urban and Regional Analysis Certificate in Applied Geospatial Technologies M.S. in Applied Geography
Eastern Kentucky University	Dr. Kelly Watson	University Certificate in GIS Minor in Geography
Western Kentucky University	Dr. Leslie North	B.S. in Environment, Sustainability, and Geographic Studies M.S. in Geoscience

		M.S. in Geoscience (including graduate students across all of majors (ESSG, Meteorology, and Geological Sciences))
Murray State University	Dr. Bassil El Masri	B.S. in Geography and GIS M.S. in Earth and Environmental Sciences with concentration in Geoinformatics GIS certificate (undergraduate) Geospatial Data Science certificate (graduate)

Trends in Student Enrollment in Geography Courses

Enrollment in **undergraduate** geography courses is stable at the University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky, declining at Eastern Kentucky University, and increasing at Western Kentucky University. **Graduate** student enrollment at The University of Kentucky is stable. Western Kentucky University and University of Louisville graduate student enrollment is growing.

Trends in Geography Majors and Minors

The number of **undergraduate** geography majors and minors at the University of Louisville is growing; and stable at Western Kentucky University and the University of Kentucky. The number of **graduate** geography majors and minors is stable at The University of Kentucky, University of Louisville, and Western Kentucky University.

Trends in Course Offerings

University of Louisville's course offerings are increasing for physical Geography, overall general education, and undergraduate courses; they are stable for overall quantity of courses, overall graduate level courses, human geography, GIS and geospatial technologies, and environmental geography. Western Kentucky University's course offerings are increasing for GIS and geospatial technologies and environmental geography; they are decreasing in human geography; and remain stable in overall general education, overall quantity of courses, and undergraduate courses, graduate level courses, and physical geography. Eastern Kentucky University's course offerings are decreasing in overall quantity of courses, undergraduate courses, overall general education, physical geography, and environmental geography; they are stable in GIS and geospatial technologies. Murray State University's course offerings are increasing in overall general education and human geography; they are stable in overall quantity of courses, undergraduate courses, overall graduate level courses, GIS and geospatial technologies, and environmental geography. University of Kentucky's course offerings are increasing in GIS and geospatial technologies and environmental geography; they are stable in overall quantity of course, undergraduate courses, graduate level courses, overall general education, human geography, and physical geography.

Jobs for Geography Graduates

The University of Kentucky reported that their undergraduate majors continue to be hired in a range of positions in industry and government, nonprofits and NGOs, and are placed in regional and R1 graduate programs. Murray State University reported that their graduates are hired as GIS specialists. Eastern Kentucky University reported that their graduates are placed in GIS jobs. Western Kentucky University reported that their graduates are placed in private sector, government, consulting, academia/research jobs.

Personnel Table 2. Personnel

Institution	Department Head	Full-Time Geography Faculty	Part-Time Geography Faculty	New Geography Faculty
The University of Kentucky	Dr. Matthew Wilson	18	2	“We did not hire new faculty this year, and we will not learn about potential hiring authorizations until the Spring”
University of Louisville	Dr. Wei Song	11	5	0
Eastern Kentucky University	Dr. Jessica Crist	4	4	0
Western Kentucky University	Dr. Leslie North	5 (10 including adjunct)	0	0
Murray State University	Dr. Bassil El Masri	2	2	0

State of Geography

The University of Kentucky highlighted ongoing statewide pressures on higher education. Eastern Kentucky University reported stability in its GIS certificate program, though noted declining enrollment in general-education geography courses due to limited support. Murray State University, Western Kentucky University, and the University of Louisville did not report specific updates for this question, and their overall survey responses suggest steady program conditions. Each department that responded is quoted below:

University of Kentucky: We continue to look to peer geography departments and our national professional organizations to navigate new challenges regarding academic freedom and support for world-class research in the social and natural sciences, geohumanities, and the GISciences. As our universities grapple with new federal priorities and shifting public opinion, our faculty and students can feel unsupported and exposed. This provides an opportunity to reestablish the importance of

our public flagship universities to ask critical questions and innovate in our address to difficult social and environmental urgencies.

Eastern Kentucky University: Our GIS certificate program is stable, but the undergraduate general education courses are in decline due to lack of support and resources.

State of SEDAAG

University of Kentucky: We are excited to host SEDAAG this year and will continue to support our faculty and students in attending the annual conference. I think SEDAAG can continue to support department chairs and directors of undergraduate studies in navigating new opportunities to outreach to high school students in the region about the strength of geographic education in the southeast.

Mississippi SEDAAG Survey Summary: 2025-2026 Academic Year
 Summary prepared by Dr. Kayla Stan, The University of Southern Mississippi

Surveys solicited from and summary prepared by Kayla Stan, University of Southern Mississippi.

A. Institutional Information

Of the 33 colleges and universities in Mississippi (not including barber, cosmetics or similar schools), 5 universities have geography and related majors with non-zero graduation rates in the last 5 years. Additionally, one university offers a concentration in applied science in geospatial engineering technology and two additional universities offers a minor in geography. Beyond this, there are 29 institutions that offer at least one geography course. The degree information for the 5 programs are summarized in the table below:

Table 1. Universities with Geography and Associated Programs

Institution	Geography Degrees Offered	Program Coordinator and Email
University of Southern Mississippi	Certificate Program - GIS Bachelor's – Geography (ending in Sp 2026) Master's – Earth and Environmental Sciences (formerly Geography)	Frank Heitmuller Frank.heimuller@usm.edu
Mississippi State University	Bachelor's - Geosciences Master's – Geospatial Sciences, Environmental Geosciences, Geology, and Geography Ph.D. in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences	John Rodgers rodgers@geosci.msstate.edu
Millsaps College	Bachelor's – Environmental Science	James Harris harrijb@millsaps.edu
Jackson State University	Bachelor's – Environmental Science Master's – Environmental Science Doctoral – Environmental Science	Ezat Heydari ezat.heydari@jsums.edu
Delta State University	Certificate Program – Geospatial Analysis and Intelligence Bachelor's – Geospatial Analysis and Intelligence Master's – Geospatial Information Technology	Joe Bentley jbentley@deltastate.edu

B. Trends in Student Enrollment in Geography Courses

Enrollment in introductory level geography courses remains stable. At the 29 institutions which offer courses, many only offer World Regions Geography which is a General Education Curriculum transferable course and a mandatory or recommended elective course in many degree programs. These trends are also consistent among the other most widely offered class, which include Introduction to Geography and Introduction to Geographic Information Systems. Higher level geography courses are only offered at Pearl River Community College, Jones County Junior College, and Mississippi State Valley University which do not have any associated programs, along

with Alcorn State University which has a geospatial technology applied science concentration and William Carey University which offers a minor in geography.

Of the universities which offer programs, General Education Curriculum courses remain with strong enrollment, however upper division geography course enrollment varies. Mississippi State University has increasing enrollment, while the University of Southern Mississippi and Delta State University have *decreasing* enrollment. Jackson State University has had *stable* enrollment.

C. Trends in Geography Majors

The combined program enrollment across all institutions suggests stable programs over the last five years, however, this is largely due to the growth of the Mississippi State University program. The Delta State University, University of Southern Mississippi, and Millsaps College undergraduate programs have all had *declines* in enrollment and graduation. Both Delta State University and University of Southern Mississippi have also had strong cuts to programs due to budget restrictions, with the University of Southern Mississippi closing its geography program and consolidating into an Environmental Geosciences program at both a graduate and undergraduate level. This is offset by the growth in the Mississippi State University program which has *increased* enrollment over the past 3 years. At a graduate level, enrollment has been stable with *increased* graduation at Mississippi State University and Delta State University. The University of Southern Mississippi has had *stable* graduate program graduation rates, however, has consolidated its graduate program due to program cuts at the university. The Jackson State University graduate program in Environmental Sciences had a *stable* graduation rate until the most recent year, when it dropped.

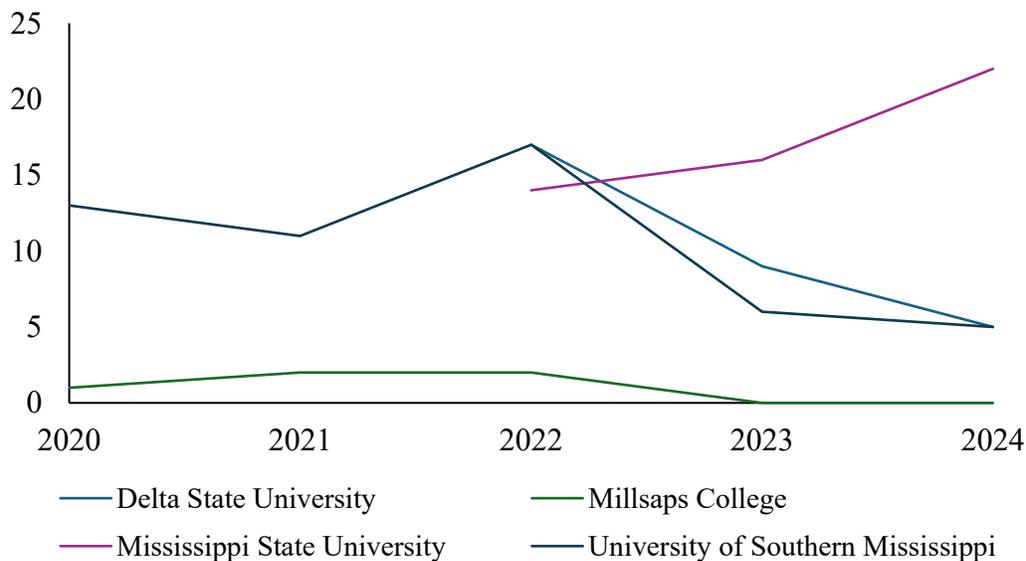


Figure 1: Undergraduate program graduation trends by university in geography and associated programs.

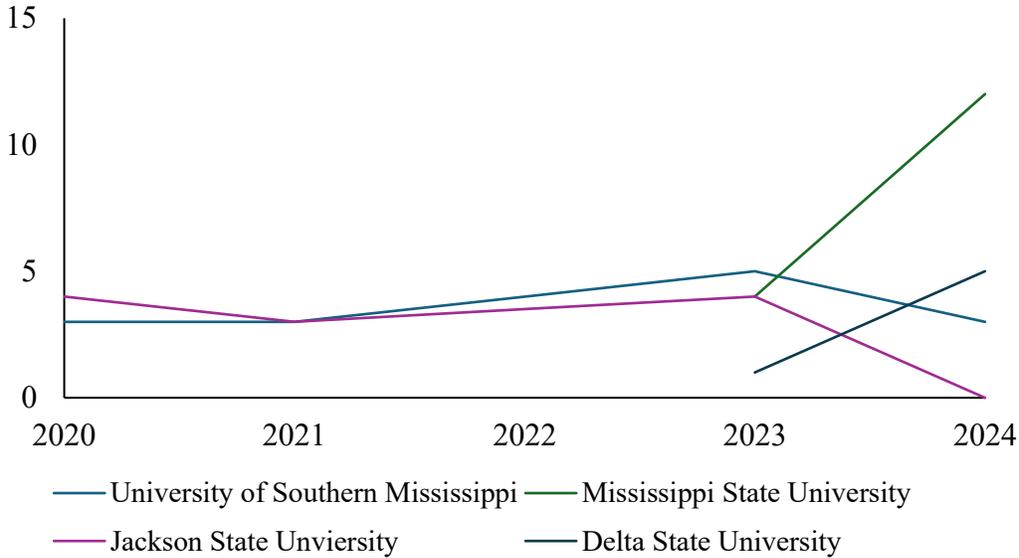


Figure 2: Graduate program graduation trends by university in geography and associated programs.

D. Trends in Course Offerings

Currently 29 institutions offer at least one geography course, with 23 offering World Regions Geography. There are also 8 community colleges that offer an additional introductory level geography course (Introduction to Geography, Fundamentals of Geography or Principles of Geography). Two community colleges offer Weather and Climate, while five offer an Introduction to GIS course. Christian colleges have additional offerings in Historical Geography and the Geography of the Bible. Both Jones College Junior College and Pearl River Community College have higher level remote sensing, UAV, and GIS courses. At the universities, Mississippi University of Women has a rotation of regional geography courses, Mississippi Valley State University has North American geography and political geography at a more senior level. The course offerings at the universities with programs have largely remained stable, with no notable changes to the course rotations. Below is a list of current course offerings by institution (does not include the course offerings of universities with majors for space):

<i>Institution Name</i>	Courses in GIS
<i>Mississippi Valley State University</i>	Fundamental of Geography; Geography of North America; Introduction to GIS; Political Geography
<i>Wesley Biblical Seminary</i>	Geography of the Bible
<i>Southeastern Baptist College</i>	Historical Geography; Bible Geography
<i>Rust College</i>	Introduction to Geography; World Regions Geography
<i>Mississippi College</i>	Principles of Geography; Select Topics in Geography; Geography and Culture of the Biblical Lands
<i>Holmes Community College</i>	World Regions Geography
<i>Mississippi Delta Community College</i>	World Regions Geography
<i>Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College</i>	World Regions Geography
<i>Northeast Mississippi Community College</i>	World Regions Geography
<i>Northwest Mississippi Community College</i>	World Regions Geography

<i>Pearl River Community College</i>	World Regions Geography; Principles of Geography; Introduction to Hydrography; Acoustics for Hydrography; Fundamentals of GIS; Advanced Hydrography; Remote Sensing
<i>Mississippi University for Women</i>	World Regions Geography; Geography of North America, Geography of China, Geography of Sub-Saharan Africa, Political Geography, Population Geography
<i>Blue Mountain Christian University</i>	World Regions Geography
<i>Copiah-Lincoln Community College</i>	World Regions Geography
<i>Southwest Mississippi Community College</i>	World Regions Geography
<i>East Mississippi Community College</i>	World Regions Geography
<i>Meridian Community College</i>	World Regions Geography; Principles of Geography
<i>East Central Community College</i>	World Regions Geography; Principles of Geography; Introduction to GIS
<i>Jones County Junior College</i>	World Regions Geography; Principles of Geography; Introduction to GIS; Mapping & Remote Sensing; Advanced GIS
<i>Hinds Community College</i>	World Regions Geography; Principles of Geography; Weather & Climate; Introduction to GIS
<i>Itawamba Community College</i>	World Regions Geography; Weather & Climate; GIS
<i>University of Mississippi</i>	Introduction to Geography; World Regions: Geography and Policy; Global Environmental Issues; Geography of Religion and Belief Systems; Remote Sensing; Spatial Analysis

E. Jobs for Geography Graduates

Graduates from geography programs are typically able to find graduate degree programs or jobs in GIS and geography related fields. Employment placements include those in private industry as well as in the government sector. Private employers include utility companies, Resource Data, GeoJobe, Kimley-Horn, Bohler, and Ecological Asset Management LLC among others. The public sector has remained a strong employer in recent years with graduates working with the Mississippi Department of Transportation, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, City of Hattiesburg, and the City of Decatur, along with research centers such as the Stennis Space Center. The focus on much of the employment, particularly in the public sector, is in competency with geospatial analysis.

F. Personnel

Table 2. Personnel

University	Department Head	Full-Time Geography Faculty	Part-Time Geography Faculty
University of Southern Mississippi	Frank Heitmuller	8	-2

Mississippi State University	John Rodgers	9 (many have administrative roles, and mixed course loads)	1
Jackson State University	Ezat Heydari	1 lecturer + 3 in interdisciplinary Enviro Sci degree	
Delta State University	Joe Bentley	2	11
Millsaps College	James B. Harris	2	
Mississippi University of Women	N/A	1	
William Carey University	N/A	1	
University of Mississippi	Bridget Martin & Nora Sylvander	3 – mixed minor	

G. State of Geography

Geography in Mississippi is still regarded as important, particularly in the context of geospatial work, remote sensing, and planning, however the reach in geography programs is limited to few of the institutions in the state. The focus on GIS represents only a subset of geography and other physical geography and human geography components beyond the technology component are not as well represented beyond a few institutions. This mirrored with the program cuts and consolidation of programs into larger more generalized geoscience, environmental science, and sustainability umbrellas. This fracturing is also mirrored in the employment opportunities that are occurring in the state. The rate of job growth in geography in Mississippi is not high, which has led to an increasing number of graduates moving to other states for jobs or higher degrees. In the employment sector, this move out of Mississippi is happening at both an undergraduate and graduate level. Beyond this, building connections and a broader geography program base within the HBCUs and community colleges would be a good step forward.

Mississippi does remain strong in its geospatial community. Geospatial courses are highly sought after in degrees such as biology, anthropology, geology, criminology, and agriculture which has led to stable rates of course enrollment in both universities and community colleges in Mississippi. Employment in the GIS community is also stable, with employment in utility companies, Stennis space center, Geo Jobe and both the local and state employers, there remains strong ongoing demand for GIS skills within Mississippi. Given this current state of government employment, however, there are growing concerns among students about employment prospects after graduation even in the GIS field.

H. State of SEDAAG

SEDAAG remains a good regional organization for both Mississippi State University and the University of Southern Mississippi, with both institutions remaining involved and attending the regional conference. The contact of SEDAAG outside of these organizations though remains limited. There is a good opportunity for SEDAAG to grow and promote the discipline by more effectively reaching out to the HBCUs, smaller universities, and community colleges within the state.

North Carolina SEDAAG Survey Summary: 2025-2026 Academic Year
 Summary Prepared by Dr. Tommy Patterson, North Carolina A&T University

Surveys solicited from and summary prepared by Tommy Patterson, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.

A. Institutional Information

Approximately twenty universities in North Carolina offer courses and/or degrees in geography or related fields. Ten of these universities responded to the 2025 SEDAAG Survey. The contacts and degree information for the ten departments are summarized in the table below:

Table 1. Universities Responding to the 2025 SEDAAG Survey

Institution	Department and Survey Contact	Geography Degrees Offered	Contact email
Appalachian State University	Department of Geography and Planning, William Anderson	Undergraduate degree, Masters degree	andersonwp@appstate.edu
Edgecombe Community College	Information Technology Studies, Geospatial Technology, Trey Cherry	Minor degree, Other	cherryt@edgecombe.edu
North Carolina State University	Center for Geospatial Analytics, Eric Money	Other	esmoney@ncsu.edu
North Carolina A&T State University	Built Environment, Jerry W. Nave	No geography degree, Undergraduate degree, Masters degree, Doctoral degree, Other	jwnave@ncat.edu
Fayetteville State University	IGPH Department, Intelligence Studies, Geospatial Science, Political Science and History	Undergraduate degree, Other	None provided, survey was completed anonymous
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Department of Geography and Environment, Conghe Song	Undergraduate degree, Masters degree, Doctoral degree, Minor degree, Other	csong@email.unc.edu
UNC-Greensboro	Geography, Environment, and Sustainability , Dan Royall	Undergraduate degree, Doctoral degree	pdroyall@uncg.edu
University of North Carolina at Pembroke	Department of Geology and Geography, Dennis Edgell	Undergraduate degree, Minor degree, Other	dennis.edgell@uncp.edu
Western Carolina University	Department of Geosciences and Natural Resource Management, Department of Geosciences and Natural	Minor degree	lbryant@wcu.edu

	Resource Management, Lara Bryant, Geography Program Director		
East Carolina University	Earth, Environment and Planning, Jeff Popke	Undergraduate degree, Masters degree, Minor degree, Other	popkee@ecu.edu

B. Trends in Student Enrollment in Geography Courses

Undergraduate

Growing	Stable	Declining	Not Applicable
North Carolina State University	Appalachian State University	East Carolina University	North Carolina A&T State University
Fayetteville State University	Edgecombe Community College		
UNC Chapel Hill	UNC Pembroke		
Western Carolina University	UNC Greensboro		

Graduate

Growing	Stable	Declining	Not Applicable
Fayetteville State University	Appalachian State University		North Carolina A&T State University
UNC Chapel Hill	North Carolina State University		Edgecombe Community College
	East Carolina University		UNC Pembroke
	UNC Greensboro		Western Carolina University

Comments from departments regarding trends in student enrollment in geography courses

North Carolina A&T: “The undergraduate degree in Geomatics has continued to grow over the last 5 years.”

UNC Greensboro: “Undergraduate has seen a slight uptick.”

UNC Pembroke: “Our department does not have a graduate program.”

East Carolina University: “Interest in our Gen Ed offerings has been uneven. Demand is higher for online sections, but we have not been as successful at recruiting majors from those sections. Demand is quite strong for our GIS courses, which are taken by students across a wide range of majors.

Upper-level courses aimed primarily at majors tend to be under-enrolled, as our major numbers have declines (see next section), though demand from Environmental Studies students is helping in some

cases. We offer very few stand-alone graduate courses, and rely a lot on combined undergrad-grad courses. These typically only have a handful of grad students.”

C. Trends in Geography Majors

Undergraduate

Growing	Stable	Declining	Not Applicable
Western Carolina University	Appalachian State University	East Carolina University	North Carolina A&T State University
Fayetteville State University	Edgecombe Community College		North Carolina State University
	UNC Pembroke		
	UNC Greensboro		
	UNC Chapel Hill		

Graduate

Growing	Stable	Declining	Not Applicable
	Appalachian State University	East Carolina University	North Carolina A&T State University
	North Carolina State University		Edgecombe Community College
	UNC Chapel Hill		UNC Pembroke
	UNC Greensboro		Western Carolina University
			Fayetteville State University

Comments from departments regarding trends in geography majors

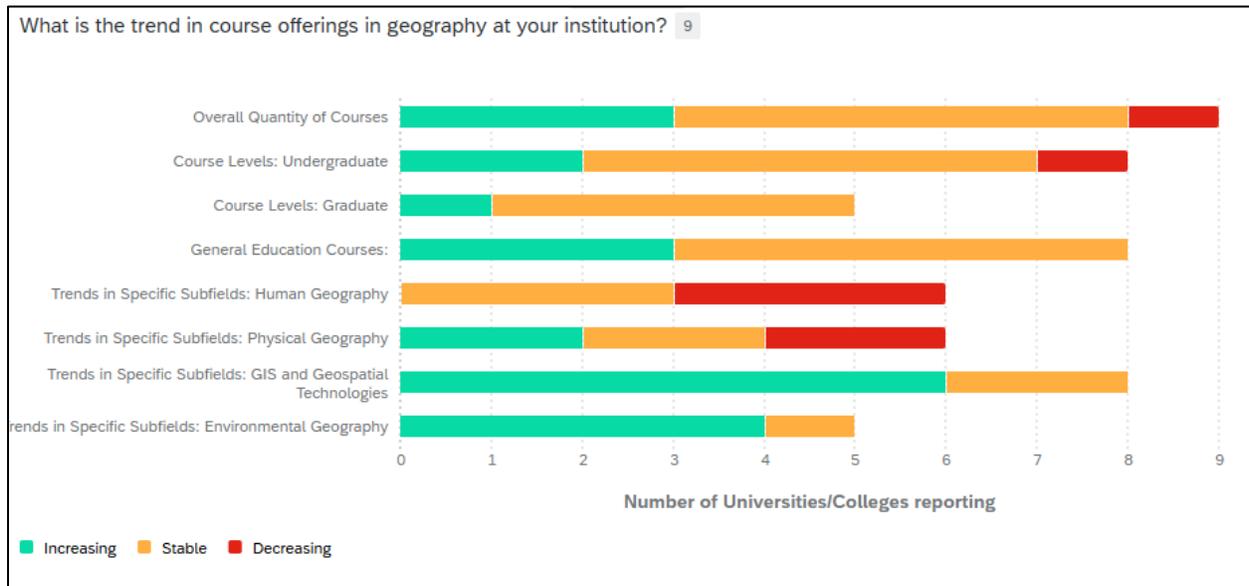
North Carolina A&T: “We are not a geography program.”

UNC Greensboro: “Undergraduate seeing a slight uptick.”

East Carolina University: “Undergraduate majors have been trending steadily downward for nearly a decade. We attribute this to low awareness and neglect in the K-12 curriculum, combined with an instrumentalist mentality that forces student to pick a major prior to matriculation, which hurts 'discovery majors' like geography. Added to this is a new and popular Environmental Studies degree within our department, which is likely siphoning off majors that previously would have come to Geography. At the graduate level, the assistantship stipends we are able to offer are low and hurt our competitiveness. Another dynamic is that we are receiving a higher proportion of international applications and have experienced challenges with accepted students being able to acquire a visa or come up with sufficient funding to join the program.”

D. Trends in Course Offerings

Course offerings were favorable across the ten universities and colleges that responded to the 2025 survey. Three universities reported increase in the overall quantity of courses, five reported stability, and only one university reported a decrease. These results were reflected when subdivided between undergraduate and graduate courses, with East Carolina University reporting a decline in the number of undergraduate geography courses offered. The largest growth in courses by subfield was for environmental geography and GIS/Geospatial. The largest declines were for courses in the subfields of Human and Physical geography.



E. Jobs for Geography Graduates

Comments from departments regarding the types of jobs into which your geography graduates are placed.

Edgecombe Community College: “GIS technicians, survey work”

North Carolina State University: “Private industry, research organizations, academia, non-profits, local/state/federal government”

Fayetteville State University: “GIS and government-related jobs”

UNC Greensboro: “Urban Planning, GISc, Water Resources in that order; the first two have grown a lot recently”

UNC Pembroke: “Government agencies at various levels. Most are GIS or hydrology related.”

Western Carolina University: “Most of the students are looking for GIS related jobs, planning etc. Or jobs with the conservation and resource management with public organizations.”

East Carolina University: “Our graduates have been quite successful in finding jobs, most commonly in GIS-related careers.”

F. Personnel

University	Department Head	Full-Time Geography Faculty	Part-Time Geography Faculty	New Geography Faculty
Appalachian State University	William Anderson	12	3	

Edgecombe Community College	Trey Cherry	0	3	
North Carolina State University	Ross Meentemeyer	7	3	
North Carolina A&T State University	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fayetteville State University	Linda D. Tomlinson	3	3	
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Conghe Song	29	0	Drs. Anthony Dest and Maliheh Ghajargar
UNC-Greensboro	Dan Royall	13 full-time faculty: 8 TT geographers, 1 TT Joint appointment from another school (dir of env. and sust.), plus 4 professional track faculty (3 in teaching roles, 1 lab director)	3-8; varies greatly because of interdisciplinary environment and sustainability program	Dr. Bhuwan Thapa
University of North Carolina at Pembroke	Martin Farley	3 geographers, 3 geologists	None.	
Western Carolina University	Amy Fagan	1	0	
East Carolina University	Jeff Popke	7 Outside faculty that support Geography: 4 Planning, 3 Atmospheric Science and 9 Geology	2	Drs. Kiera O'Donnell and Guangxiao Hu

G. State of Geography

The State of Geography in North Carolina is varied across each of the Universities and Colleges. Each department's complete response is quoted below:

East Carolina University: "Geography at ECU is in a precarious state. In response to severe budget pressures, ECU is undertaking a major effort to "optimize the academic portfolio," and underperforming programs are being eliminated. Under the first phase on this process, our degree in Geographic Information Science and Technology was eliminated last year, and it is expected that the Geography BS and MS will both be under scrutiny this year. Our Department more generally is in a state of transition. Last year, we completed a merger with Geological Sciences to create a new Department of Earth, Environment and Planning (we were previously Geography, Planning and Environment). This effort was faculty-driven and collegial. It was supported with 2 new faculty lines and has included the launch of a new BS in Environmental Studies, which is generating strong student interest. This year, we are undergoing still more change, with the integration of the former Department of Coastal Studies (an administrative decision that was made without faculty consultation. Meanwhile, nearly all of our degree programs are being scrutinized for possible elimination. While our combined majors number around 150 (a relatively healthy figure), they are divided among 5 different degrees, and individually they appear underperforming."

UNC Pembroke: UNCP Geology and Geography Department is more of an Environmental Science program. Heavy on GIS and Hydrology. There are few Geography Track students in our major. Many Geography courses have been phased out, or are no longer taught. Our general education Geography courses are very popular with UNCP's student body at large, but few see Geography as a career.

Edgecombe Community College: "We offer the only two-year program in the state, have a 100% online degree program, and have bi-lateral agreements in place for students who wish to transfer, but fail (for various reasons) at adequately advertise the program as the true state-wide program that it is. We're constantly fighting low enrollments. Otherwise, the program is solid."

North Carolina State University: "AI may become a big disruption and opportunity for growth. We have been mostly stable. Our institution does not focus much on the larger field of geography but rather GIS and Geospatial Analytics and related geography principles. There have been budget concerns at the state and federal level, but we continue to see demand."

Fayetteville State University: "I believe Geography and/or Geospatial Science will continue to grow as climate change and environments continue to evolve."

UNC Chapel Hill: "Geography majors are low (<100) at UNC Chapel Hill. But our courses are very popular on campus. Undergraduates do not know what Geography is about. Many of them found Geography late."

UNC Greensboro: "Institution: The College appears very supportive of our department's mission. They appreciate the number of general education courses we provide and the credit hours generated. We have strong relationships with many departments on campus and the STEM and sustainability communities in particular. Nevertheless, aside from the new hire from last year, we have not received new resources in years, and have experienced a gradual decline in operating budget. State: evolving budget rules remain unfavorable for geography CIP codes resulting in losses of state funding to universities relative to traditional STEM programs. We do not know if or to what extent this has been a direct influence on departmental budget. Slow decline could be a result of generally diminished state funding for higher ed. The national higher ed climate has filtered down to the state level, but is not yet as severe. There is much uncertainty."

Western Carolina University: “We recently made some major changes to the geography minor program requirements, to make it more structured and to differentiate it from other minors in the department. The new program requires students to take at least one course in the physical, human and technology (GIS) sub-disciplines. This has also more clearly identified to students how the minor can support major programs in the department and at the same time focus electives in the major on one the sub-disciplines if they wish.”

H. State of SEDAAG

Sample Text from the VA 2024 report:

The state of SEDAAG was favorable from four responses, with an opportunity to engage with East Carolina University and the other campuses that did not respond to this question. Each department’s complete response is quoted below:

Edgecombe Community College: “Not familiar enough with the work being done to comment.”

UNC Chapel Hill: “SEDAAG is very active. Its annual meetings are very well organized. We send our graduate students to attend SEDAAG each year. Some of our faculty attend SEDAAG too.”

UNC Greensboro: “Still the best and strongest division”

UNC Pembroke: “As far as I can tell, the organization is operating well. I usually go to the conference each year.”

East Carolina University: “Our department have not been actively engaged in SEDAAG and I have no observations to make.”

South Carolina SEDAAG Survey Summary: 2024-2025 Academic Year

Summary prepared by Dr. Jerry Mitchell, University of South Carolina

Institutional Information

Seven post-secondary institutions in South Carolina offer at least a Minor or A.A. degree in Geography. Two more offer certificates in geospatial technology. Only two institutions offer a B.A. or B.S. degree, and only one offers graduate degrees. These are reported in Table 1.

There are introductory geography courses offered at other institutions such as Greenville Technical College, Horry Georgetown Technical College, Trident Technical College, and the University of South Carolina – Aiken. Florence-Darlington Technical College has offered a GIS Certificate in Applied Science.

Table 1. Universities in the 2023-2024 SEDAAG Report (degrees hyperlinked)

Institution	Contact	Degrees Offered
Clemson University*	Department of History and Geography Dr. William Terry, terry2@clemson.edu	Minor in Geography
Coastal Carolina University	Department of Anthropology and Geography Dr. Clayton Whitesides cwhitesid@coastal.edu	B.A. in Anthropology and Geography with a concentration in Geography Minor in GIS Minor in Human-Environment Geography Geospatial Technologies Certificate
College of Charleston	Department of Political Science Dr. Annette Watson WatsonAM@cofc.edu	Minor in Geography
Francis Marion University	Department of Political Science and Geography Dr. Scott Brown ssbrown@fmarion.edu	Minor in Geography
Midlands Technical College	School of Social and Behavioral Sciences Dr. Brian Grabbatin grabbatinb@midlandstech.edu	A.A. with a concentration in Geography

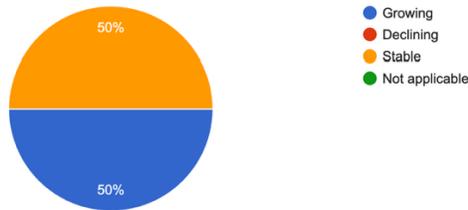
University of South Carolina – Columbia	Department of Geography Dr. Jerry Mitchell mitchell@sc.edu	<u>B.A. in Geography</u> <u>B.S. in Geography</u> <u>Geospatial Intelligence Certificate</u> <u>Minor in Climate and Society</u> <u>Minor in Geography</u> <u>M.A. in Geography</u> <u>M.S. in Geography</u> <u>Ph.D. in Geography</u>
Winthrop University	Department of Chemistry, Physics, Geology & the Environment Dr. Lauren Kohut kohutl@winthrop.edu	<u>Minor in Geography</u>

*Did not respond to the survey
Geography Courses / Student Trends

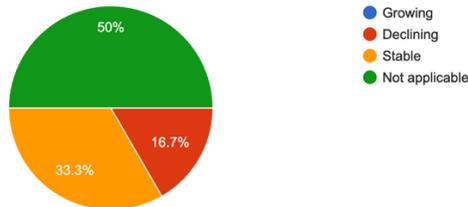
Trends in Student Enrollment in Geography Courses

Enrollment in undergraduate courses appears stable or growing at most institutions. Midland Tech, Winthrop, and College of Charleston all report growth. The University of South Carolina reports declining graduate enrollment due to funding headwinds (e.g., loss of grant dollars).

What is the trend in student enrollments in geography courses at your institution? Undergraduate Courses:
6 responses



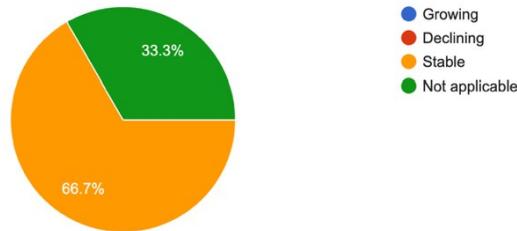
What is the trend in student enrollments in geography courses at your institution? Graduate Courses:
6 responses



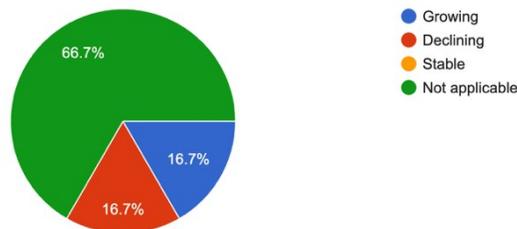
Trends in Geography Majors

Only two institutions have geography majors. Coastal Carolina University and the University of South Carolina – Columbia report that major levels are stable, but that there is competition from other majors that dilute strengths and divert resources (sustainability and global studies degrees, respectively). Programs with minors and certificates (College of Charleston, Francis Marion) report stable enrollment.

What is the trend in majors in geography courses at your institution? Undergraduate Courses:
6 responses



What is the trend in majors in geography courses at your institution? Graduate Courses:
6 responses



Trends in Course Offerings

Mostly stability or growth is reported for all institutions in human geography, environmental geography, and GIScience. One institution reported a decline in physical geography offerings. Coastal Carolina has taken over a Sustainability degree from another college, increasing their enrollments and offerings in that space.

Jobs for Geography Graduates

The University of South Carolina - Columbia reports graduates going into government (planning; environment; GIS), NGOs (human rights; energy); and private companies (GIS; remote sensing). Others report student employment in local government, private industry, and NGOs, or continuing on to graduate school.

Personnel

Clemson University – the program has two full-time, tenure-track faculty and one lecturer. Coastal Carolina University – seven full-time and 3 part-time faculty.

College of Charleston – three full-time faculty.

Francis Marion University – two full-time and 1 part-time faculty.

Midlands Technical College – two full-time and 1 part-time faculty. One full time hire in Fall 2025.
University of South Carolina – Columbia – the program has 16 full-time, tenure-track faculty. Two full professors retired in May 2025. There are two full time, non-tenure-track instructors. The department is hiring two instructors in GIS, one assistant professor in Hazards, and one full professor in Hazards for Fall 2026. A Research Assistant Professor will convert to the tenure track in Fall 2026. The Fall 2026 total faculty will be 23.

Winthrop University –1 part-time faculty.

State of Geography

The State of Geography in South Carolina is steady. Geospatial technology courses are strong and show potential for growth. Competition remains for resources and students with the development of similar programs (environmental studies, global studies, remote sensing, GIS) in other university units. A continued challenge is the difficulty in educating students, faculty, and staff about what makes geography distinct. These concerns aside, the general tenor is positive.

State of SEDAAG

As reported in previous years, there is concern about having the annual meeting so close to Thanksgiving and a need for SEDAAG leadership to focus on early-career faculty to develop the next generation of leadership in the Division. The region's journal and conference are both seen as solid.

Tennessee SEDAAG Survey Summary: 2025–2026 Academic Year
 Summary prepared by Dr. Alisa Hass, Middle Tennessee State University

A. Institutional Information

Approximately 11 universities in Tennessee offer courses and/or degrees in geography or related fields. Six of these universities responded to the 2025 SEDAAG Survey. The contacts and degree information for the seven departments are summarized in the table below. Please note that Middle Tennessee State University has human and physical geography split between two departments/colleges and are presented separately below.

Table 1. Universities Responding to the 2025 SEDAAG Survey

Institution	Department and Survey Contact	Geography Degrees Offered	Contact Email
Middle Tennessee State University	Todd Moore, Geosciences	Undergraduate and Masters degrees	Todd.moore@mtsu.edu
Middle Tennessee State University	Jim Cheney, Political and Global Affairs	No geography degree	James.chaney@mtsu.edu
University of Tennessee	Ron Kalafsky, Geography and Sustainability	Undergraduate, Masters, and Doctoral degrees	kalafsky@utk.edu
Tennessee Tech University	Evan Hart, Earth Sciences	No geography degree; BS in Geosciences with concentrations in Geography or GIS	ehart@tntech.edu
Austin Peay State University	Chris Gentry, Earth and Environmental Sciences	Undergraduate degree	gentryc@apsu.edu
University of Memphis	Arleen Hill, Earth Sciences	Undergraduate, Masters, and Doctoral Degrees; GIS Graduate Certificate	aahill@memphis.edu
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga	Craig Laing, Sociology, Anthropology, and Geography	No geography degree, minor in geography	Craig-laing@utc.edu

B. Trends in Student Enrollment in Geography Courses

University / Department	Trends				
	Student Enrollment – Undergraduate	Majors in geography courses - Undergraduate	Student Enrollment - Graduate	Majors in geography courses - Graduate	Comments
MTSU – Geosciences	Growing	Stable	Stable	Stable	
MTSU – Political and Global Affairs	Declining	NA	NA	NA	
University of Tennessee	Growing	Stable	Growing	Growing	
Tennessee Tech University	Stable	Growing	Growing	Growing	We have about 3 students in the Geography concentration and 15 in GIS. We have graduate students enrolled in GIS courses as part of our Professional Science masters degree
Austin Peay State University	Growing	Growing	NA	Growing	
University of Memphis	Stable	Stable	Growing	Stable	Graduate student population is growing; undergraduate is stable.
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga	Stable	NA	NA	NA	Enrollment in undergraduate geography courses has been stable over the last few years and now exceeds pre-pandemic levels. Currently, we are seeing about 400 students enrolled in geography courses in fall semesters and about 300 in spring semesters. We do not have graduate courses in geography.

Undergraduate student enrollment is *growing* at Middle Tennessee State University (Geosciences), the University of Tennessee, and Austin Peay State University. At the University of Memphis and

Tennessee Tech University, undergraduate student enrollment is *stable*. At Middle Tennessee State University (Political and Global Affairs), undergraduate student enrollment is *declining*.

Graduate student enrollment is *growing* at the University of Tennessee, Tennessee Tech University, and the University of Memphis. Middle Tennessee State University has a *stable* trend in graduate student enrollment.

C. Trends in Geography Majors

Undergraduate majors are *growing* at Tennessee Tech University and Austin Peay State University. Undergraduate majors are *stable* at Middle Tennessee State University (Geosciences), University of Tennessee, and University of Memphis.

Graduate majors are *growing* at the University of Tennessee, Austin Peay State University, and Tennessee Tech University. University of Memphis and Middle Tennessee State University (Geosciences) have a *stable* graduate major population.

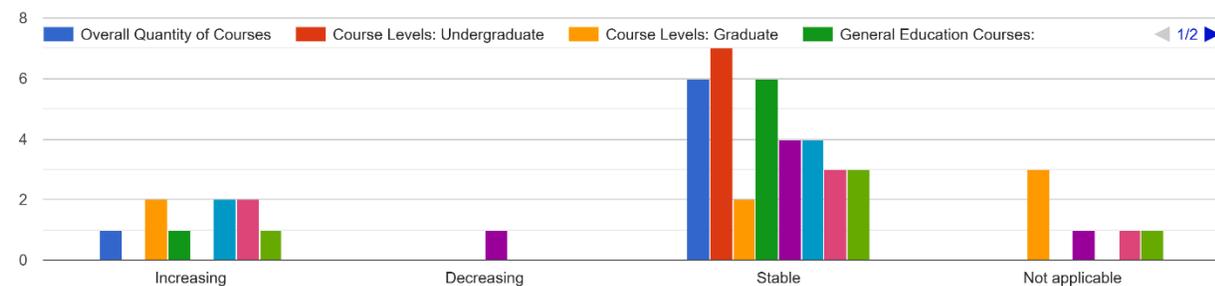
D. Trends in Course Offerings

University / Department	Trends							
	Overall Quantity	Undergraduate	Graduate	Gen Ed	Human Geography	Physical Geography	GIS and Geospatial	Environmental Geography
MTSU – Geosciences	=	=	+	+	NA	+	+	+
MTSU – Political and Global Affairs	=	=	NA	=	=	NA	NA	NA
University of Tennessee	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=
Tennessee Tech University	=	=	=	=		=	=	
Austin Peay State University	=	=	NA	=		=		=
University of Memphis	+	=	+	=	-	=	+	
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga	=	=	NA	=	=	+	NA	NA

Code: Increasing +, Decreasing -, Stable =, As applicable to each institution

Middle Tennessee State University (Political and Global Affairs) indicates a *stable* trend in overall quantity, undergraduate, general education, and human geography course offerings. Middle Tennessee State University (Geosciences) has a *stable* overall quantity and undergraduate course offerings and *increasing* graduate, physical geography, GIS and geospatial, and environmental geography offerings. The University of Tennessee indicates *stable* course offerings across the board. Likewise, Tennessee Tech University indicates *stable* course offerings in all areas, except human and environmental geography (no response). Austin Peay State University has *stable* course offerings in overall quantity, undergraduate, general education, and physical and environmental geographies. The University of Memphis is seeing *increasing* course offerings in overall quantity, graduate, and GIS and geospatial and *decreasing* offerings in human geography. For both undergraduate and physical geography, offerings are stable. The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga has an *increasing* amount of course offerings in physical geography and course offerings in overall quantity, undergraduate, general education, and human geography are *stable*.

What is the trend in course offerings in geography at your institution?



E. Jobs for Geography Graduates

Middle Tennessee State University (Political and Global Affairs) indicates that jobs majors have found various considerably, with examples including nonprofit, government or state parks, city or county government, and the private sector. Middle Tennessee State University (Geosciences) indicate that the most common fields that their majors are employed in are GIS analysts or technicians and environmental scientists and consultants, with a mixture of private and public employment. The University of Tennessee also has majors employed in both the private and governmental sectors, with a heavy emphasis on GIS and sustainability. At Tennessee Tech University, majors found positions in environmental and GIS consulting and governmental regulatory agencies. Austin Peay State University's majors found employment in environmental and data sciences and GIS, specifically at the state, federal, and local sectors. The University of Chattanooga only has a geography minor and did not indicate employment of previous graduates.

F. Personnel

Table 2. Personnel

University	Department Head	Full-Time Geography Faculty	Part-Time Geography Faculty	New Geography Faculty
MTSU – Geosciences	Todd Moore	3	0	Todd Moore and Galina Shinkareva is the most recently hired (2004). We are looking to hire another faculty with a specialty in geospatial science.
MTSU – Political and Global Affairs	Amy Atchison	3	0	NA
University of Tennessee	Ron Kalafsky	23	1	NA
Tennessee Tech University	Peter Li	2	2	NA
Austin Peay State University	Chris Gentry	4	2	NA
University of Memphis	Arleen Hill	6	0	No new faculty and no hires.
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga	Zibin Guo	2	2	We did not make any hires this year and will not in 2026.

G. State of Geography

The State of Geography in Tennessee is varied across each of the departments and schools. Each department’s complete response is quoted below:

Middle Tennessee State University (Political and Global Affairs): “Our physical and human geography faculty (and our courses) are in different departments at our university. So, it impacts the health of our discipline here.”

Middle Tennessee State University (Geosciences): “At MTSU, a strength of our physical geography, environmental, and geospatial areas are their integrations. A negative is that human geography is in another department at MTSU. Budget is always a concern. Our department budget has been stagnant for a long time as the department has grown. We are in need of equipment upgrades for teaching and research as well as additional computer labs to grow in the area of geospatial science.”

Austin Peay State University: “Undergraduate enrollment is increasing at our university. The number of students taking our courses (majors and gen ed) is increasing. The number of majors in the department has been increasing for a few years. Our dept budget hasn't changed in more than a

decade. We have not offered or developed any new courses in our curriculum. We are developing a new graduate program in Environmental Science that will hopefully enroll students starting in Fall 2027. This will potentially impact our budget and will include the development of several new graduate course options.”

University of Memphis: “Geography is strong within the Earth Sciences department and across campus; external grant success is increasing; but costs are also. Software licenses are moving to be department expenses rather than university and creation of social sciences PhD could compete for students.”

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga: “Since 2016, geography has been part of the Social, Cultural, and Justice Studies department, but, prior to this, geography was part of the Sociology, Anthropology, and Geography department. In 2025, our department split and once again we have a Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Geography. As geographers, we are thrilled that the name "geography" has returned to the list of department names. This is significant because geography is only a minor and we need as much exposure across campus as possible. Overall, our enrollments are stable with an increase in physical geography courses due to us hiring a lecturer in physical geography a few years ago. One of our biggest challenges is travel budget limitations to professional conferences.”

University of Tennessee and Tennessee Tech University: No response provided.

H. State of SEDAAG

The state of SEDAAG was generally favorable among responding universities. Each department’s complete response is quoted below:

Middle Tennessee State University (Geosciences): “Elevate the journal. Send out more frequent solicitations and think about hosting special editions. Promote undergraduate research and publications.”

Austin Peay State University: “My experiences with SEDAAG have been great. Although I haven't attended in a few years we have had faculty attend recently and also stated it was a great experience. Our geography students are more employment focused rather than interested in graduate school so very few do research so very few are interested in attending academic conferences.”

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga: “We have one faculty member that has been an active participant in SEDAAG for 30 years and a relatively new faculty member who is actively involved in SEDAAG's World Geography Bowl. SEDAAG, and its high-quality annual meeting, is a highlight of both of these faculty members calendar year.”

Middle Tennessee State University (Political and Global Affairs), University of Tennessee, Tennessee Tech University, and University of Memphis: No response provided.

Virginia SEDAAG Survey Summary: 2025-2026 Academic Year
 Summary prepared by Dr. Junghwan Kim, Virginia Tech University

Surveys were solicited from participating institutions, and the summary was prepared by Dr. Junghwan Kim, Assistant Professor and Director of the Smart Cities for Good at Virginia Tech. OpenAI's ChatGPT (GPT-5.1) was used as an analytical assistant under Dr. Kim's supervision.

A. Institutional Information

Approximately 17 universities in Virginia offer courses and/or degrees in geography or related fields. 13 of these universities responded to the 2025 SEDAAG Survey. The contacts and degree information for the 13 departments are summarized in the table below:

Institution	Department and Survey Contact	Geography Degrees Offered	Contact Email
George Mason University	Geography and Geoinformation Science, Dieter Pfoser	Undergraduate degree, Master's degree, Doctoral degree	dpfoser@gmu.edu
James Madison University	School of Integrated Sciences, Geography Program, Dudley Bonsal and Kayla Yurco	Undergraduate degree	bonsaldb@jmu.edu
Liberty University	Interdisciplinary Studies, Travis Bradshaw	Undergraduate degree, Master's degree	interdisciplinary@liberty.edu
Longwood University	Biological and Environmental Sciences, Mary Lehman	No geography degree, GIS minor, Geography minor	lehmanme@longwood.edu
Norfolk State University	History & Interdisciplinary Studies, E. Arnold Modlin, Jr.	No geography degree	eamodlin@nsu.edu
Old Dominion University	Dept of Political Science and Geography, Tom Allen	Undergraduate degree, GIS Certificate	tallen@odu.edu
Radford University	Geospatial and Earth Sciences, Stockton Maxwell	Undergraduate degree	rmaxwell2@radford.edu
Shenandoah University	Environmental Studies, Allyson Degrassi	Geography Minor for undergraduate degree only	adegrass@su.edu
University of Mary Washington	Geography, Melina Patterson	Undergraduate degree	mpatters@umw.edu
Virginia Commonwealth University	Urban and Regional Studies and Planning Program, Meghan Gough	No geography degree, Graduate Certificate Program in GIS	mzgough@vcu.edu

Virginia Tech	Department of Geography, Tom Crawford	Undergraduate degree, Master's degree, PhD Geospatial and Environmental Analysis, BS Meteorology	tomc3@vt.edu
Virginia Wesleyan University	Earth and Environmental Sciences, Chris Haley	No geography degree	jchaley@vwu.edu
William & Mary	Center for Geospatial Analysis, Jennifer Swenson	Minor in Geospatial Analysis	jjswenson@wm.edu

B. Trends in Student Enrollment in Geography Courses

Highlights

- Undergraduate enrollments are mostly stable, with some programs growing and a few reporting non-applicable status. Only one program noted a decline.
- Graduate enrollments vary, with some growth in technology-focused programs, some stability, and declines where programs have closed. Many institutions do not offer graduate geography programs.

Undergraduate enrollment in geography courses is growing at **George Mason University**, where the department notes that “across all programs we see a growing interest in quantitative skills.” At **James Madison University**, undergraduate enrollment is stable, and enrollment is also growing at **Liberty University**. **Longwood University** reported that undergraduate enrollment is stable, while **Norfolk State University** indicated that it is growing. Undergraduate enrollment is stable at **Old Dominion University** and **Radford University**. **Shenandoah University** reported that undergraduate trends are not applicable, noting that “geography courses are mostly general education with upper division of GIS.” At the **University of Mary Washington**, undergraduate enrollment is growing. **Virginia Commonwealth University** reported that undergraduate enrollment is not applicable. Undergraduate enrollment at **Virginia Tech** is declining, with the department noting that “new large asynch online courses in other departments have caused the decline course enrollments. We still deliver the largest volume of SCH in our college and have healthy enrollments even though we’d like to increase.” **Virginia Wesleyan University** reported that undergraduate enrollment is stable. At **William & Mary**, undergraduate enrollment is stable, and the department explained that “undergraduate enrollment is currently capped by number of instructors.”

Graduate enrollment in geography courses is growing at **George Mason University**, where the department notes that “our graduate programs are more technology focused, i.e., geospatial data science, earth observation. As such they might differ from classical geography departments.” Graduate enrollment is not applicable at **James Madison University**, **Longwood University**, **Norfolk State University**, **Radford University**, **Shenandoah University**, **Virginia Commonwealth University**, and **Virginia Wesleyan University**. **Liberty University** reported that graduate enrollment is growing, while **Old Dominion University** indicated that graduate enrollment is stable. At the **University of Mary Washington**, graduate enrollment is declining, with the department explaining that “we have closed our Masters in Geospatial Analysis program. We still have four students who we hope will finish their MS degrees. We started a new Geospatial Analysis concentration and that is growing.” Graduate enrollment at **Virginia Tech** is stable. At **William & Mary**, graduate enrollment is stable, and the department noted that “graduate enrollment is low.”

C. Trends in Geography Majors

Highlights

- Undergraduate geography majors are generally stable across the state, with growth in some programs and several institutions where a geography major is not offered.
- Graduate major trends are mixed, with growth in a few programs, stability in others, and declines where graduate programs have recently closed or transitioned.

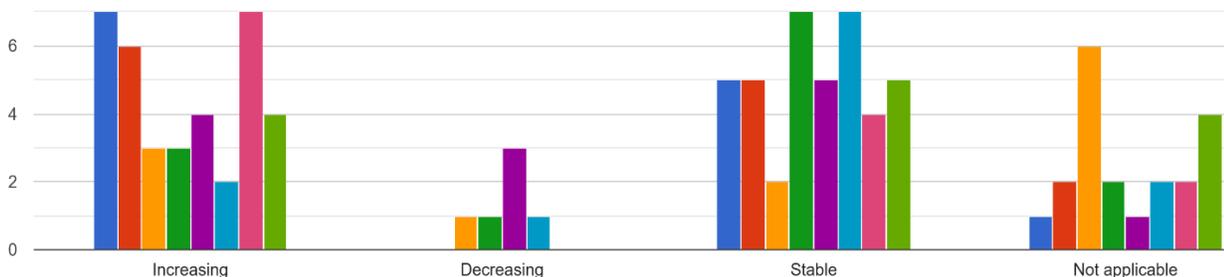
The number of **undergraduate geography majors** is not applicable at **Longwood University, Norfolk State University, Shenandoah University, Virginia Commonwealth University, and William & Mary**, with the latter noting, “We have no undergraduate majors, but we just rolled out a minor in Geospatial Analysis this fall, which already has 10 students.” Undergraduate geography majors are growing at **George Mason University, Liberty University, and the University of Mary Washington**, where the department reported adding “a new concentration in Geospatial Analysis to our undergrad program and that is growing.” **James Madison University, Old Dominion University, Radford University, Virginia Tech, and Virginia Wesleyan University** indicated that the number of undergraduate majors is stable.

At **Virginia Tech**, **graduate majors** are increasing, with the department noting that “grad majors in the MS Geography have increased from 20–23 to 25–28 in recent years,” while graduate majors at **George Mason University and Liberty University** are also growing. Graduate major trends were not applicable at **James Madison University, Longwood University, Norfolk State University, Radford University, Shenandoah University, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Virginia Wesleyan University**. **The University of Mary Washington** reported declining numbers of graduate majors, explaining that the institution “closed our Masters in Geospatial Analysis but still have 4 students who we hope will finish.”

D. Trends in Course Offerings

Highlights

- Course offerings are broadly stable with notable growth, especially in overall course quantity, undergraduate classes, and GIS/Geospatial Technologies.
- Declines are limited, mainly appearing in Human Geography.
- Statewide pattern shows targeted expansion in technology-focused subfields, while most traditional areas remain steady.



Royal Blue: Overall Quantity of Courses

Crimson Red: Course Levels: Undergraduate

Pumpkin Orange: Course Levels: Graduate

Forest Green: General Education Courses

Electric Purple: Trends in Specific Subfields: Human Geography

Sky Blue: Trends in Specific Subfields: Physical Geography

Magenta Pink: Trends in Specific Subfields: GIS and Geospatial Technologies

Lime Green: Trends in Specific Subfields: Environmental Geography

Course offerings at **George Mason University** show increases in overall quantity, undergraduate and graduate course levels, and GIS and Geospatial Technologies, with declines in General Education and Human Geography courses and stable offerings in Physical and Environmental Geography.

James Madison University reported increases in overall course quantity, GIS and Geospatial Technologies, and Environmental Geography, with stable offerings in undergraduate courses, general education, Human Geography, and Physical Geography, while graduate-level courses were not applicable.

At **Liberty University**, course offerings increased across all areas, including overall quantity, undergraduate and graduate levels, general education, Human Geography, Physical Geography, GIS and Geospatial Technologies, and Environmental Geography.

Longwood University reported increases in overall quantity, general education, Human Geography, and Physical Geography, with stable undergraduate courses and stable GIS, Environmental Geography, and graduate offerings.

Norfolk State University indicated increases in overall course quantity, undergraduate levels, and Human Geography, while general education, Physical Geography, GIS and Geospatial Technologies, Environmental Geography, and graduate-level courses were not applicable.

Old Dominion University noted increases in overall course quantity, undergraduate courses, GIS and Geospatial Technologies, and Environmental Geography, with decreases in Human Geography and stable offerings in graduate-level courses and general education.

Radford University reported increased offerings in GIS and Geospatial Technologies, decreased offerings in Human Geography, and stable offerings in overall course quantity, undergraduate courses, general education, Physical Geography, and Environmental Geography.

Shenandoah University indicated increased general education offerings and stable overall quantity, undergraduate levels, Human Geography, Physical Geography, GIS and Geospatial Technologies, and Environmental Geography, while graduate-level courses were not applicable.

The **University of Mary Washington** reported increases in undergraduate offerings, GIS and Geospatial Technologies, and Environmental Geography, decreases in graduate offerings and Physical Geography, and stable overall general education and Human Geography courses.

Virginia Commonwealth University reported all trends as stable across overall course quantity, undergraduate and graduate levels, general education, Human Geography, Physical Geography, GIS and Geospatial Technologies, and Environmental Geography.

Virginia Tech indicated increases in overall course quantity, undergraduate and graduate levels, and GIS and Geospatial Technologies, with stable offerings in general education, Human Geography, Physical Geography, and Environmental Geography.

Virginia Wesleyan University reported stable offerings in overall course quantity, general education, Human Geography, Physical Geography, and GIS and Geospatial Technologies, with decreases in undergraduate and graduate course levels and Environmental Geography.

William & Mary reported increases in Human Geography, with stable offerings in overall course quantity, undergraduate and graduate levels, general education, Physical Geography, and GIS and Geospatial Technologies, and decreases in Environmental Geography.

E. Jobs for Geography Graduates

Highlights

- GIS and geospatial technology roles dominate employment outcomes, with graduates entering GIS analysis, spatial data science, geospatial intelligence, and environmental applications.
- Strong public-sector placement, including federal agencies, state and local planning offices, government contractors, and other government-related roles.
- Applied pathways remain robust, including urban planning, surveying and drone work, and environmental consulting, with even institutions without geography majors placing students in GIS-related roles.

George Mason University reported that graduates typically work for the federal government and related industries in the Washington DC area and that quantitative skills are essential in the current job market.

James Madison University noted that graduates pursue a wide variety of careers that reflect the breadth of the discipline, including GIS analysis and development, city and regional planning, environmental management and stewardship, cartography, academic and teaching roles, and geospatial intelligence.

Old Dominion University indicated that applied GIS, urban planning, and drones and surveying work are the strongest job placement areas for their graduates.

Radford University reported that most graduates work in GIS-related jobs.

University of Mary Washington stated that many graduates work in planning offices at city, county, or state levels, while others are employed at GIS and spatial analysis firms, including ESRI and companies working with federal agencies, and some obtain positions with federal departments.

Virginia Tech reported a variety of outcomes, with geospatial placement being the largest category.

Virginia Wesleyan University noted that while they do not have a geography major, students who take geography and GIS courses often enter environmental consulting firms and use GIS in their work.

William and Mary reported that graduates often obtain introductory GIS positions across a range of organizations.

Institutions without reported information included **Liberty University, Longwood University, Norfolk State University, and Virginia Commonwealth University.**

F. Personnel

University	Department Head	Full-Time Geography Faculty	Part-Time Geography Faculty	New Geography Faculty
George Mason University	Dieter Pfoser	18	8	We hired a new faculty (Armita Kar) in 2024 and are currently not hiring.
James Madison University	Dr. Henry Way	15 (number based on regular and	2 (part-time interpreted as those who have	Five new hires this academic year; hiring one

		substantial teaching in the program)	been serving in adjunct role)	new faculty member to start in the 2026-2027 academic year.
Liberty University	Dr. Travis Bradshaw	1	25	
Longwood University	Mary Lehman	2		
Norfolk State University	E. Arnold Modlin, Jr.	1	0	No intended new hires in the next academic year
Old Dominion University	Tom Allen	7	0	Keuntae Kim and Sina Razzaghi Asl just started this year. We have no new openings expected.
Radford University	Stockton Maxwell	4	2	
Shenandoah University	Chair is Audra Gollenberg; but I am Program Coordinator	0	2	0
University of Mary Washington	Melina Patterson	9	3	We have a colleague retiring at the end of the year and have asked for a new position. We are not sure if we will get one however.
Virginia Tech	Tom Crawford	20	1	No new faculty hired for Fall 2025. We do not anticipate hiring any new full-time faculty this AY to start in Fall 2026.
Virginia Wesleyan University	Chris Haley	none. Chris Haley teaches the GIS class	varies year to year. Only two courses offered to education majors.	N/A
William & Mary	Jennifer Swenson	3	4	We hope to be hiring- we have the student demand to expand but we have not been granted positions in the last 2 years. We depend on

				adjuncts for about 50% of our teaching.
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Virginia Commonwealth University did not provide response.

G. State of Geography

Highlights

- GIS and geospatial technologies are the strongest and fastest-growing areas across Virginia institutions.
- Most programs report stable enrollments and strong student interest, but limited faculty hiring and budget constraints restrict expansion.
- Several universities lack formal geography majors or departments, though student demand for GIS or geospatial analysis is growing.

George Mason University: “Massive technology impact on the field, which also drives student interest and employer requirements. AI trend and commoditization is a big opportunity to embrace this tech and leverage it in a domain driven context. Big changes to the field and curriculum happening. Enrollment cliff not a problem yet.”

Longwood University: “Our geography classes benefit from a fully equipped Geographic Information Systems laboratory, state-of-the-art remote sensing technology (ArcGIS Pro), and dedicated faculty. Students gain valuable, hands-on experience through collaborative projects with external partners (e.g. Dominion Energy, Textron Systems) and local community partners to address real-world issues such as land use planning and disaster management. Targeted funding to enhance our technological capacity, particularly through the acquisition of field-based research equipment to complement our recent investment in high-performance computers would significantly enrich student learning opportunities and foster impactful, community-centered research.”

Norfolk State University: “Our department hopes to add a geography minor, which could support the hiring of at least one geography adjunct faculty member. For GIS, there are issues with other departments offering GIS courses.”

Old Dominion University: “Geography is stable at ODU despite an overall demographic decline in undergrads. It's likely that decline has been offset by our rather substantial online program offerings. We are still planning a masters in applied GIS next year (online async.) General education reforms/redesign, AI, and grant funding are critical challenges at the moment.”

Radford University: “We are experiencing pressure from the State Council on Higher Education to merge our major in Geospatial Science with the Geology major in our department. Both programs have stabilized but remain slightly below the major FTE thresholds of 48 and 36, respectively. We are discussing a merged major now. We continue to teach regional geography courses for general education but they play only a small role in our major. We are focusing more on GIS, environmental science, and earth science.”

Shenandoah University: “My goal is to develop a GIS certificate; but limited budget and limited faculty; there is growing student interest.”

University of Mary Washington: “We feel pretty strong, but the university is not investing in new faculty.”

Virginia Tech: “Geography at VT maintains a healthy profile both within the university and externally. We graduate ~70 bachelor's and 10-13 MS students each year in past recent years. We were approved in October 2025 by the State Council of Higher Education of Virginia to launch a new BS Geography with options in: 1. Applied Climate Science, 2. Environmental Geography, 3. GIScience and Technology. The BS Geography launches in Fall 2026. Undergraduate applications have increased in the past five years from 80-130 to 150-180 for the aggregate BA Geography and BS Meteorology. We expect applications to increase with the new BS Geography. MS Geography applications have experience a large increase in

past years from ~30 to ~120 last year. This is driven dominantly by increased international applications. We are the campus leader in GIScience research and teaching. We participate strongly in campus curricula and initiatives in health, urban studies, climate/meteorology, environmental science/studies, and AI. Our college hired new dean Dr. Saskia van de Gevel starting July 1, 2025 who is a geographer and former department chair of Geography at Appalachian State University. The AY 25-26 budget for the university and department is stable and healthy. We do not know what future budgets may look like given the changes in the federal funding climate. We had ~\$3M of grant funding terminated by the new federal administration since February. Geography in Virginia is strong with robust programs at multiple universities.”

Virginia Wesleyan University: “We have not major. Two courses for education majors and a GIS class for Environmental Science majors.”

William & Mary: “Geography does not exist as a department (and has not been a department in recent history), but we have geography-like courses in the Geology Dept and the Environmental Studies Program as well as thr courses in our Center for Geospatial Analysis (more accurately somerhing like GIScience). A student can create their own Geography major but that rare. Students find these geography-like classes and are interested. As a liberal arts focused university, it seems there could be interest in creating more solid footing for a geography major given student interest (which is interesting as it goes against the national trend over the last decades!), but we would need linvestment to expand faculty to build a department from what we currently have in our Center. I wouldn't foresee turf wars, just normal battles over funding departments that have existed for ages, vs. expanding to "new" fields.”

James Madison University, Libert University, and Virginia Commonwealth University did not provide responses.

H. State of SEDAAG

Highlights

- Perspectives on SEDAAG vary widely, ranging from strong support to limited engagement or uncertainty about its role.
- Positive feedback centers on strong leadership, a valuable annual meeting and awards program, and a desire to maintain affordability and broaden participation.

George Mason University: “Other people might be more qualified to answer this.”

Norfolk State University: “Currently, I (the Geography Associate Professor and Chair) am deeply disappointed in SEDAAG ans the AAG for their disconnect on the needs of HBCUs. The approaches taken often are PWI-centric, giving little space for input by HBCU faculty and institutions and when there is an attempt to engage with HBCUs it is often on tone-deaf terms. It is exhausting to be framed by both SEDAAG and AAG as 1) needing/help or a savior, and 2) "and also"s in these organizations. Even when resources are offered by SEDAAG and AAG, they are done so in ways that can co-opt parts of HBCU budgets and financial resources of students of color for SEDAAG and AAG agendas such as more people of color at national conferences (in very expensive cities) and regional conferences that can be difficult or expensive for our students to get too.”

Old Dominion University: “The journal remains strong and the regional division overall stable. I hope efforts to keep the annual meeting affordable are prioritized.”

Radford University: “I like the affordability of the regional conference and the ability to bring students to present. Outside of the conference, I don't interact with SEDAAG too much.”

Shenandoah University: “NA”

University of Mary Washington: “Sedaag is great!”

Virginia Tech: “SEDAAG remains the strongest regional division of the AAG and has strong elected leaders. SEDAAG meeting is robust though increased attendance and engagement from more universities/colleges including stronger participation from the R1 universities can help improve SEDAAG. The awards program is a highlight of the annual meeting. Continued care should be taken to ensure that all awards receive nominations/awardees and that the presentation of awards is done with clear enunciation, correct name pronunciations and affiliations, etc..”

Virginia Wesleyan University: “No idea what this is about”

William & Mary: “Undergraduate student focused activity/conference funding for non geography majors could encourage William & Mary students to participate more broadly in "geography" and raise awareness of it as a field/discipline since we lack a major here. Funds to support geography-like research in the form of faculty led research groups (that we do in our Center) or honor theses could raise awareness of Geography as a field.”

James Madison University, Liberty University, Longwood University, and Virginia Commonwealth University did not provide responses.

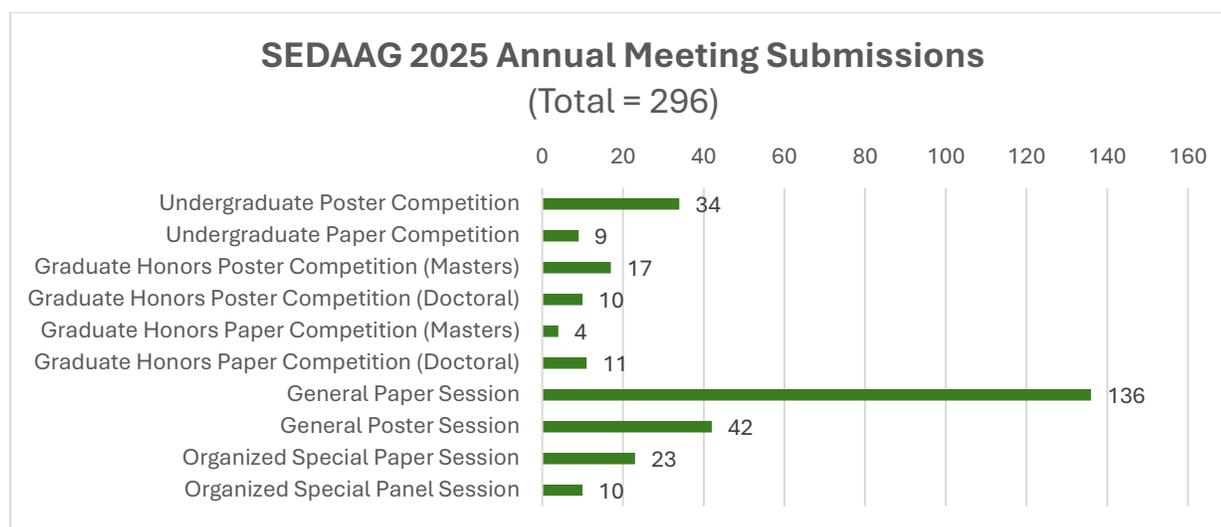
West Virginia SEDAAG Survey Summary: 2025-2026 Academic Year
Summary prepared by

Vice President and Program Chair Report
SEDAAG 2025 Annual Meeting
Submitted by Paul N. McDaniel, Kennesaw State University

2025 Annual Meeting Program Submissions

The CFP for the 2025 Annual Meeting was initially distributed in early May 2025. The original CFP deadline was August 29 and was extended to September 8. The following data summarize the submissions we received via the CFP Google Form for the 2025 Annual Meeting. The final number of presenters at the actual meeting is slightly higher than the number of submissions due to some panelists participating in multiple sessions and also delivering separate paper and/or poster presentations, and despite several people withdrawing. Additionally, when comparing submissions to actual presentations on the program, some category numbers are slightly different after a few people requested to change their presentation type. The final program contains 306 presentations in total across all categories (paper, poster, and panelist). For reference, as of November 15, there were 347 people in total registered to attend the 2025 Annual Meeting, including 42 percent Faculty/Professionals and 58 percent Students.

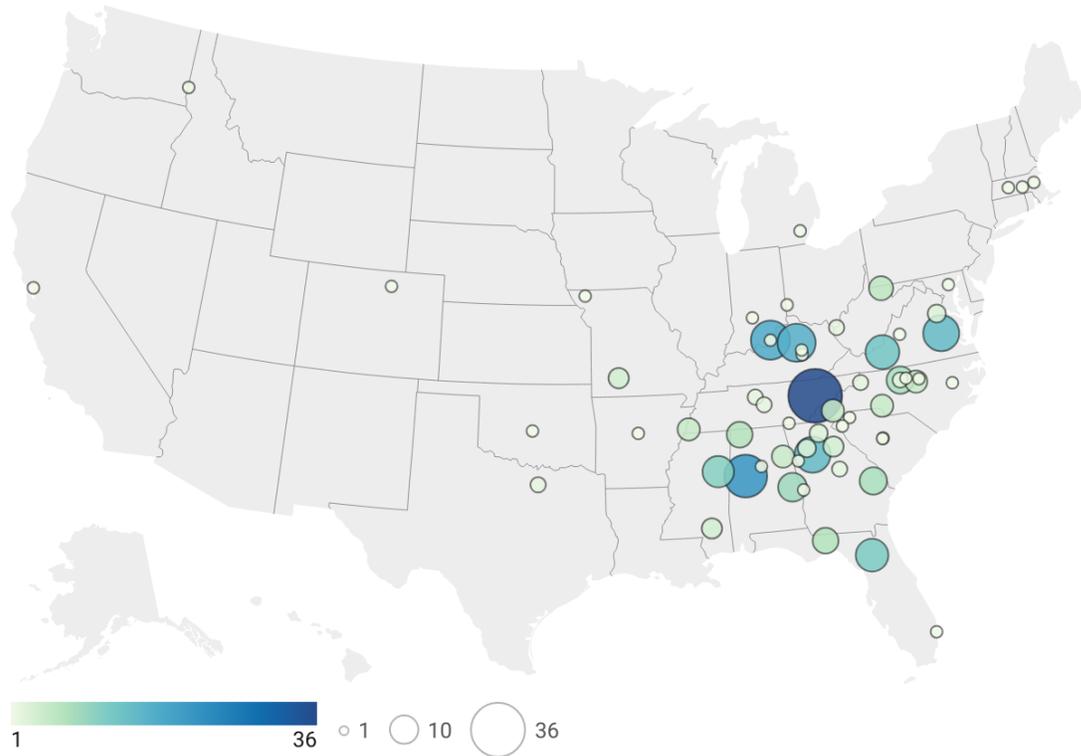
SEDAAG 2025 Annual Meeting Submissions	Submissions	Percent of Total
Undergraduate Poster Competition	34	11.5
Undergraduate Paper Competition	9	3.0
Graduate Honors Poster Competition (Masters)	17	5.7
Graduate Honors Poster Competition (Doctoral)	10	3.4
Graduate Honors Paper Competition (Masters)	4	1.4
Graduate Honors Paper Competition (Doctoral)	11	3.7
General Paper Session	136	45.9
General Poster Session	42	14.2
Organized Special Paper Session	23	7.8
Organized Special Panel Session	10	3.4
TOTAL	296	100.0



Affiliation of Submission Authors

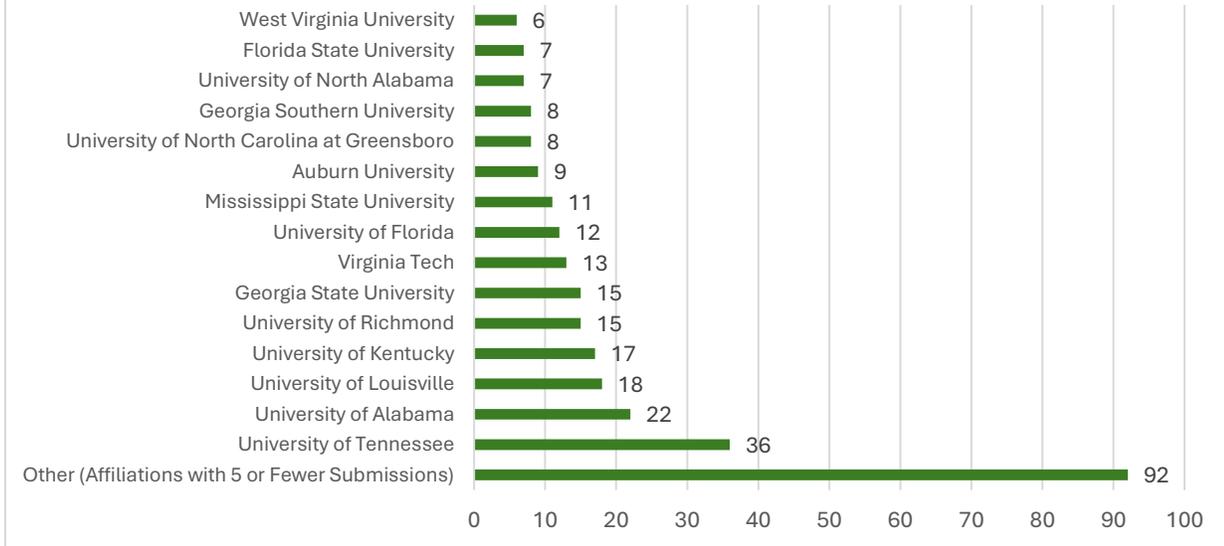
The table, map, and graph below illustrate the institutional affiliation of submission authors for the Annual Meeting. The top five affiliations include the University of Tennessee, University of Alabama, University of Louisville, University of Kentucky, and University of Richmond.

Affiliation of Submission Authors (ordered by Top 15)	Submissions	Percent
University of Tennessee	36	12.2
University of Alabama	22	7.4
University of Louisville	18	6.1
University of Kentucky	17	5.7
University of Richmond	15	5.1
Georgia State University	15	5.1
Virginia Tech	13	4.4
University of Florida	12	4.1
Mississippi State University	11	3.7
Auburn University	9	3.0
University of North Carolina at Greensboro	8	2.7
Georgia Southern University	8	2.7
University of North Alabama	7	2.4
Florida State University	7	2.4
West Virginia University	6	2.0
Other (Affiliations with 5 or Fewer Submissions)	92	31.1
TOTAL	296	100



Affiliation of Submission Authors

(Total = 296)



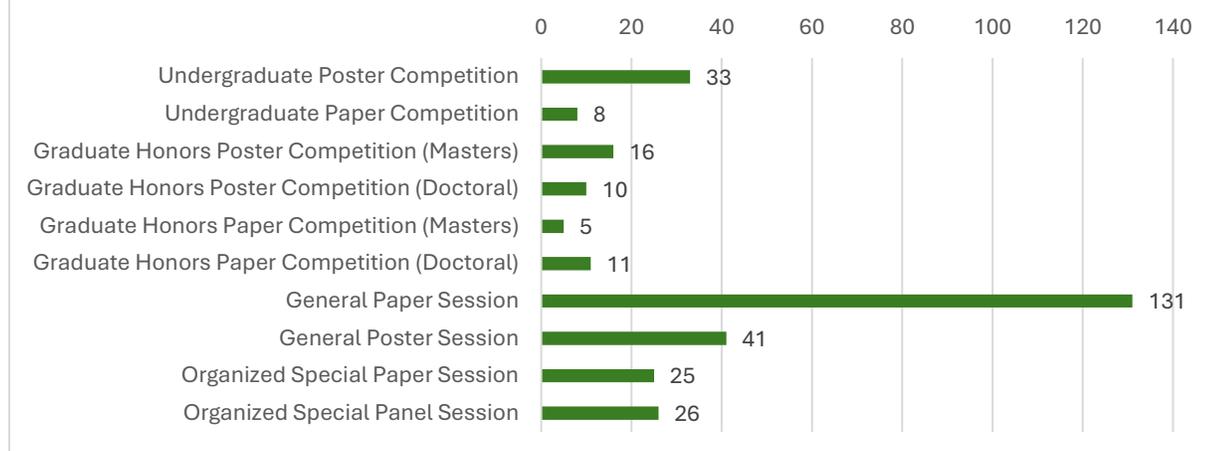
2025 Annual Meeting Program

The following table and graph represent the number of presentations (paper, poster, and panelist) on the 2025 Annual Meeting Program as of November 19, 2025. There are 306 total presentations (this includes individual panelists on each panel session). This number is higher than the number of submissions due to some panelists participating in multiple sessions and also delivering separate paper and/or poster presentations. For reference, as of November 15, there were 347 people in total registered to attend the 2025 Annual Meeting, including 42 percent Faculty/Professionals and 58 percent Students.

SEDAAG 2025 Annual Meeting Program by the Numbers	Presentations	Percent
Undergraduate Poster Competition	33	10.8
Undergraduate Paper Competition	8	2.6
Graduate Honors Poster Competition (Masters)	16	5.2
Graduate Honors Poster Competition (Doctoral)	10	3.3
Graduate Honors Paper Competition (Masters)	5	1.6
Graduate Honors Paper Competition (Doctoral)	11	3.6
General Paper Session	131	42.8
General Poster Session	41	13.4
Organized Special Paper Session	25	8.2
Organized Special Panel Session	26	8.5
TOTAL	306	100.0

SEDAAG 2025 Annual Meeting Program

(Total Presentations = 306)



2025 Annual Meeting Program in Context

The following table presents data about the different types of submissions for the 2023 (Norfolk), 2024 (Greenville), and 2025 (Lexington) Annual Meetings.

Category	2023 (Norfolk)	2024 (Greenville)	2025 (Lexington)
Total Paper Sessions	25	28	30
Total Paper Submissions	138	174	182
Organized / Special Paper Sessions	7	8	5
Organized Panel Sessions	4	7	5
Panelists	Not Reported	63	26
Total Poster Sessions	3 (Honors, Undergraduate / Honors, General)	5 (Honors, Undergraduate / Honors, General)	5 (Honors Graduate, Undergraduate Human, Undergraduate Physical, General Human, General Physical)
Total Poster Submissions	91	112	104
General Poster Submissions	31	49	42
Graduate Poster Submissions	23	26	27
Undergraduate/Honors Posters	37	37	35

Note: 2023 and 2024 data are from the 2024 Vice President and Program Chair Report by Dr. Amy Potter (Georgia Southern University) presented at the 2024 Steering Committee Meeting.

Changes from 2024:

- Moved CFP abstract submission deadline up by a week to August 29, but then extended the CFP deadline to September 8. There was much feedback about the initial CFP deadline overlapping with or adjacent to the first week of the fall semester for many universities.
- In addition to sending out the CFP via the SEDAAG listserv, we also sent out more reminders about the CFP and the Annual Meeting to the [AAG Southeast Division Knowledge Community](#) list (over 1,000 people as of November 19, 2025).

Recommendations:

- Distribute initial CFP in March or April. Set an early September CFP deadline to begin with next year.
- Adjust the timelines for honors student competition deadlines (undergraduate and graduate) to alleviate confusion about different deadlines for different components of meeting participation and to better facilitate the program preparation timeline with the executive committee and the local arrangements timeline.
- Continue using Google Forms for CFP abstract submissions and for collecting program draft edits/corrections from presenters ahead of finalizing the program.
- Add a disclaimer that only one submission is allowed (multiple submissions for the same type of presentation format should not be allowed as this makes scheduling difficult).
- SEDAAG officers and committee chairs/committee members with various non-presenting responsibilities during the annual meeting should consider either not presenting or voluntarily limiting themselves to one type of paper, poster, or panel session participation to facilitate program scheduling efficiency.
- Continue using Google Docs to share draft, preliminary, and final program so that participants may view edits and updates in real time.
- Add item to CFP form asking if submitter would be willing to serve as a chair of a paper session (or, for those submitting a paper presentation, if they would also be willing to serve as chair of their paper session) in order to have a pool of potential session chair volunteers ahead of time without having to send many individual email correspondences.
- Add question(s) about meal participation (reception, meet-and-greet, and banquet planned attendance), and dietary needs/food allergies, to the SEDAAG Annual Meeting Registration form hosted by AAG, rather than sending out a separate Gmail form later.
- Continue posting SEDAAG Annual Meeting CFP and other SEDAAG calls for nominations/awards/etc and meeting information to the AAG Southeast Division Knowledge Community list (with over 1,000 members) to ensure wider distribution beyond SEDAAG membership list (could help attract new SEDAAG participants/members, or re-engage former members).

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul N. McDaniel, PhD
Vice President, SEDAAG (2024-2026)
Professor of Geography
Kennesaw State University

Treasurer's Report
2025 SEDAAG
Submitted by Dr. Mark J. Sciuchetti Jr.

Financial Summary

As of November 19, 2025, the total assets of SEDAAG are \$ 223,482.59 , a increase of \$13,247.94 from November 30, 2024, at the end of the organization's last tax year.

Appendices I and II provide itemized details on all assets and transactions from December 1, 2024, for both the checking account and the money market account (the organization's tax year runs from December 1 to November 30 each year).

Revenues

As of November 19, 2025, total revenues since December 1, 2024, were \$ 73,892.57 , a increase of \$20,781.56 from the previous tax year. This revenue total includes membership dues, 2025 conference sponsorships already received, *Southeastern Geographer* journal surplus/ royalties, AAG's contribution to SEDAAG, and interest earnings. Revenue includes membership dues processed through the *Southeastern Geographer* journal publisher and fiscal year surplus/ royalties for *Southeastern Geographer* from UNC Press (\$ 23,177.57). AAG contributed \$4500 as a Regional Division Program Subsidy and \$1000 for AAG support of World Geography Bowl. The total amount received for 2025 conference sponsorships as of November 19, 2025, is \$5,300. Investment income from SEDAAG's money market account totaled \$12.49. Not reflected in the revenues above is the registration fee revenue from the upcoming 2025 Greenville annual conference, which SEDAAG will receive from AAG, who processes the conference registrations, in the next tax year after the conclusion of the conference.

Expenditures

As of November 19, 2025, total expenditures since December 1, 2024, were \$ (59,762.27), an increase of \$5,145.21 from the previous tax year. Expenditures to date can be found in Appendix I. There are also upcoming expected expenses. As of November 19, SEDAAG had not yet received an invoice for a balance due for the 2025 Lexington meeting. Other upcoming expenditures include 2025 annual meeting awards/plaques/World Geography Bowl winners, etc.

SEDAAG Membership

As of September 1, 2025 (date of the most recent membership report from UNC Press), SEDAAG membership has remained steady (361 members) from the membership numbers reported in the previous year (277) in 2024, and is still higher than 2020 membership (160). Non-student membership increased from 151 to 184, while student membership increased from 126 to 160 members. Appendices IV, V, and VI provide details on total, non-student, and student membership trends, respectively, from 2010 to 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark J. Sciuchetti Jr., PhD, MBA, MM, MA Treasurer,
SEDAAG, 2024-2025
Senior Director, Honors College Associate
Professor of Geography Department of
Chemistry and Geosciences Jacksonville

State University

Appendix I: Checking Account

Transactions for Checking 8009 (Checking)								
Date	Transaction Type	Description	To/From	Note	Note for Tax IRS Form 990-ez	Deposit	Withdrawal	Daily Posted Balance
12/1/2023	Starting balance							\$75,082.85
12/4/2023	Check	Check #5049	Ryleigh Choplin	2023 undergrad paper award	Member and student awards		\$ (100.00)	
12/4/2023	Balance							\$ 74,982.85
12/5/2023	Check	Check #5045	Dawn Drake	WGB plaques reimbursement	Reimbursements		\$ (263.45)	
12/5/2023	Balance							\$ 74,719.40
12/7/2023	Check	Check #5041	Brian Williams	SEG Editor Honorarium	Journal editorial support		\$ (2,000.00)	
12/4/2023	Balance							\$ 72,719.40
12/11/2023	Check	Check #5052	Bryttani Wooten	2023 master's paper award	Member and student awards		\$ (500.00)	
12/11/2023	Balance							\$ 72,219.40
12/13/2023	Check	Check #5050	Miles Baker	2023 undergrad poster award	Member and student awards		\$ (200.00)	
12/13/2023	Balance							\$ 72,019.40
12/15/2023	Check	Check #5043	Shrinidhi Ambinakudige	SEG Editor Honorarium	Journal editorial support		\$ (2,000.00)	
12/15/2023	Balance							\$ 70,019.40
12/18/2023	Check	Check #5034	Katrina Stack Finkelstein	2024 SEDAAG Mini Grant	Member and student awards		\$ (500.00)	
12/18/2023	Balance							\$ 69,519.40
12/21/2023	Check	Check #5051	Elisa Luckabaugh	2023 undergrad poster award	Member and student awards		\$ (200.00)	
12/21/2023	Balance							\$ 69,319.40
12/27/2023	Check	Check #5047	Audrey Heichelback	2023 undergrad poster award	Member and student awards		\$ (200.00)	
12/27/2023	Balance							\$ 69,119.40
1/10/2024	Check	Check #5044	Mississippi State University	SEG editorial support funds	Journal editorial support		\$ (4,000.00)	
1/10/2024	Balance							\$ 65,119.40
1/10/2024	Check	Check #5046	Ella Hunter	2023 Merle Prunty Award	Member and student awards		\$ (500.00)	

1/10/2024	Balance							\$ 64,619.40
1/12/2024	Check	Check #5053	Avery Catherwood	2023 Ph.D. paper award	Member and student awards		\$ (1,000.00)	
1/12/2024	Balance							\$ 63,619.40
1/22/2024	Check	Check #5048	Jade Lee	2023 grad poster award	Member and student awards		\$ (250.00)	
	Balance							\$ 63,369.40
1/22/2024	Check	Check #5055	Hyatt Regency Greenville	2024 meeting deposit	2023 conference expenses		\$ (3,600.00)	
1/22/2024	Balance							\$ 59,769.40
1/25/2024	Deposit	Mobile Deposit	Virginia Tech	2023 meeting sponsorship	Sponsorship	\$ 500.00		
1/25/2024	Balance							\$ 60,269.40
1/25/2024	Deposit	Mobile Deposit	Old Dominion University	2023 meeting sponsorship	Sponsorship	\$ 1,000.00		
1/25/2024	Balance							\$ 61,269.40
1/26/2024	Check	Check #5054	Sheraton Norfolk Waterside	2023 SEDAAG meeting	2023 conference expenses		\$ (35,253.61)	
1/26/2024	Balance							\$ 26,015.79
4/1/2024	Deposit	Mobile Deposit	University of Oklahoma	2023 meeting sponsorship	Sponsorship	\$ 500.00		
4/1/2024	Balance							\$ 26,515.79
4/1/2024	Deposit	Mobile Deposit	AAG	2024 World Geography Bowl	Grant	\$ 1,000.00		
4/1/2024	Balance							\$ 27,515.79
5/13/2024	Check	Check #5056	Jessica Striley	2024 WGB SEDAAG team travel to AAG	Member and student awards		\$ (675.00)	
5/13/2024	Balance							\$ 26,840.79
5/13/2024	Check	Check #5057	Seth Kannarr	2024 WGB SEDAAG team travel to AAG	Member and student awards		\$ (675.00)	
5/13/2024	Balance							\$ 26,165.79
5/15/2024	Check	Check #5058	Kaleb Dunlap	2024 WGB SEDAAG team travel to AAG	Member and student awards		\$ (675.00)	
5/15/2024	Balance							\$ 25,490.79
5/15/2024	Check	Check	Jack Swab	2024 WGB	Member and student		\$ (675.00)	

11/12/2024	Deposit	Mobile Deposit	UNC Press	Membership dues/SEG surplus	Membership Dues	\$ 3,920.00		
11/12/2024	Balance							\$ 39,696.79
11/13/2024	Deposit	Mobile Deposit	UNC Greensboro	2024 meeting sponsorship	Sponsorship	\$ 500.00		
11/13/2024	Balance							\$ 40,196.79
11/18/2024	Deposit	ACH Credit	Bill.com/Acctverify	Account Verification		\$ 0.01		
11/18/2024	Balance							\$ 40,196.80
11/20/2024	Deposit	Mobile Deposit	AAG	2023 Meeting Registrations	Program Service Revenue	\$ 32,880.00		
11/20/2024	Balance							\$ 73,076.80
11/29/2024	Deposit	Mobile Deposit	Furman Check #37625	Furman University 2024 Sponsorship	Sponsorship	\$ 500.00		
11/29/2024	Balance							\$ 73,576.80
						Total revenue	Total expenditures	Total Balance
						\$ 53,111.01	\$ (54,617.06)	\$ 73,576.80

Appendix II: Money Market Savings Account

Transactions for Checking 8869 (Money Market)							
Date	Transaction Type	Description	To/From	Note	Note for Tax IRS Form 990-ez	Amount	Daily Posted Balance
12/1/2024	Starting balance						\$ 122,473.67
12/29/2024	Interest payment				Investment Income	\$ 1.04	\$ 122,474.71
1/31/2024	Interest payment				Investment Income	\$ 1.04	\$ 122,475.75
2/29/2024	Interest payment				Investment Income	\$ 0.97	\$ 122,476.72
3/29/2024	Interest payment				Investment Income	\$ 1.04	\$ 122,477.76
4/30/2024	Interest payment				Investment Income	\$ 1.00	\$ 122,478.76
5/31/2024	Interest payment				Investment Income	\$ 1.04	\$ 122,479.80
6/28/2024	Interest payment				Investment Income	\$ 1.00	\$ 122,480.80
7/31/2024	Interest payment				Investment Income	\$ 1.04	\$ 122,481.84
8/30/2024	Interest payment				Investment Income	\$ 1.04	\$ 122,482.88
9/9/2024	Mobile deposit		UNC Press	SEDAAG Member Dues	Membership Dues	\$ 592.00	\$ 123,074.88
9/30/2024	Mobile deposit		UNC Press	SEG surplus 2024	Program Service Revenue	\$ 13,429.68	\$ 136,504.56
9/30/2024	Interest payment				Investment Income	\$ 1.01	\$ 136,505.57
10/8/2024	Mobile deposit		Ronald L. Schumann III	Table sponsorship	Sponsorship	\$ 150.00	\$ 136,655.57
10/31/2024	Interest payment				Investment Income	\$ 1.16	\$ 136,656.73
11/29/2024	Interest payment				Investment Income	\$ 1.12	\$ 136,657.85

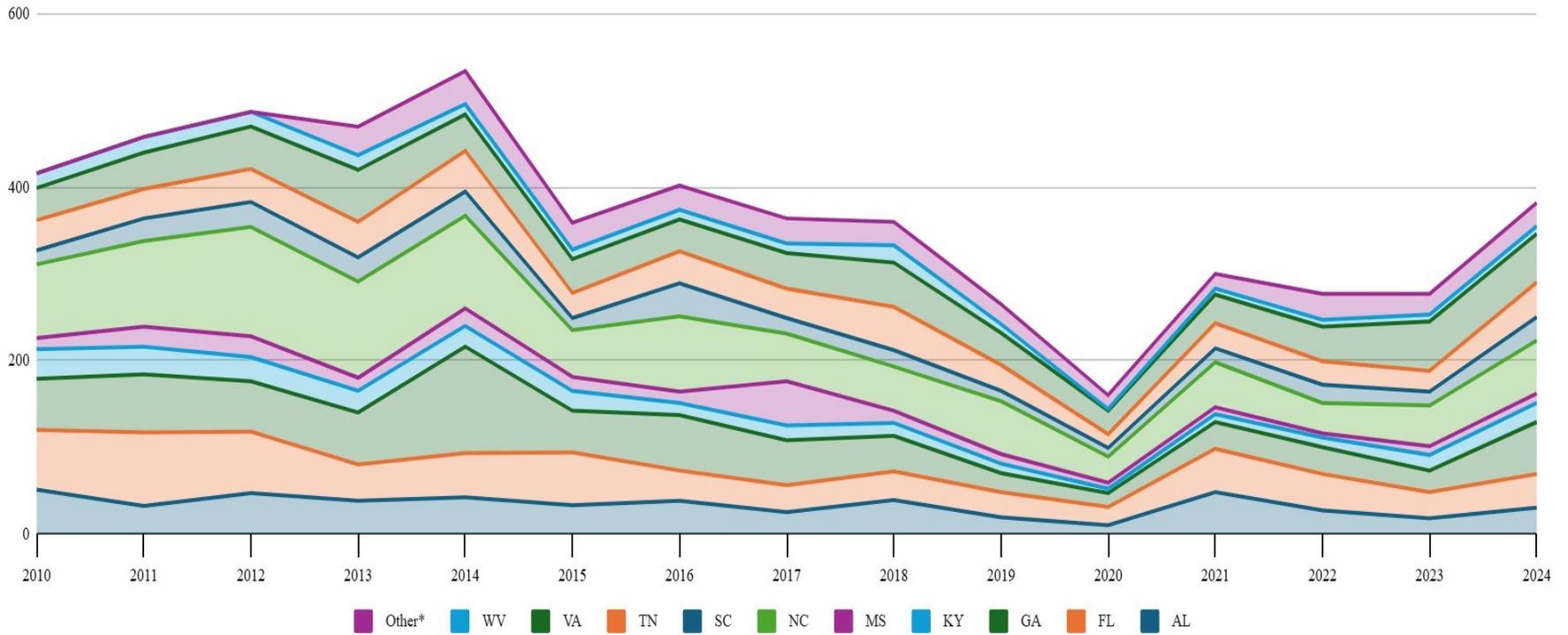
						Total revenue	Total Balance
						\$ 14,184.18	\$ 136,657.85

Appendix IV: Total Membership

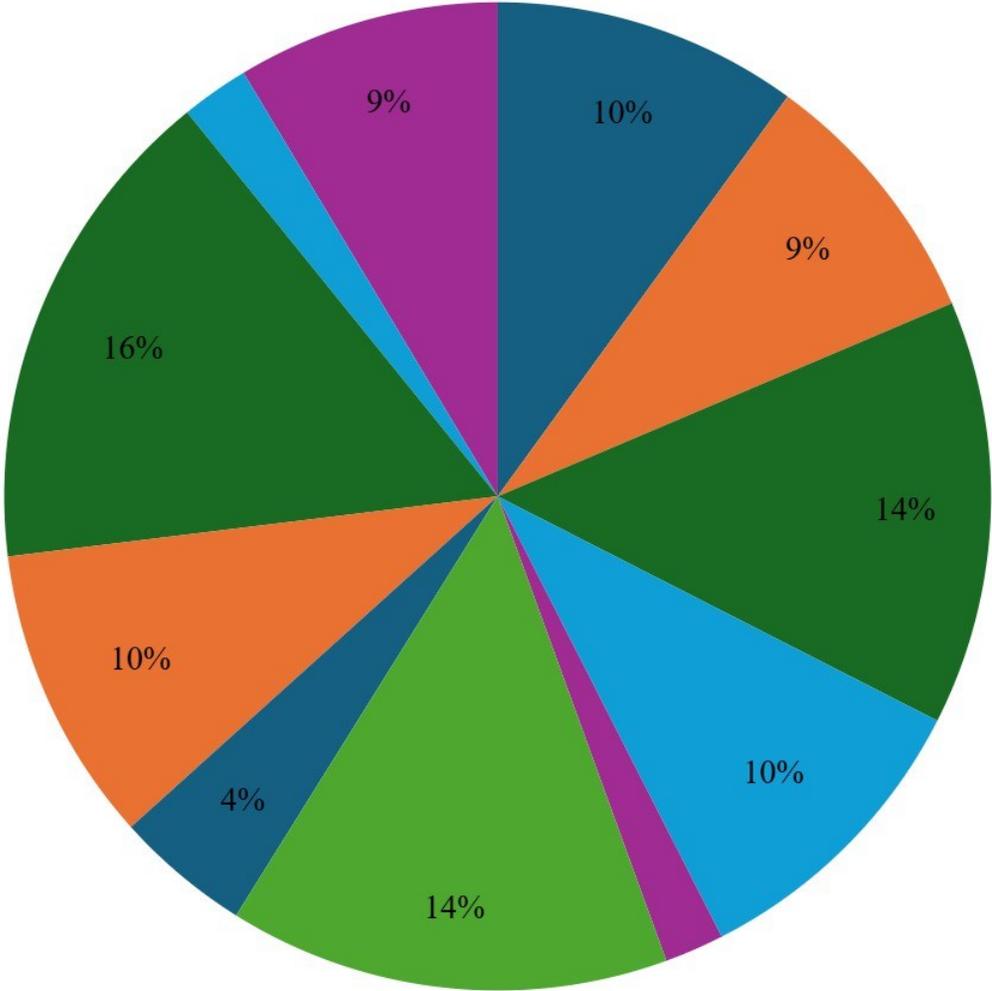
State	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2024-25% Change	State
AL	39	19	10	48	27	18	30	36	6	AL
FL	33	29	21	50	42	30	39	31	-8	FL
GA	41	22	16	31	31	25	60	50	-10	GA
KY	15	11	5	9	11	18	22	36	14	KY
MS	14	11	7	8	5	10	11	7	-4	MS
NC	51	61	30	52	35	47	61	52	-9	NC
SC	19	12	10	16	21	16	27	16	-11	SC
TN	50	30	16	29	27	24	40	35	-5	TN
VA	51	37	27	33	40	57	56	58	2	VA
WV	20	10	2	7	8	8	9	8	-1	WV
Other*	27	23	16	17	30	24	27	31	4	Other*
Total	360	265	160	300	277	277	382	360	-22	Total

* "Other" includes AR, AZ, CA, ID, IL, IN, LA, MD, MI, MO, NY, OH, RI, TX, VT, WI, WY. Data are based on membership report received from the *Southeastern Geographer* publisher, UNC Press, on November 18, 2025.

SEDAAG Total Membership by State (2010 to 2025)



SEDAAG 2025 Total Membership Percent by State (N=360)



- AL
- FL
- GA
- KY
- MS
- NC
- SC
- TN
- VA
- WV
- Other*

Appendix VI: Student Membership

State	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2024-25 % Change
AL	25	10	8	13	23	12	19	9	18	9	0	26	17	7	14	21	50.00
FL	30	35	36	12	22	28	18	13	16	5	7	25	26	17	17	13	-23.53
GA	31	45	32	33	78	29	37	29	20	4	4	19	15	10	40	25	-37.50
KY	14	12	8	7	4	7	3	3	5	3	0	2	7	13	13	18	38.46
MS	3	10	8	6	7	5	3	23	5	3	1	2	1	6	3	4	33.33
NC	33	42	56	49	46	16	44	23	21	29	10	22	16	22	18	28	55.56
SC	2	9	15	11	14	2	17	4	6	1	4	5	15	9	12	7	-41.67
TN	7	13	21	23	25	16	17	21	28	15	9	13	15	9	23	17	-26.09
VA	6	10	19	29	16	19	17	14	18	13	5	7	19	28	32	30	-6.25
WV	3	2	3	2	1	1	3	3	8	0	1	0	3	1	1	2	100.00
Other *	-	-	-	5	18	10	11	11	11	7	3	0	6	4	11	12	9.09
Total	154	188	206	190	254	145	189	153	156	89	44	121	140	126	184	177	-3.80

Secretary/Webmaster's and Communications Report

Prepared by Dr. Caroline McClure

A. Website updates and Maintenance

- The SEDAAG website continues to improve with updates on user experience and accessibility.
- We continue to archive outdated materials and redundant pages, completed by Shelia Jebiwot

B. Digital Curation Fellow Appointment

- Shelia Jebiwott, a Ph.D. student in Geography at UNC Greenboro has been working to:
 - See attached Digital Curator Fellowship Report
 - Developed guidelines to ensure the long-term sustainability of the archive
 - Document and archive activities at the 2024 and 2025 annual meetings

C. Email Communication Metrics and Success

- Email communications via Constant Contact for the last year:
 - Emails sent: **31,680**
 - Delivered emails: **28,268**
 - Open rate: **45%**
 - Click rate: **2%**
 - Bounces: **3,412**
 - Unsubscribes: **23**
- Notable campaigns
 - *Congratulations to our Newly Elected SEDAAG Officers*: 52% open rate
 - *2025 SEDAAG Conference CFP*: 50% open rate
- Recommendation: Continue to use Constant Contact as a method of email for all members and conference attendees given efficiency and performance

D. Website and Social Media Contributions

- Members are encouraged to submit updates, announcements, job postings, and other relevant content
- Submissions should include the secretary in email communications to ensure timely and efficient dissemination.

E. Feedback and Future Enhancements

- Website improvements – continue cleaning up the website, removing extraneous and doubled information and archived material
- Refine email communication

Student Representative Update
Prepared by Katrina Ward, University of Kentucky

World Geography Bowl Report

Prepared by Dr. Dawn Drake

1. WGB Committee

- The WGB Committee, comprised of myself as director, Ethan Bottone, Dawn Bowen, Jamison Conley, Joshua Hodge, Paul McDaniel, Lee Ann Nolan, and Mark Sciuchetti met once via Zoom after the 2024 SEDAAG meeting to discuss the results of the town hall. From that discussion, we decided on several plans for 2025
 - a) We slightly adjusted registration time from 11:00 to 11:45am to 10:30 to 11:15am. This gives us time for our community building activity (see below) and also gives the master scorekeeper more time to get teams organized before orientation starts.
 - b) One of the discussions from town hall was how to help build community across teams and also attract more players. We are trying two things this year:
 - Lunch will be served from 11:00am to 11:45am for players and volunteers. We were fortunate that the hotel allowed us to order outside food this year. In the future, we will likely need a \$1,000 donor to cover food (if it needs to be purchased from the hotel), if we want to continue this.
 - We also are building on an idea that has come up at both the national and SEDAAG level that teams would like to have banners to take from room to room. We ordered supplies to create a banner making station this year as a way to build community
- The Committee also reviewed the rules (last updated in print in 2015) and brought them up to date with AAG practices. We have been following all the AAG rules, but the actual print copies that we make available were out of date and also in some places vague or confusing.

2. 2025 Bowl Preview (As of 11/17)

- Again this year we do not have very many teams that represent more than one school. We currently have teams from University of Mary Washington, University of Florida, University of North Alabama, and University of Tennessee and we will have at least one team of players from other schools banning together.
 - 29 Students pre-registered by a faculty sponsor or using the Google form.
 - Questions and volunteers sufficient to field up to 9 teams.
- 11 rounds of questions written by 11 writers
- 13 volunteers managing Sunday's bowl
- Faculty Dream Team participants: Sara Smith, Selima Sultana, Joshua Hodge, Shane Canup, and Matthew Therrell
- Dream Team round questions written by Jamison Conley and Lee Ann Nolan
- Championship round questions written by Tom Bell and Peggy Gripshover

3. Ongoing reminders and discussions

- Schedule Conflicts
 - Important source of travel funding for students
 - Thank you for all the effort to allow students and faculty not to have conflicts.
- State Coordinators?

- States with coordinators tend to do better in the bowl, similar to the national experience.
- Coordinators lead to higher levels of pre-registration of players, which helps with planning.
- Coordinators are key in creating community for teams, but it is difficult to find coordinators who have time to reach across their states to field teams that represent more than their own schools.

4. Budget

- Plaques were ordered from previous supplier in Missouri and shipped to hotel rather than incur the cost of having the artwork set again at a vendor in Norman (\$240.09).
- Banner materials cost \$112.42 from Amazon and will be able to be used for several years
- Lunch was ordered from Dominos across the street. Pizza and dessert were ordered and then drinks were picked up from Wal-mart or Sam's Club locally. I am estimating around \$425 for food and drinks for 50 people (I have not officially ordered it yet at the time of the report because I need to get dietary preferences/need from the volunteers yet).
- Travel funding for 2026 AAG
 - In the past SEDAAG has provided \$500 per student. Please approve travel funding for the team for 2026 at whatever level you feel appropriate and notify me, so I can give the students the best information possible when deciding to join the team for AAG.
 - AAG's funding is unknown at this time, however in the past it has been \$500 per region (total), with a \$500 bonus if the region also funds the students.
 - Please know that the students are very grateful for the travel funding they receive each year. They also are well aware that most regions are not as lucky.

Submitted by:

Dr. Dawn M. Drake
University of Oklahoma
dmdrake@ou.edu

Southeastern Geographer Report

Prepared by Dr. Shrinidhi Ambinakudige and Dr. Brian Williams

See PDF

AAG Southeastern Division Regional Councilor Update
Prepared by Dr. Heidi Lannon

Honors Committee Report
Prepared by Dr. Maegen Rochner

Chair's Report 2025

Chair: Maegen Rochner, University of Louisville

Committee Members:

Gabe Schwartzman, University of Tennessee

Paul Knapp, University of North Carolina – Greensboro

Helen Rosko, Georgia Southern University

Sandy Marshall, Elon University

Amber Ignatius, University of North Georgia

Faculty Awards:

We had 10 total nominations for faculty awards this year. Nominations were submitted for the (1) Excellence in Undergraduate Mentoring Award; (2) Lifetime Achievement Award; (3) Research Honors Award; and (4) Excellence in Teaching Award.

We did NOT receive nominations for the Outstanding Service or Honorary Life Membership Awards.

Please nominate your colleagues next year!

Student Awards:

We received four nominations for the Merle C. Prunty Scholarship Award this year.

We received a total of 12 submissions for student honors awards, resulting in two honors sessions, one for undergraduates alone, a category that received four submissions. We received 8 submissions for the master's and PhD honors competitions combined.

We received 24 submissions for the Graduate Honors Poster session and competition.

Nominations Committee Report
Prepared by Dr. Joyce Clapp

The nominations committee in conjunction with Caroline wrote the call for nominations and began soliciting nominations in mid-May. Nominations ran all summer. Myself and SEDAAG leadership had to do some last minute recruitment (which makes sense, as folks are beginning to rethink their volunteer commitments), but we eventually got a full slate. We also had to run a last minute search for treasurer nominees as there was an issue with the first nominee for treasurer. Elections were successfully held in early November.

Education Committee Report

Prepared by Dr. Jennifer Rahn

In 2025 the SEDAAG Education committee is running its 17th annual Undergraduate Honors Poster Competition. This year there were a total of 32 undergraduate posters, our 2nd highest number for SEDAAG!! We have so many that we must have two separate sessions for all the posters.

Last year, Phillip Schmutz graciously agreed to step into the role of Chair of the SEDAAG Education Committee, with the understanding that we would serve together as co-chairs for one year before he transitioned fully into the position. It is now time to officially pass the reins, and I could not feel more grateful or more confident in the future of this committee under his leadership.

I began organizing and running the Undergraduate Poster Competition in 2009, when we had just eight students presenting. I never could have imagined how this event would grow over the years. Today we have a vibrant and inspiring group of undergraduates who contribute meaningfully to SEDAAG, enriching our scholarship and our community. Looking back to the early 2000s, few undergraduates attended our meetings, and it was actually a struggle to convince some colleagues that undergraduates *should* be presenting at all. I am deeply proud that we persisted, and profoundly grateful to SEDAAG for supporting undergraduate scholarship and giving these students a platform to shine.

Reflecting on this journey my heart is full. Thank you to everyone who has supported our students, volunteered time, encouraged participation, and believed in the vision. And to Phillip, thank you for your partnership, your encouragement, and your unwavering commitment to undergraduate excellence. It is with genuine enthusiasm and optimism for what comes next that I hand over leadership to you.

Here's to the continued growth of student involvement at SEDAAG and to all the bright futures ahead.

Warmly and with gratitude,



Jennifer Rahn

SEDAAG Education Committee members 2025:

Jennifer Rahn (Chair), Samford University JLRahn@gmail.com
Jackie Gallagher, Mary Washington College jgallagh@umw.edu
Heidi Lannon, Santa Fe College, heidi.lannon@sfccollege.edu
Phillip Schmutz, University of West Florida apschmutz@uwf.edu

Matthew Cook, Eastern Michigan University, mcook40@emich.edu

Curatorship Report (2024-2025)

Prepared by Shelia Jebiwot

The curatorship report managed to collect the following information for archival:

Data Preparation and Collection.

Data for preparing this report was collected from different sources.

1. Southern Geographer Journal archives (Project Muse) - This was accessed through University of North Carolina
2. Past SEEDAG programs: This was accessed through the search on the SEEDAG websites or hosting institutions websites.
3. AAG website: Accessed by searching any articles or information related to the SEEDAG.
4. Google search: This was used to fill in gaps in information, such as finding the affiliated institution of an individual when only their name was available. In such cases, the name was searched to identify the institution based on the relevant year.

Data Collected and Curated.

All the information collected were presented in excel sheets based on the year, name and institution of the individuals. The data collected includes:

1. Committees

All the past presidents (1947 to 2025)
Vice presidents (1947- 2025) – Could not find records of few years but managed to find many of them.
Secretary (1947 to 2025)
Treasurer (1947- 2025)
Nominating Committees (1976 -1991), (2023-2025)
Regional Councilors (1978- 2025) with missing 1993 to 1995
Honors Committee (1975 -2026)

2. Annual Meeting

YEAR, host institution, City and local organizers. While most of the older reports did not have all the details, we included what the archival data had.

3. Editorial

Editors ;1961 to Current year. Whereas there may no records of the editors before then there were valuable auditors' records who were editors of the annual meeting between 1950 to 1964
Book Review editors; Records from 2003 to Current.
Cartographers: Few records of different years of cartographers were found from the archives.
Editorial Assistant: Records of the editorial assistants were dated from 1992 to 2025
Spanish translator.
Editorial board:1964 to 2025

4. Awards

Research Honors Award (1987- 2023)
Lifetime Achievement awards (1987 to 2024)

Outstanding Awards (1987 to 2023)
Excellence in Teaching (2008 to 2023)
Excellence in undergraduate (2019 to 2024)
Honorary Life Membership (1964 to 2006)
Merle C. Prunty (1984 to 2023)
John Fraser Hart award (1978 to 2024)
Best Master's paper (1978 to 2024)
Best undergraduate paper (2023 to 2024)
Best student paper (1989 to 2024)

All this information has been compiled and uploaded to the SEEDAG google drive.

Proposed Ideas on the continuity of the SEEDAG data.

The current version of the program effectively keeps records of the main committees and their yearly activities; however, searching for information can be time-consuming.

To improve this process, it is recommended that one of the committees be assigned the responsibility of updating the Excel files each year—preferably after the SEEDAG meeting. This will ensure easier record-keeping and save time.

Regular updates should be made on Google Drive.

Endowment Committee Report

Prepared by John Kupfer

The primary short-term charge of the Endowment Committee is to work with the SEDAAG Executive Committee to identify an approach for targeting investments that provide a higher rate of return and then use the annual interest to help fund programs or initiate special directives while keeping the principal intact. To that end, the committee chair had informal discussions with AAG Executive Director Gary Langham for his insights and background on how the AAG manages its investments. From those conversations plus previous discussions with past AAG Treasurers, paths forward for consideration and discussion among the SEDAAG leadership and the Endowment committee (which has not met on this, so this does not constitute a formal recommendation at this point) could include the following. 1) Begin by opening a brokerage account at a place like Vanguard, Fidelity, or Schwab. Vanguard Cash +, as an example, is earning approx. 3.5% APY, and is no risk and FDIC insured. The key is to seek low fees and ease of use. We would then, minimally, put funds that we expect to need in the next 1-3 years for things like annual meeting contributions and *Southeastern Geographer* support in that account. It also allows access to a few money market options, which may fit the needs of the organization. But, minimally we would seek to earn 3-4% as long as we could which still having flexibility to use the money as needed. With interest rates potentially going down over the next few years, these returns may decrease, but they would represent an increase over current returns. We would have to check how this would operate for an organization like SEDAAG rather than an individual investor. 2) If we have medium to longer term funds that the Executive Committee feels confident will not be needed in the short-term, we could put the rest into the broad stock market (stock market index funds or something similar). The exact mix of international, domestic, etc. is a matter of risk tolerance and balance, but over a long time horizon, total stock market has always recovered from downturns. That said, such a move may not be practical with our finances, but it could be part of a larger discussion in the next few months. The next step will be to have more direct conversations about the specifics for moving forward, something that could have happened this year had the committee chair not dropped the ball on this issue.