**GEOGRAPHY MAJOR: Freshman Orientation and Welcome**

Welcome to Geography at SDSU! My name is Molly Costello and I am the Academic Adviser for Geography. I hope to have the opportunity to meet you during summer orientations (via Zoom this year). In the meantime, here is some information to help get you started in Geography at SDSU.

**STAY UPDATED**

I send out emails with important announcements about academic deadlines, opportunities (e.g. scholarships, research projects with faculty, internships) and fun events (e.g. hikes, socials) using our geography listserv. I encourage you to contact Harry Johnson at harry.johnson@sdsu.edu to start receiving these emails. He needs (1) your full name, (2) your SDSU address, and (3) your current – or desired – emphasis in geography. Check your SDSU email regularly for messages from me!

**REACH OUT**

I am here to advise you and support you every step of the way as you pursue your degree in Geography. Please reach out to me anytime with a question! During summer, the best way to get quick answers is via email. You can contact me at mpohl@sdsu.edu. I am occasionally hiking/backpacking or otherwise in areas that have poor to no cell service, so it might take me a few days to get back to you, but I will! If you prefer to talk with me in person (via Zoom), you can use SDSU EAB Navigate to request a virtual appointment with me.  Instructions on how to use EAB Navigate are [HERE](https://studentsuccess.sdsu.edu/navigate-sdsu/start-here) and this is also covered in your SDSU summer orientation session.

**SELECTED TIPS FOR CLASS REGISTRATION**

* ***RESOURCES:*** Use SDSU’s [MyMap](https://sunspot.sdsu.edu/pubred/%21mymap.disp) to help you decide what classes to consider. Another good reference is the SDSU [catalog](https://catalog.sdsu.edu/) and specifically the geography degree requirements, found under “Curricula by Department” and then by scrolling down to Geography and selecting your emphasis. Your class options for this fall are provided in the [class schedule](https://sunspot.sdsu.edu/schedule/search). Finally, if possible, please attend a SDSU College of Arts and Letters (CAL) Orientation to get helpful information for your transition to SDSU and for the class registration process.
* ***MEET YOUR ADVISER:*** Join me for a live session where you can get help with class registration or any questions that you might have about our Geography program at SDSU. My orientations this summer are:

(1) July 20th from noon to 1 pm <https://SDSU.zoom.us/my/mollycostello>

(2) July 28th from noon to 1 pm <https://SDSU.zoom.us/my/mollycostello>

Not able make one of these sessions? You can always email me or request an individual meeting. See ‘REACH OUT’ above.

* ***LANGUAGE:*** Pursing a B.A. in Geography? If you have not satisfied your language requirement, consider continuing/finishing your language classes. Waiting until your Junior or Senior year is not a good idea because you might forget some of your previous language learning and this can set you back, making the classes more challenging or forcing you to consider taking lower-level language classes again for a refresher. Study abroad opportunities are another good way to acquire language proficiency and fulfill geography class requirements! We have a great program here at SDSU and I am happy to help you with this option.

I look forward to meeting you this summer. Welcome to Geography at SDSU!

Sincerely, Dr. Molly Costello <https://geography.sdsu.edu/people/bios/costello>