A person smiling for the camera

Description automatically generated with low confidenceGEOGRAPHY MAJOR: Transfer Student 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](mailto: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](mailto: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/!mymap.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). The articulation of your college coursework can take time, but you can check your [Degree Evaluation](https://evaluations.sdsu.edu/academic_success/understanding_degree_evaluation) to see what SDSU requirements you already have satisfied. 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 after selected CAL Orientation sessions. Specifically:

(1) July 30th from noon to 1 pm <https://SDSU.zoom.us/my/mollycostello>

(2) August 2nd from noon to 1 pm <https://SDSU.zoom.us/my/mollycostello>

(3) August 10th 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 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, transfer students are eligible to participate, and I am happy to help you with this option.
* ***LOWER DIVISION CLASSES / PREPARATION FOR THE MAJOR:*** For your first semester, consider taking any remaining lower division (100 and 200 level) classes that you have not yet satisfied, including preparation for the major.
* ***MANDATORY CLASS:*** You MUST register for Geography 395 (Introduction to the Major) for your first semester here. You learn about our major and the classes we offer, meet the faculty, and are introduced to SDSU and Geography-related opportunities (e.g., research, study abroad, internships, scholarships).
* ***GENERAL EDUCATION:*** Your upper division [General Education](https://catalog.sdsu.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=5&poid=3962) (GE), Explorations of Human Experience, requires you to take a class from each of these three categories: (A) Natural Sciences and Quantitative Reasoning, (B) Social and Behavioral Sciences, and (C) Humanities and Fine Arts. There are geography class options that meet categories A and B. You may take any allowed class that appeals to you to fulfill Explorations GE, however, if you select a *geography* class to meet this requirement, it will also count towards your geography degree (i.e., it will ‘double-count.’) For students trying to finish a degree expeditiously, this can be an advantage to consider when registering for classes. Note that you need to have reached 60 units to register for GE Explorations, which can include the semester that you are planning for. (For example, if you have 50 units and are registering for at least ten units of classes, you can include GE Explorations classes in those ten units as your total will now be 60 units.)
* ***GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE (GIS) STUDENTS:*** I recommend that you take Geography 380 (Map Investigation) OR Geography 381 (Computerized Map Design) your first semester here as taking one of these courses is required preparation for many other upper division GIS classes. *Are you arriving here with a strong academic background in GIS?* If you are a GIS student coming from Mesa College or Palomar College, please peruse the GIS articulation sheet (next page) to assist in your class planning. If you are from Mesa, Palomar, or *any* college and are not sure what GIS classes are most appropriate for you, please reach out to me for assistance (See ‘REACH OUT’ on previous page.)

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

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

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**MESA COLLEGE INFORMAL ARTICULATION PLAN WITH SDSU GEOGRAPHY**

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| **Mesa College Class** | **SDSU Recommendations\*** |
| GIS 104 (GIScience & Spatial Reasoning) | Already articulates directly to GEOG 104 (assist.org) |
| GIS 110 (Intro to Mapping & GIS) | Satisfies GEOG 484 (GIS) |
| GIS 111 (GIS and Cartography) | Satisfies GEOG 381 (Computerized Map Design) |
| GIS 112 (Spatial Anal. with GIS) | Not sufficient to satisfy GEOG 385 (Spatial Data Anal.) |
| GIS 113 (Adv. GIS Applications) | Should *still take* GEOG 584 (GIS Applic.) per interest – new tools/theory in this SDSU class relative to Mesa course. |
| GIS 114 (Spatial Databases in GIS) | Should *still take* GEOG 580 (Data Mgmt. GIS) per interest – new tools/theory in this SDSU class relative to Mesa course. |
| GIS 130 (Intro to Remote Sensing)  GIS 131 (Intro to Digital Image Proc.) | GIS 130 and 131 provide coverage of remote sensing and image processing, but not in the same order of content coverage and not likely the same depth as GEOG 591 and 592, a fall-spring semester, upper-division sequence. Students who take both GIS 130 and 131 may receive credit for GEOG 591 at SDSU upon approval of the instructor. |

**PALOMAR COLLEGE INFORMAL ARTICULATION PLAN WITH SDSU GEOGRAPHY**

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| **Palomar College Class** | **SDSU Recommendations\*** |
| GEOG 150 | Already articulates directly to GEOG 104 (assist.org) |
| GEOG 120 AND 132 | Satisfies GEOG 484 (GIS) |
| GEOG 134 and 136 | Satisfies GEOG 584 (GIS) |

*\*Recommendations are based on a student’s completion of these courses with good grades and mastery of course content. Non-SDSU GIS classes will not count towards either the units or Geography degree at SDSU (exception of already articulated classes such as the ones equivalent to GEOG 104). This informal agreement is established so that Mesa and Palomar students that have taken courses listed above can consider new or more advanced courses in the SDSU Geography Department.*